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# Justin Baldoni Takes Legal Action Against Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds

## Description

In a significant legal development, actor Justin Baldoni has initiated a defamation lawsuit against Hollywood icons Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, alleging a deliberate attempt to undermine his reputation. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, the lawsuit stems from claims that Lively accused Baldoni of sexual harassment. Baldoni contends that these accusations were followed by retaliatory measures in the form of a smear campaign orchestrated by the defendants.

The legal proceedings are entwined with the ongoing disputes related to the 2024 film "It Ends With Us," a project in which Lively starred and Baldoni directed. The 179-page complaint lists not only Lively and Reynolds as defendants but also their publicist, Leslie Sloane, and her agency, Vision PR. In this extensive litigation, Baldoni, alongside the film's chief producer Jamey Heath and their production entity, Wayfarer Studios, is seeking damages amounting to an astounding \$400 million.

Representatives of Lively have yet to respond to requests for comments concerning the lawsuit. The original allegations made by Lively were publicized on December 21 by The New York Times, which detailed her assertions of harassment made against Baldoni during the filming process. These allegations were formally recorded in her complaint, filed just a day prior with the California Civil Rights Department.

The article outlined that Lively had obtained access to private communications, including texts and emails through a subpoena, which purportedly indicated collusion between Baldoni and his business partner, Heath, along with a crisis public relations specialist to compromise Lively's standing in the industry. In response to Baldoni's legal actions, Lively has also pursued her grievances, indeed filing her own lawsuit against him and others on December 31 in federal court in New York City.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Defamation** /,dɛf.ə'meɪ.jən/ (noun): The act of damaging the good reputation of someone through false statements.
2. **Allegation** /,æɪ.lɪ'geɪ.jən/ (noun): A claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong typically one that is not yet proven.
3. **Retaliatory** /rɪ'tæɪ.lɪ.ə.tɔːr.i/ (adjective): Done in response to an injury or wrong often involving revenge or reprisal.
4. **Litigation** /,lɪ.tɪ'geɪ.jən/ (noun): The process of taking legal action; a lawsuit.
5. **Accusation** /,æk.ju'zeɪ.jən/ (noun): A claim that someone has done something illegal or wrong.
6. **Collusion** /kə'ljuː.ʒən/ (noun): A secret agreement or cooperation between two or more parties for an illegal or deceitful purpose.



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## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Who has initiated the defamation lawsuit against Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds?  
Option: Justin Baldoni  
Option: Leslie Sloane  
Option: Jamey Heath  
Option: Vision PR
2. Where was the lawsuit filed by Justin Baldoni against Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds?  
Option: U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York  
Option: California Civil Rights Department  
Option: Federal Court in New York City  
Option: Supreme Court of the United States
3. What amount of damages is Justin Baldoni seeking in the lawsuit?  
Option: \$100 million  
Option: \$200 million  
Option: \$300 million  
Option: \$400 million
4. Who is listed as a defendant in the lawsuit alongside Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds?  
Option: Leslie Sloane  
Option: Jamey Heath  
Option: Vision PR  
Option: All of the above
5. When were the original allegations made by Blake Lively against Justin Baldoni publicized?  
Option: December 21  
Option: December 31  
Option: November 30  
Option: January 1
6. In response to Justin Baldoni's legal actions, what did Blake Lively do?  
Option: Filed for bankruptcy



- Option: Pursued her grievances by filing her own lawsuit
- Option: Dropped all charges
- Option: Issued a public apology

**True-False**

- 7. The lawsuit filed by Justin Baldoni stems from claims that Blake Lively accused him of workplace harassment.
- 8. The 2024 film "It Ends With Us" is the basis for the legal disputes between the parties involved.
- 9. Blake Lively obtained access to private communications through a subpoena in relation to the lawsuit.
- 10. Representatives of Blake Lively have responded to comments concerning the lawsuit.
- 11. Lively collaborated with a crisis public relations specialist to enhance her reputation.
- 12. The lawsuit is confined to accusations of financial fraud.

