

Goldman sues O.J. over deal

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Ronald Goldman's father sued O.J. Simpson on Tuesday, seeking any money the former NFL star received for a canceled book deal and TV interview that told a hypothetical tale of how he would have killed his ex-wife and Goldman.

The federal lawsuit filed in California by Fred Goldman's Indianapolis-based attorney accuses Simpson of "fraudulent conveyance" and alleges that he created a shell corporation that received at least \$1.1 million as part of the TV interview and book, titled "If I Did It."

Attorney Jonathan Polak said Lorraine Brooke Associates was created in March using the middle name of Simpson's two children.

The lawsuit calls it a "sham entity" formed to defraud Ron Goldman's relatives by preventing them from claiming any of more than \$38 million Simpson owes the family from a judgment against him in a wrongful death lawsuit.

Goldman's lawsuit seeks

about \$1.1 million plus punitive damages, although Polak said he believed Simpson has already spent the money he received from News Corp., the owner of Fox Broadcasting and publisher HarperCollins.

Polak said the lawsuit's true aim is to determine how the book and TV interview deals were reached.

"The question in this lawsuit is not about what's in their bank account right now," he said. "The issue is, can we unwind this series of transactions and hold those we believe truly are responsible accountable financially?"

Polak said he believes Judith Regan — who was fired last week as a publisher by HarperCollins — and Rupert Murdoch, owner of News Corp., need "to come clean" on their knowledge of how Simpson was reimbursed for the deal.

Andrew Butcher, a spokesman for Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., said he could not comment on the possibility of Murdoch being deposed.

He said News Corp. has been working with Goldman's family to answer questions about the book deal.

"From the very start, we'd offered every assistance to the family of Ron Goldman. Any information they have asked for regarding the contracts for the Simpson book, we have given them," Butcher said.

Polak said he has asked News Corp. to destroy all copies of the book, as well as copies of the interview with Fox that was to have aired. He also wants News Corp. to assign all rights to those books and interviews to the Goldman family.

Butcher said News Corp. has destroyed all copies of "If I Did It" but objected to the request to assign the rights to the Goldmans.

"You don't own the rights to someone's book in perpetuity," he said. "It doesn't work that way. It's more complicated."

Simpson told The Associated Press last month that he took part in the project solely for personal profit and ac-

knowledged that any financial gain was "blood money."

Simpson would not say how much he was paid in advance, only that it was less than the \$3.5 million reported. He said the money already has been spent, some of it on tax obligations.

Messages seeking comment were left Tuesday with Simpson's attorney, Yale Galanter.

Simpson was acquitted of criminal charges in the 1994 killings.

In 1997, a civil court jury, using a lesser standard of proof than is required at a criminal trial, found Simpson liable for Nicole Brown Simpson's and Goldman's stabbing deaths. The jury ordered him to pay about \$19.7 million to Goldman's family — an amount Polak said has grown to more than \$38 million with interest.

Fred Goldman said in a statement that he was eager to learn who worked with Simpson on the deal.

"We will not stop until we are able to shine the light of truth on those that acted in concert with him," he said.

STD

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Americans, for the most part; Whites have sex with Whites, for the most part. So, that combination of segregated sexual networks, and then, [among] African-Americans, there's more of a crossing over between high-risk groups and low-risk groups. And the combination of those two things tends to make for higher rates of STDs."

She also said a disproportionate number of African-American men who are incarcerated and going back and forth from the community to jail, does have an impact, as well as the male-to-female ratio among African-Americans.

She further said there are "too few men for the number of women. And what that does is, it encourages multiple partners for men — concurrent partners — and those kinds of things are very risky when it comes to sexually transmitted diseases," Hallfors said.

Jennifer Augustine is the director of the HIV/STI division for Advocates for Youth, a Washington-based organization that, according to its website, "champions efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health."

She said she's encouraged by the fact that young, Black people as individuals are engaging in less risky sexual behavior, but they have to take it one step further.

"They also [need to] go that next step of talking and communicating with their partner to assess what's their past sexual history. Who have they engaged in sexual activity with? Have they always used a condom or other means of protection when having sex? Have they practiced unsafe sex?"

