

Star Brokers' Oren and Tal Alexander's Sexual-Assault Allegations Caught Attention of Police, School, Boss

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Around 2003, a teenage student at the prestigious Miami Country Day School said she was invited with a friend to a house party by students from a nearby high school.

When the girls arrived, they realized they were the only guests. After drinking some Bacardi 151 offered to her, the woman now recalls, she was led into a bedroom by the Alexander brothers—Tal, Oren and Alon—as well as one of their friends. She will never forget what happened next.

She was pushed down on a bed, and the boys held her arms and legs in an X shape. She remembers struggling and didn't know what to do, so she tried to play along. They tried to take her pants off. She remembers seeing a camcorder. Someone opened the door, and she ran out. Two friends of the woman confirmed her account, which she shared with them at the time.

Alon Alexander works for the family's private security firm. Photo: Paul Porter/BFA/Shutterstock
Sexual-assault allegations against Tal and Oren Alexander, two of the country's top real-estate agents, sent shock waves through the world of luxury real estate last month. Two women filed lawsuits in March accusing Oren and his twin brother, Alon, 37, of rape. A subsequent lawsuit—and accounts by women shared with The Wall Street Journal—contained similar allegations against Tal, 38.

To many in the brothers' orbit, the lawsuits came as no surprise. The assertions had swirled around them for roughly two decades, a Journal investigation shows, starting when they were high-school students in Miami and later in New York as Oren's and Tal's careers took off at Douglas Elliman, the large national brokerage known for its association with hit reality shows like "Million Dollar Listing." Alon is an executive at the family's private security firm.



Women and friends from all chapters of the three brothers' lives told the Journal that they were assaulted or knew of others who were. This account, which includes several previously unreported incidents, is based on interviews with more than 50 people who came in contact with the Alexanders during those periods and on documents reviewed by the Journal.

The reporting gives a detailed picture of the nature and extent of the allegations, which include incidents dating back to high school where students at the time said the brothers sometimes filmed encounters with women. Two complaints were brought to police, and three women sought medical attention. It also shows that more than a decade ago, a top executive at Douglas Elliman was warned by one of the brothers that an allegation against him would surface.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is working with the New York City Police Department as it probes the allegations against the Alexanders, who are sons of a prominent Miami businessman. The Journal reported the FBI probe earlier this month. Authorities have shared with some of the women and witnesses that they are probing allegations of conduct from the past couple of years that could have criminal implications. A spokesman for the FBI declined to comment, and the NYPD didn't respond to requests for comment.

The brothers have denied the allegations made in the lawsuits. Their lawyers have said they were unaware of any federal probe. Oren and Tal have stepped down from their roles at Official, a real-estate company they co-founded, in the wake of the allegations.

"Tal fully denies these allegations and will continue to vigorously defend against them," according to a statement from Tal's lawyers Deanna Paul and Milton Williams. A lawyer representing Oren and Alon, Isabelle A. Kirshner, declined to comment. She previously denied the claims in the two March lawsuits.

'Be very, very careful'

Tal and his brother Oren are known professionally for selling some of the most lavish homes in New York, Miami and Aspen, Colo. They worked for Douglas Elliman for more than a decade before starting their own company, Official, in 2022.

In the real-estate industry, the brothers had a reputation as ambitious, hungry young agents who used aggressive tactics to secure a deal or land a big client—and who used social media and the press to propel their names into the headlines.

They did business with titans in the finance world, notably helping billionaire hedge-fund manager Ken Griffin purchase a nearly \$240 million apartment in 2019, setting a record for a residential property in the U.S. Over the years, they also represented clients such as WeWork co-founder Adam Neumann, New York Mets owner Steve Cohen, and Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump.



Oren and Tal Alexander spent more than a decade at Douglas Elliman before starting their own firm, Official, in 2022. Photo: Scott Roth/Invision/Associated Press

More than half a dozen other women and men who attended Miami Country Day said people were frequently warned by fellow students to be careful around the Alexander brothers. The girls were told by their friends not to accept drinks from them at house parties, the people say.

The warnings continued through the years.

“I’m just writing to let you know if you’re a girl and you know this guy [Tal] you need to be really, really careful,” according to correspondence reviewed by the Journal sent from one woman to another in 2010.

Many of the allegations against the brothers follow a similar pattern: Women or girls were told of a house party or gathering over the weekend, and when they arrived, they were the only guests. At times the brothers or their friends would videotape or photograph the sexual encounters, according to the women and two men who had seen videos in high school.

Tal and his brothers attended the public Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in Miami and were friends with some students at the private school. Tal was one grade above his twin brothers, according to a yearbook entry reviewed by the Journal.

“While the accused did not attend our school, we are saddened to learn about these alleged incidents from 20 years ago,” said Miami Country Day spokeswoman Paula Montoya. “The safety and well-being of our entire community—current students and alumni alike—are of the utmost importance to Miami Country Day School and we condemn sexual assault in the strongest terms.”

