



Justin Baldoni Takes Legal Action Against NY Times Over Lively Allegations

Description

****UPDATE:**** On June 2, 2023, Blake Lively initiated a text dialogue with Justin Baldoni, her director and co-star from "It Ends With Us," expressing frustration about her assistant not delivering the latest script pages. Lively explained, "She didn't realize they were new," adding, "New pages can always be sent to me as well please." She concluded her message with an "X," a conventional signifier of affection. Shortly after, she texted again, stating, "I'm just pumping in my trailer if you want to work out our lines." Baldoni replied, "Copy. Eating with crew and will head that way." Eighteen months later, this seemingly innocuous exchange was portrayed in a New York Times report with a much darker implication. The article alleged that Baldoni "repeatedly entered her makeup trailer uninvited while she was undressed, including when she was breastfeeding."

This discrepancy is one of many highlighted in a scathing \$250 million lawsuit filed by Baldoni in Los Angeles Superior Court. Baldoni, alongside a group of ten plaintiffs including publicists Melissa Nathan and Jennifer Abel, accuses the Times of libel and false light invasion of privacy over a December 21 article titled "'We Can Bury Anyone': Inside a Hollywood Smear Machine." The plaintiffs assert that the Times relied on selectively presented and manipulated communications, stripped of critical context, designed to mislead readers.

In response, a New York Times spokesperson asserted, "An independent news organization's duty is to pursue the facts diligently. Our report was meticulously researched and based on a thorough examination of original documents, including accurately quoted text messages and emails. To date, Wayfarer Studios, Mr. Baldoni, and the other subjects have not identified any factual inaccuracies. We published their full statement addressing the article's allegations and are prepared to robustly defend against the lawsuit."

The comprehensive 87-page complaint, which also charges the Times with promissory fraud and breach of contract, directly challenges the narrative detailed in the evocative 4,000-word article that has sent shockwaves through Hollywood, precipitating WME's decision to drop Baldoni as a client mere hours after publication. The article, authored by Megan Twohey, Mike McIntire, and Julie Tate, depicted Lively as an actress allegedly subjected to months of sexual harassment by Baldoni and producer Jamey Heath. This portrayal contrasted sharply with the allegations made in the lawsuit, asserting that Lively herself orchestrated a "strategic and manipulative" smear campaign and weaponized false accusations of harassment to gain unilateral control over the production.

This ongoing dispute further escalated when Lively's representatives confirmed imminent legal action against Wayfarer Studios and Baldoni, citing retaliatory behavior against her for reporting sexual harassment and workplace safety violations. The ramifications of this unfolding situation will likely dominate headlines as the legal proceedings progress.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Discrepancy** /dɪs'kreɪpənsi/ (noun): A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.
2. **Implication** /ˌɪmplɪ'keɪʃən/ (noun): A conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not explicitly stated.
3. **Allegation** /ˌælə'geɪʃən/ (noun): A claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong typically one made without proof.
4. **Fraud** /frɔ:d/ (noun): Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.
5. **Narrative** /'nærətɪv/ (noun): A spoken or written account of connected events; a story.
6. **Retaliatory** /rɪ'tæliə,tɔ:ri/ (adjective): Characterized by actions taken in return for an injury or wrong.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who initiated a text dialogue expressing frustration about her assistant not delivering the latest script pages?
Option: Blake Lively
Option: Justin Baldoni
Option: Melissa Nathan
Option: Jennifer Abel
2. What allegation was made in a New York Times report regarding Justin Baldoni?
Option: Sexual harassment
Option: Extortion
Option: Bribery
Option: Embezzlement
3. Who portrayed Lively as an actress subjected to months of sexual harassment in the article?
Option: Megan Twohey
Option: Mike McIntire
Option: Julie Tate
Option: Justin Baldoni
4. What did the plaintiffs accuse the New York Times of in the lawsuit?
Option: Libel and false light invasion of privacy



- Option: Copyright infringement
- Option: Trademark violation
- Option: Defamation

5. Who was depicted in the article as orchestrating a smear campaign against themselves?

- Option: Blake Lively
- Option: Justin Baldoni
- Option: Melissa Nathan
- Option: Jamey Heath