She said having these kinds of discussions prior to sexual activity can also improve the sad statistics.

"It really goes to show that while you can do things as an individual to protect your own behavior, you really need to know what is going on with your partner, as well — and kind of, what's going on in the community."

While Augustine applauds young Blacks for engaging in less risky behavior, Logan says it still doesn't comfort her.

"We're still at risk," she said. "It just makes me think, 'Gosh, how great is STDs and AIDS in our community that even when you're not doing it you'll still get infected?' So, it doesn't make me feel that much better; it just makes me more aware of how sexually active we are as a whole."

Both Kates and Hallfors agree that there is a need for a massive campaign to get people in the Black community tested.

Kates said the Kaiser Family Foundation has done a number of media campaigns with Black Entertainment Television over the years to reach out to this vulnerable group.

Hallfors said providing universal and free testing to the people who need it most at the most accessible locations, like local churches, beauty salons and barber shops, was among the list of recommendations to policymakers.

She had another recommendation, this time, to young, Black people: "If you're an African-American, and if you're at all sexually active, you should not think 'Hey, my behavior is very conventional: I go to church every Sunday; I don't have lots of partners; I don't do drugs or drink alcohol.' That doesn't mean you're safe. Because, if you've ever had sex with somebody... the rates are higher."

Black dealers put Ford on notice

By Marcus Amick
Special to Sentinel-Voice

DETROIT (NNPA) - Ford Motor Minority Dealers Association has called for Ford Motor Company to take immediate action to stop the decline of its minority dealers.

The group, comprised of minority dealers from around the country, contends that while 807 African-Americans have been through Ford Motor Company's Dealer Development program, only 132 remain.

The association, FMMDA, said in 1984 that Ford made a commitment to have 320 profitable dealers by 1989 and, most recently, in 2003, agreed to work toward a 15 percent minority inclusion in its total dealer ranks.

"We understand that survival is the word of the day. However, the abandoned commitment and support of minority dealers is no 'way forward,'" said Dr. A.V. Fleming, executive director and CEO of FMMDA, referring to the automaker's aggressive "Way Forward" restructuring plan.

Fleming said Ford Motor Company needs to follow through on implementing a

study to be done by Howard University agreed upon during a March meeting with Bill Ford. The study will look at the current condition of minority dealers and take four immediate plans of action:

- Stop closing African-American/ethnic minority dealerships.
- Identify the causes of dealership failures.
- Correct the causes for the closing and failures.
- Recommit corporate and financial support.

Fleming said Bill Ford and top-level management have been amenable to FMMDA, but the organization is prepared to take action in court, or in Congress, if the automaker fails to address the issue.

"We can and must stop it (the decline), and we will do it by any means necessary," Fleming said.

Approximately 50 current and former African-American Ford dealers from around the country were on hand for a press conference held by FMMDA in Detroit last week to express the group's concerns.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, who attended the press

conference, said Ford needs to take immediate action.

"If we are good enough to buy the products, we are good enough to sell the products," Jackson said. "These dealerships should not be facing elimination."

Jim Cain, a Ford spokesperson, said the automaker wants to work with FMMDA to address their concerns.

"Seven percent of our Ford and Lincoln dealers are minority dealers," said Cain, who also attended the press conference. "We've made a commitment to our minority dealers, and we remain committed to that goal, but times are tough."

Ford officials say the 807 dealer number used to illustrate the decline of Ford's minority dealers is misleading.

"The 807 figure is cumulative over almost 40 years," Cain said. "It includes dealers who succeeded, dealers who failed and dealers who sold their business to non-minorities. Just since 2003, there have been more than 50 minority-owned stores sold to non-minorities. We currently have about 180 African American dealers. FMMDA counts dealers. We count stores. Some dealers

own multiple franchises."

At the end of September, Ford had 352 minority-owned dealerships, compared to 377 for 2005, 359 for 2004, and 350 for 2003. The automaker's overall dealer count is roughly 4,300, also down from previous years.

GM currently has 354 minority dealers, of which 92 are African-American. The Chrysler Group has 170 minority dealers, which includes 59 African-Americans, of which 94 percent of are privately owned, and the

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