



Smokey Robinson Faces \$50M Lawsuit Over Sexual Assault Claims

Description

Renowned Motown icon William "Smokey" Robinson faces serious allegations of sexual assault and misconduct, as purported by four women—referred to as Jane Does 1, 2, 3, and 4—who served as housekeepers for the Robinson family.

A lawsuit lodged in the Superior Court of Los Angeles on May 6 outlines charges including sexual battery, false imprisonment, negligence, and gender violence, seeking a total of \$50 million in damages on behalf of the four plaintiffs.

The legal action also implicates Robinson's wife, Frances, citing a range of alleged labor violations such as failure to pay minimum wage, neglect in compensating overtime, inaccuracies in wage statements, and fostering a hostile work environment.

Robinson's formidable reputation within the music industry, stemming from his establishment of the Motown group the Miracles in 1955, has earned him credits on over 4,000 songs, including productions for iconic artists like the Temptations and Marvin Gaye. He boasts inclusion in both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

According to the complaint, filed by the Los Angeles law firm Harris & Hayden, Robinson's elevated status constituted an intimidating presence that discouraged the victims from coming forward earlier. Attorney John Harris, at a news conference in Los Angeles, delineated the stark contrast between Robinson's prominence and that of his accusers.

"They are Hispanic women employed by the Robinsons, earning below minimum wage," Harris asserted. "In their precarious positions, they lacked the means to safeguard themselves against these assaults."

Harris highlighted the distress experienced by these women, noting their apprehension over missed wages and the ensuing inability to provide for their families.

The allegations reveal not only a common background among the accusers but also a disturbing pattern of misconduct. Jane Does 1, 3, and 4 assert they were assaulted by Robinson in a designated "blue bedroom" at his Chatsworth residence, where he reportedly took precautions to preserve the bed linens. Jane Doe 4 also alleges rape occurring at his residences in Las Vegas and Bell Canyon. Jane Doe 2 recounts a harrowing incident of rape in the laundry room and garage, areas obscured from surveillance.

"We believe Mr. Robinson is a dangerous, habitual offender who must be held accountable," Harris declared.

Additionally, the plaintiffs assert a toxic work environment fostered by Frances Robinson, who allegedly employed derogatory ethnic language. The complaint contends she failed to intervene in her husband's alleged misconduct, despite being aware of prior incidents of sexual misconduct that had previously resulted in settlements.

"We believe she was cognizant of her husband's actions and exploited their societal status to manipulate



the vulnerable women working for them,” attorney Herbert Hayden asserted.

As of now, according to Hayden and Harris, no criminal charges or police reports have emerged against Robinson.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Allegations** /ˌæl.əˈgeɪ.ʃənz/ (noun): Claims or assertions that someone has done something illegal or wrong typically made without proof.
2. **Misconduct** /ˌmɪsˈkɒn.dʌkt/ (noun): Behavior that is not acceptable or is improper especially in a professional setting.
3. **Negligence** /ˈneg.lɪ.dʒəns/ (noun): Failure to take proper care in doing something resulting in damage or injury.
4. **Hostile** /ˈhɒs.taɪl/ (adjective): Unfriendly; antagonistic or opposed.
5. **Plaintiffs** /ˈpleɪn.tɪfs/ (noun): Individuals who bring a case against another in a court of law.
6. **Accountable** /əˈkaʊn.tə.bəl/ (adjective): Required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What legal allegations are brought against William
Option: Sexual assault and misconduct
Option: Theft and fraud
Option: Identity theft
Option: Traffic violations
2. Where was the lawsuit against William
Option: Superior Court of Los Angeles
Option: Supreme Court of New York
Option: District Court of Chicago
Option: High Court of London
3. Which of the following is NOT a charge outlined in the lawsuit?
Option: Sexual battery
Option: Kidnapping
Option: False imprisonment



Option: Negligence

4. What is one of the labor violations alleged against Frances Robinson?

- Option: Failure to pay minimum wage
- Option: Providing extra benefits to employees
- Option: Enhanced compensation for workers
- Option: Supporting employee advancement

5. Which industry did William

- Option: Music
- Option: Fashion
- Option: Automobile
- Option: Technology

6. Where did Jane Doe 2 experience the alleged incident of rape?

- Option: Laundry room and garage
- Option: Living room
- Option: Swimming pool
- Option: Backyard

True-False

7. The lawsuit against William

8. Jane Doe 4 alleges rape occurred at William

9. William

10. Frances Robinson is accused of creating a nurturing work environment for her employees.

11. Attorney John Harris expressed that the victims were hesitant to come forward due to Robinson's intimidating status.

12. No criminal charges or police reports have been filed against William

Gap-Fill

15. According to the complaint, filed by the Los Angeles law firm Harris & Hayden, Robinson's elevated



status constituted an intimidating presence that discouraged the victims from coming forward

_____.

16. Attorney Herbert Hayden asserted that Frances Robinson was cognizant of her husband's actions and exploited their societal status to manipulate the _____ women working for them.