6. What action did Lively's representatives confirm against Wayfarer Studios and Baldoni?

- Option: Imminent legal action
- Option: Public apology
- Option: Career promotion
- Option: Financial settlement

True-False

- 7. The New York Times spokesperson claimed the report was not meticulously researched.
- 8. Wayfarer Studios and Mr. Baldoni identified factual inaccuracies in the article.
- 9. Lively was dropped as a client by WME after the publication of the article.
- 10. The lawsuit alleges that Lively orchestrated a smear campaign against Baldoni and Heath.
- 11. The comprehensive complaint charges the Times with breach of contract.
- 12. The legal proceedings are not expected to dominate headlines.

Gap-Fill

16. The ramifications of this unfolding situation will likely dominate headlines as the legal

_____ progress.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Blake Lively 2. Sexual harassment 3. Megan Twohey 4. Libel and false light invasion of privacy 6. Imminent legal action

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

Gap-Fill: 16. proceedings

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which term is used to describe a lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts or pieces of information?

- Option: Allegation
- Option: Discrepancy
- Option: Narrative
- Option: Cunning

2. What is the term for wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain?

- Option: Integrity
- Option: Valor
- Option: Fraud
- Option: Toxic

3. Which term describes actions taken in revenge for an injury or offense?

- Option: Engulfed
- Option: Retaliatory
- Option: Misconduct
- Option: Acclaimed

4. How would you describe a bold and shameless behavior?

- Option: Pivotal
- Option: Cunning
- Option: Brazen
- Option: Elucidating

5. Which term means completely surrounded or covered by something?

- Option: Implication
- Option: Engulfed
- Option: Apprehensions



Option: Ascended

6. What term means to explain the meaning of something?

Option: Valor

Option: Misconduct

Option: Interpreted

Option: Alarming

7. Which term refers to courage and bravery in the face of danger?

Option: Narrative

Option: Purloined

Option: Ascended

Option: Valor

8. What does the term "Apprehensions" typically refer to?

Option: Definitive

Option: Inscription

Option: Apprehensions

Option: Mesmerizing

9. What term describes unacceptable or improper behavior especially by someone in authority or a profession?

Option: Emblazoned

Option: Cunning

Option: Misconduct

Option: Alarming

10. Which term is used to describe a spoken or written account of connected events?

Option: Allegation

Option: Brazen

Option: Narrative

Option: Elucidating

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

11. The email suggested a deeper _____ that was not explicitly stated.

12. The thief _____ a valuable painting from the museum.

13. After weeks of investigation they reached a _____ conclusion about the cause of the



fire.

14. The ancient stone tablet bore an _____ in an unknown language.
15. The artist's latest work was widely _____ for its beauty and originality.
16. The dancer's performance was so _____ that the audience sat in stunned silence.
17. The hot air balloon slowly _____ into the sky as the crowd below watched in amazement.
18. The professor did an excellent job of _____ complex theories in a way that was easy to understand.
19. The sudden rise in pollution levels was quite _____ to the residents of the city.
20. The country warned of severe _____ if its borders were violated.

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



21. The company denied the of corruption made by the whistleblower.
22. The fox used its strategy to outwit the hunters.
23. The flag was with the national emblem.
24. She was known for her honesty and in all her dealings.
25. The decision to invest in technology proved for the company's future success.
26. The audience was by the magician's skillful tricks.
27. The CEO's leadership style created a work environment for employees.
28. She a rare artifact for the museum's collection.
29. The grand stood as a testament to the architect's vision.
30. The flames quickly the old wooden house.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Discrepancy 2. Fraud 3. Retaliatory 4. Brazen 5. Engulfed 6. Interpreted 7. Valor
8. Apprehensions 9. Misconduct 10. Narrative

Gap-Fill: 11. Implication 12. Purloined 13. Definitive 14. Inscription 15. Acclaimed 16. Mesmerizing 17.
Ascended 18. Elucidating 19. Alarming 20. Retaliation

Matching sentence: 1. Allegation 2. Cunning 3. Emblazoned 4. Integrity 5. Pivotal 6. Captivated 7. Toxic
8. Procured 9. Edifice 10. Engulfed

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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