Police reports

Around 2001, a 15-year-old Krop student went to a gathering with Tal and other friends. She said Tal brought her into a room and raped her. She said she tried to push him off and screamed no, but he persisted. She ultimately was led out of the house in a state of undress as Tal threw some of her other clothes out after her. She said she eventually got her clothes and walked home a few blocks away.

She said she didn’t report the incident because she didn’t want to bring more attention to it. Another student was told of the account by a person who was present at the time.

Oren and Alon were part of a group of high-school students who allegedly gang raped a Krop high-school freshman in 2003, said the accuser, who was 14 at the time. She said she remembers multiple boys including Oren and Alon raping her in what they called running a train, or when multiple men have sex with a woman one after the other.

That night, she said, family members brought her to a local hospital. She said she doesn’t remember what they did at the hospital and that she had taken Xanax but she didn’t have her underwear or purse after leaving the house.

She stayed in bed much of the weekend. At Krop on Monday, a group of the boys approached her and handed her her purse. She started crying and a security guard approached her and a friend, suggesting she go to a guidance counselor. She said she told the guidance counselor what happened and the counselor called the police, who came to the school.

The friend of the woman who was also a student at Krop confirmed the account, which she was told at the time.

Past and current Krop administrators didn’t respond to requests for comment. An operator at the school said most administrators are out until mid-August.

The North Miami Beach Police Department investigated the incident, interviewing several male students, including Oren and Alon, according to the police report and a spokesperson for the department. According to the report, besides her Xanax consumption the freshman also was given an “unknown alcoholic beverage” while at the house. She was later accompanied by a detective to the Jackson Memorial Hospital’s rape treatment center and examined by a doctor, according to the report. The report was shared with the detective.

They brought their findings to the Miami Dade State Attorney's Sexual Battery Unit. An assistant state attorney at the time dismissed it, "due to the inconsistencies of the statements made by the victim, contradicting witnesses, insufficient evidence, and the fact that the defendants admitted to having sexual intercourse with the victim," according to the report. The attorney has since died.

The spokesperson for the North Miami Beach Police Department said they had no comment since it was an old case and the lead investigator retired.

The Douglas Elliman Years

Another woman said around 15 years ago in New York, Tal tried to force himself on her. She said she and Tal met at the SL night club and went back to his apartment, where they initially made out while she was partially undressed. They had smoked marijuana. Oren and another friend were also there, entered the bedroom and shut the door. Tal became more rough with her, his friend started taking photos and she began to panic. She said she was eventually allowed to leave and remembers Tal and the others laughing the whole time.

She said she went to the hospital soon after to see if she was drugged and tried to report the incident to the New York City police at the time. She was told that because she consented to consuming marijuana she didn't have a case. The Journal confirmed the account based on correspondence from the time.



At Douglas Elliman, the brothers were favorites of chairman Howard Lorber, center. Photo: Amy Sussman/Invision/Associated Press

At Douglas Elliman, the brothers were favorites of chairman Howard Lorber, who frequently directed business to them or recommended them to developers for high-profile projects, according to current and former Elliman agents. Lorber attended Oren's and Alon's 27th birthday party at Beautique restaurant near Central Park, with Lorber saying in a video reviewed by the Journal that he was "proud to be associated with" the brothers.

In a statement, a spokesman for Douglas Elliman said that no executive at the firm favored the brothers and that it is common for executives to attend social events hosted by agents.

Three former members of the brothers' team at Douglas Elliman told the Journal that Oren frequently bragged about his sex life. One team member said Oren would show pictures of him and his brothers with naked women that he said they had been with.

The extent to which people at Douglas Elliman were aware of sexual-assault allegations against the brothers is unclear. More than a decade ago, Oren warned at least one senior executive at the firm that he might be publicly accused of sexual assault, the executive said. The former executive said he dismissed the conversation at the time and didn't look into the situation further, nor did he inform any other high-level executives or human resources. In the real-estate industry, agents are independent contractors, meaning they aren't subject to the same level of scrutiny that is common for employees at other types of companies.

The spokesman for Douglas Elliman said the firm had no knowledge of the warning and no complaints were ever filed to human resources about the brothers.

In recent weeks, Douglas Elliman sent an email to its staff warning that they shouldn't speak to the media about the Alexander brothers.



The brothers have stepped down from their roles at Official in the wake of the allegations.

Photo: Jason Lowrie/BFA/Shutterstock

The Alexander brothers have also made efforts to prevent the allegations against them from becoming public.

A lawyer for Oren and Alon attempted for many months to negotiate a settlement with Kate Whiteman, one of the women who filed suit against them in March, according to people familiar with the situation. The parties couldn't settle on terms, according to those people.

After news of the lawsuits broke, one woman who alleged Oren sexually assaulted her in 2017 commented that it was a long time coming on an Instagram post by the real estate trade publication The Real Deal detailing lawsuits against the brothers.

Oren reached out directly to the woman, according to messages reviewed by the Journal. "Nice comments on instagram," he texted her, adding that their prior friendly messages in the text chain would tell the real story. "Your pathetic," he wrote to her.

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