17. The lawsuit lodged in the Superior Court of Los Angeles outlines charges including sexual battery, false imprisonment, negligence, and gender violence, seeking a total of \$ _____ in damages.

18. The plaintiffs assert a toxic work environment fostered by Frances Robinson, who allegedly employed derogatory _____ language.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Sexual assault and misconduct 2. Superior Court of Los Angeles 3. Kidnapping 4. Failure to pay minimum wage 5. Music 6. Laundry room and garage

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

Gap-Fill: 15. earlier 16. vulnerable 17. 50 million 18. ethnic

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What term describes what a person leaves behind or is remembered for?

Option: Affable

Option: Legacy

Option: Prolific

Option: Fatal

2. What is the term for the quality of being stable and not easily changed?

Option: Convicted

Option: Stability

Option: Investigative

Option: Harassment



3. What term describes unacceptable or improper behavior especially by professionals?

- Option: Negligence
- Option: Submission
- Option: Misconduct
- Option: Hostile

4. Which term means having deep insight or understanding?

- Option: Anticipation
- Option: Profound
- Option: Disconnection
- Option: Plaintiffs

5. What word describes a state of being happy and satisfied?

- Option: Accountable
- Option: Contented
- Option: Submission
- Option: Contend

6. What term means publicly praised or celebrated?

- Option: Reception
- Option: Prospects
- Option: Acclaimed
- Option: Strategic

7. Which term means leading to disaster or death?

- Option: Assault
- Option: Fatal
- Option: Investigative
- Option: Convicted

8. What term describes someone who pays close attention and watches carefully?

- Option: Intuitively
- Option: Observant
- Option: Discharging
- Option: Harassment

9. What term means friendly good-natured or easy to talk to?

- Option: Allegations
- Option: Affable
- Option: Accountable
- Option: Submission



10. What term describes behavior that annoys or troubles someone repeatedly?

- Option: Hostile
- Option: Plaintiffs
- Option: Harassment
- Option: Negligence

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

11. A strong work ethic and dedication often contribute to leaving behind a lasting _____

12. When you are quietly _____ you can learn a lot about the environment around you.

13. There is a noticeable _____ between what was promised and what was delivered.

14. The defendant was found guilty and _____ of the crime.

15. The accident occurred due to the driver's _____ in checking the brakes.

16. The team's _____ to the authority's decision ensured a smooth transition.

17. Despite facing challenges the team will _____ for the top position in the tournament.

18. The journalist's _____ report exposed corruption at the highest levels of government.

19. In a leadership role one must be transparent and _____ for their actions.

20. Developing a long-term plan requires careful and _____ thinking.

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

21. After years of writer's block the author finally completed three novels in a single year.
22. She made the decision not based on logic but on her gut feeling and instincts.
23. The excitement and nervousness before a big event are often filled with hopeful .
24. The soldier was praised for his bravery in his duties under extreme pressure.



25. The in the case presented compelling evidence to support their claims.
26. The negotiators feared that the response from the opposing party would derail the peace talks.
27. The media reported on the serious made against the public figure.
28. The team's of the proposal marked the beginning of a new collaboration.
29. The artist's work received a warm and enthusiastic from the audience.
30. Despite initial setbacks the company's future business look promising.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Legacy 2. Stability 3. Misconduct 4. Profound 5. Contented 6. Acclaimed 7. Fatal
8. Observant 9. Affable 10. Harassment

Gap-Fill: 11. legacy 12. observing 13. disconnection 14. convicted 15. negligence 16. submission 17.
contend 18. investigative 19. accountable 20. strategic

Matching sentence: 1. prolific 2. intuitively 3. anticipation 4. discharging 5. plaintiffs 6. hostile 7. allegations
8. submission 9. reception 10. prospects

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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