

## Baker McKenzie Cuts Ties with Tucker Carlson Amidst Fox Discrimination Lawsuit



Baker McKenzie, a prominent law firm based in New York, has decided to sever ties with former Fox News star Tucker Carlson in light of a conflict of interest allegation raised by a former producer. The producer, Abby Grossberg, who served as the head of booking for Fox's "Tucker Carlson Tonight" show, filed a gender discrimination civil suit, accusing Fox officials, including Carlson, of fostering a misogynistic work environment.

The conflict of interest arose due to Baker McKenzie's dual representation of Fox and Carlson. This dual representation became problematic when Fox fired Carlson, leading to fraud and breach of contract allegations. Grossberg's attorney, Parisi Filippatos, argued to US District Court Judge Jesse Furman that Baker McKenzie's representation of both parties presented an evident conflict.

To address the conflict, Baker McKenzie's New York-based partner, Paul Evans, wrote a letter to Judge Furman on Friday, stating that Tucker Carlson would seek separate counsel to handle the matter. Evans confirmed that Carlson would be represented by other legal counsel, effectively resolving the conflict raised by Grossberg's attorney. Evans also disagreed with the merits of the issues presented in the May 9, 2023 letter from the plaintiff's counsel.

With Baker McKenzie no longer representing Tucker Carlson in the case, the concerns and conflicts raised in Grossberg's attorney's letter were considered moot, as stated by Evans in his communication with Judge Furman. Consequently, the status conference scheduled for May 12 to discuss the matter was rendered unnecessary and subsequently canceled.

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This development marks a significant turn in the ongoing legal battle surrounding allegations of gender discrimination at Fox and the specific claims made against Tucker Carlson. Abby Grossberg's civil suit accuses Fox and its officials of fostering a hostile work environment that perpetuated misogyny. By choosing to drop Carlson as a client, Baker McKenzie has distanced itself from the controversy and has taken a step to avoid any potential conflicts arising from its representation.

The decision to part ways with a high-profile client like Tucker Carlson underscores the importance of ethical considerations and conflicts of interest within the legal profession. While Baker McKenzie does not concede that the issues raised in Grossberg's attorney's letter hold merit, the firm's actions demonstrate its commitment to addressing conflicts and ensuring the integrity of its legal representation.

As the case progresses, Tucker Carlson will now be represented by separate counsel, a move aimed at upholding legal ethics and avoiding any perceived conflicts arising from Baker McKenzie's prior representation of both Carlson and Fox. This development adds another layer of complexity to the ongoing litigation, and how the case will unfold with Carlson's new legal representation remains to be seen.

In conclusion, Baker McKenzie's decision to drop Tucker Carlson as a client in response to a conflict of interest allegation raised by a former producer highlights the firm's commitment to ethical considerations. By resolving the conflict and allowing Carlson to seek separate legal representation, the law firm aims to ensure the integrity of its representation and distance itself from potential conflicts arising from the ongoing gender discrimination lawsuit against Fox News. The developments in this case further emphasize the importance of addressing conflicts of interest within the legal profession to maintain transparency and uphold ethical standards.