**Gap-Fill**

- 13. The lawsuit filed by Justin Baldoni seeks damages amounting to an astounding \$ \_\_\_\_\_ million.
- 14. The original allegations by Blake Lively were publicized on December \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15. Blake Lively obtained access to private communications, including texts and emails, through a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 16. Blake Lively filed her own lawsuit against Justin Baldoni and others on December \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18. Justin Baldoni is seeking damages for defamation in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of \_\_\_\_\_.



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## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Justin Baldoni 2. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York 3. \$400 million  
4. All of the above 5. December 21 6. Pursued her grievances by filing her own lawsuit

**True-False:** 7. True 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 400 14. 21 15. subpoena 16. 31 18. New York

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What is a synonym for the word "cherished"?

- Option: Admired
- Option: Destroyed
- Option: Acquired
- Option: Detached

2. What is the meaning of the term "defamation"?

- Option: Praise
- Option: Slander
- Option: Protection
- Option: Honor

3. What does the term "legacy" refer to?

- Option: Future
- Option: Inheritance
- Option: Rejection
- Option: Progress

4. Which word best describes something that is "enduring"?

- Option: Temporary
- Option: Lasting
- Option: Fleeting
- Option: Transient

5. What does the term "protracted" mean?



- Option: Shortened
- Option: Prolonged
- Option: Delayed
- Option: Halted

6. What is the definition of "collusion"?

- Option: Secret cooperation for illegal or deceitful purposes
- Option: Public agreement for common good
- Option: Friendly competition
- Option: Neutral interaction

7. How would you describe something that is "ominous"?

- Option: Joyful
- Option: Threatening
- Option: Loud
- Option: Bright

8. What does the term "speculation" refer to?

- Option: Factual information
- Option: Investigation
- Option: Conjecture
- Option: Certainty

9. In the context of health what is meant by "recovery"?

- Option: Relapse
- Option: Healing
- Option: Decline
- Option: Breakdown

10. Which word is a synonym for "anticipate"?

- Option: Forget
- Option: Expect
- Option: Avoid
- Option: Delay

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. A mysterious glow \_\_\_\_\_ from the enchanted object.

12. The artist's work was widely \_\_\_\_\_ by critics and audiences alike.



13. The patient experienced a temporary \_\_\_\_\_ of the symptoms after the treatment.
14. The false \_\_\_\_\_ led to a series of misunderstandings and conflicts.
15. The doctor performed a thorough examination to reach an accurate \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ design of the lace highlighted the craftsmanship of the artisan.
17. The media reported on the serious \_\_\_\_\_ made against the public figure.
18. He dressed in a \_\_\_\_\_ style for the relaxed afternoon gathering.
19. Understanding the social \_\_\_\_\_ within the group was crucial for effective teamwork.
20. The program focused on the successful \_\_\_\_\_ of the refugees into society.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The legal process involving a lawsuit and court proceedings.
22. The act of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth.
23. Expressing strong agreement or confirmation.
24. Unable to be subdued or defeated.
25. A person who inspires or influences others especially in a particular field.
26. The intricate or complicated aspects of a situation or problem.
27. Highly praised or recognized for excellence.
28. Involving or characterized by retaliation or revenge.
29. Held in high regard or great respect.
30. Fascinated or enchanted by something or someone.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Admired 2. Slander 3. Inheritance 4. Lasting 5. Prolonged 6. Secret cooperation for illegal or deceitful purposes



7. Threatening 8. Conjecture 9. Healing 10. Expect

**Gap-Fill:** 11. emanated 12. acclaimed 13. remission 14. accusation 15. diagnosis 16. intricate 17. allegation  
18. casual 19. dynamics 20. reintegration

**Matching sentence:** 1. litigation 2. deceit 3. affirming 4. indomitable 5. luminary 6. complexities 7. acclaimed  
8. retaliatory 9. esteemed 10. captivated

## CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

### Date Created

2025/01/17

### Author

aimeeyoung99

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