Reverse Sexual Harassment Under Investigation by New York Civil Rights Violation Lawyer Following Dog Trainer's Accusations

A New York socialite is being sued for sexual harassment for allegedly making repeated advances towards her dog trainer.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – As <u>New York civil rights violation lawyers</u> understand, the laws against sexual harassment apply equally to men and women.

In a recent case highlighting female-on-male <u>sexual harassment in the workplace</u>, a male dog trainer is suing his female boss, a 44-year-old New York socialite. He claims he was fired after he refused to have sex with her.

The <u>sexual harassment lawsuit</u> was filed in Manhattan federal court last week.

"While the majority of reported sexual harassment is done by men towards women, workplace sexual harassment does happen to men," said David Perecman, founder of The Perecman Firm, one of New York's civil rights violation law firms.

According to the *New York Post*, dog trainer Westley Artope claims that his female boss, former model Paige Bluhdorn, came on to him many times while he was training her dogs at her Westchester County home.

"This appears to be an example of an otherwise good employment opportunity gone wrong when <u>workplace sexual harassment</u> became an issue," said Perecman, a New York civil rights violation lawyer for over 30 years.

Artope claims Bluhdorn repeatedly beckoned him to her bedroom and would try to tempt him by lying sprawled on the bed clad only in skimpy shorts and a T-shirt or naked under a robe.

In an interview with the *New York Post* Artope said, "She did things that were inappropriate. She would call me into her bedroom several times, and she would basically flash me."

He also claims she "exposed herself" while he was training the dogs and asked him to "sit on the bed next to her."

Artope, a married father-of-four, told the *New York Post* that when he protested to Bluhdorn that he had a wife, she told him it was OK for them to fool around because she, too, was married "and that was no reason not to become intimately involved," according to court papers on the New York sexual harassment lawsuit.

Paige Bluhdorn insisted "that she was attracted to him and wanted to engage in a sexual relationship with him," says the lawsuit.

On another occasion, said Artope, Bluhdorn grabbed his hand and told him she wanted to have sex with him, saying she was having marital problems and her husband, was "sexually inept."

She would even sexually harass him while her husband was in the house, Atrope said.

Artope continued to refuse her advances and, according to the sexual harassment lawsuit, Bluhdorn eventually became angry. She began criticizing his work and then banned him from the home.

Artope, who had worked for Bluhdorn since September 2008, said he was fired in July 2009 after he complained about the hostility and reported the sexual harassment to the estate manager.

Reverse sexual harassment refers to the sexual harassment of a male by a female. The actual number of sexual harassment claims filed by men is generally assumed to be significantly underreported due to the nature of the offense. However, both sexual harassment and reverse sexual harassment are forms of illegal discrimination.

An individual who is a victim of reverse sexual harassment in the workplace in New York can register a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Individuals who believe they are victims of workplace sexual harassment in New York should also contact a New York civil rights violation lawyer. A New York civil rights violation lawyer can help make sure a victim of workplace harassment compiles sufficient documented evidence on the inappropriate actions of the harasser. Experienced New York civil rights violation lawyers at The Perecman Firm help victims of sexual harassment by assessing the situation and providing legal advice on how to protect civil rights.

Sexual harassment is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Employees have the right to work in environments free from discriminatory intimidation harassment, and insult," said New York civil rights violation lawyer Perecman. "Employees, male or female, do not have to stick it out and accept any form of workplace discrimination or abuse."

Federal, New York state laws and New York City laws protect employees from workplace harassment and other discriminatory conduct that creates an offensive and hostile working environment.

<u>New York civil rights violation lawyers</u> at The Perecman Firm are experienced in the investigation, negotiation and litigation of discrimination claims both in the workplace

and elsewhere. An experienced New York workplace discrimination lawyer understands how to present a winning case.

Individuals who believe they have been <u>victims of workplace discrimination in New York</u> because of age, race, sex, religion, national origin or disability may be eligible to receive compensation for lost wages or any damages resulting from the discrimination, including emotional distress.

About David Perecman and The Perecman Firm, PLLC:

For the past 30 years, the New York civil rights violation, medical malpractice, auto accident, and construction accident lawyers at The Perecman Firm, PLLC have handled all types of cases including age and disability discrimination. David Perecman, founder of the Firm, is a Board Director and the past Secretary and Treasurer of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) and a chair of its Labor Law Committee. Mr. Perecman's achievements have brought him recognition as an Honoree in the National Law Journal's Hall of Fame, in New York Magazine's "The Best Lawyers in America" and The New York Times Magazine "New York Super Lawyers, Metro Edition" for the years 2007-2010.

The Firm has recovered millions of dollars for its clients. Among the more recent victories, Mr. Perecman won a \$15 million verdict** for a construction accident, a \$5.35 million dollar verdict*** for an automobile accident, and a

\$40 million dollar structured settlement for medical malpractice****.

**later settled while on appeal for \$7.940 million

*** later settled for \$3.5 million

**** total potential payout

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