

Entertainment Weekly employee sues magazine, says editor-in-chief was racist, homophobic, joked about the Holocaust

 [nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-ew-employee-lawsuit-editor-in-chief-racist-homophobic-holocaust-20211222-x2wpxv22ngf5c6n5b7yyql5oi-story.html](https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-ew-employee-lawsuit-editor-in-chief-racist-homophobic-holocaust-20211222-x2wpxv22ngf5c6n5b7yyql5oi-story.html)

Noah Goldberg

The former editor-in-chief of Entertainment Weekly was a racist, sexist homophobe who joked about the Holocaust, an employee claims in a new lawsuit against the magazine.

Brittany Kaplan, a senior editor for the magazine hired in 2016, says in her Manhattan Federal Court lawsuit that then-Editor-in-Chief JD Heyman routinely disrespected women and non-white staff members, as well as celebrities appearing in the magazine.

Heyman made fun of the musician Jewel for being homeless as a teen, insulted the appearance of the late actress Naya Rivera, and featured Kristen Stewart on the cover of EW's June 2020 Pride Month issue despite the actress not wanting to appear on it, the suit claims.

Heyman also put Chadwick Boseman on the cover of EW after the actor died of cancer, over the Boseman family's objections, Kaplan claims in the suit filed Tuesday.

The top editor even joked about the Holocaust and refused to acknowledge a Black woman on EW's executive staff during meetings, the suit says.

After less than two years at EW, Heyman — who had previously run People Magazine — was ousted in December 2020 for belittling employees and making racially insensitive comments, [according to the Wrap](#).

But EW did not make any statement about why Heyman had left his post. The suit alleges that Kaplan's complaints about the editor factored in his dismissal.

“Instead of condemning Mr. Heyman's racist, sexist, and homophobic behavior, EW has chosen to egregiously suppress the real reason as to why he was terminated in the hopes that the lasting impact of his misconduct would simply dissipate over time,” her attorney Michael Willemin wrote in the suit.

EW allegedly sidelined Kaplan after she complained to human resources. The company “systematically stripped away all or most of her job responsibilities” and unfairly denied her a promotion, the suit says.

Heyman was emboldened after human resources failed to take respond to his offensive behavior, according to the lawsuit.

“After Ms. Kaplan made complaints about him to HR, Mr. Heyman would openly mock her in front of other co-workers for complaining about him and his conduct,” the suit claims.

Dotdash Meredith, the company that owns EW, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Heyman, who is not named as a defendant, could not immediately be reached for comment. Kaplan seeks unspecified damages from the magazine.

“Ms. Kaplan has attempted for years to resolve the subject of today’s lawsuit short of litigation, but her internal complaints... fell on deaf ears,” Willemin said.