

WBSL personality Shaila Scott sues for discrimination, retaliation

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Longtime radio personality Shaila Scott sues WBSL for discrimination and retaliation

By [Karu F. Daniels](#)
New York Daily News

It's not the last we've heard from Shaila Scott.

The longtime New York City radio personality, who was fired after nearly 30 years on air, has filed a lawsuit against WBSL for discrimination and retaliation.

The legal team of Wigdor LLP and Gilda L. Kramer & Associates, LLC, said Monday that a federal lawsuit was filed in New York's Southern District Court demanding a jury trial against MediaCo Holding Inc. and Emmis Communications Corporation, which are the current and former owners of WBSL and its sister station HOT 97, in connection with Scott's recent dismissal.

The 59-year-old Harlem native — affectionately known to listeners as “New York's Sweetheart” — announced on June 2 that she was fired from her longtime gig, claiming the company decided not to renew her contract. She added that the company had advised her “the station is going in a different direction.”

According to the legal complaint filed July 8, the company paid Scott less than her male peers and fired her at age 59 to hire a replacement approximately 25 years her junior.

Scott, who ranked No. 1 in her midday timeslot, further alleges that MediaCo withheld her severance unless she promised not to sue the company for discrimination, including violations of the equal pay laws.

“This is yet another troubling example of the hurdles faced by even the most accomplished women,” attorney Valdi Licu said in a statement. “They are paid less than men who perform the same job and then discarded when they reach a certain age. Thankfully, Ms. Scott is one of the brave women who has decided to fight back.”

A beloved staple on the once-Black owned WBLS, Scott gained a notable following while serving as a jock in various time slots at the station's then-rival 98.7 Kiss, which eventually merged with the company in 2012. Both stations served contemporary urban and Black music lovers for decades before the merger.

“I am shocked and saddened that WBLS decided that when I reached 59, it was time to discard me,” Scott, identified in the legal documents as Amilee Cattouse, shared. “I dedicated my career to radio and to the fans that listen, who I will miss greatly. I hope my decision to speak up will shine a light on the realities that women still get paid less than men for the same job and at a certain age, they are no longer valued.”

Still a viable voice on New York City airwaves, Scott was heard last week on the recently launched millennial-focused classic hip-hop and R&B station WXBK-FM “94.7 The Block.”

Her former WBLS boss Skip Dillard tapped her to fill in for former “Yo! MTV Raps” host Ed Lover while on vacation.

Reps for MediaCo did not respond to request for comment from the Daily News.