

Jeffrey Epstein Source of Wealth

Jeffrey Edward Epstein (born [REDACTED]) is an American financier and registered sex offender in the United States. He worked at Bear Stearns early in his career and then formed his own firm, J. Epstein & Co. In 2008, Epstein was convicted of soliciting an underage girl for prostitution, for which he served 13 months in prison. He lives in the US Virgin Islands. Epstein taught calculus and physics at the Dalton School in Manhattan from 1973 to 1975. Among his students was a son of Alan C. Greenberg, chairman of Bear Stearns.

In 1976, Epstein started work as an options trader at Bear Stearns where he worked in the special products division, advising high-net-worth clients on tax strategies. Proving successful in his financial career, in 1980 Epstein became a partner at Bear Stearns.

In 1982, Epstein founded his own financial management firm, J. Epstein & Co., managing the assets of clients with more than \$1 billion in net worth. In 1987, Leslie Wexner, founder and chairman of Ohio-based The Limited chain of women's clothing stores, became a well-known client. Wexner acquired Abercrombie & Fitch the following year. In 1992 he converted a private school on the Upper East Side into an enormous residence. Epstein later bought that property, in the wealthiest part of Manhattan. In 1996, Epstein changed the name of his firm to the Financial Trust Company and, for tax advantages, based it on the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 2003, Epstein bid to acquire *New York* magazine. Other bidders were advertising executive Donny Deutsch, investor Nelson Peltz, media mogul and publisher Mortimer Zuckerman, who had the *New York Daily News*, and film producer Harvey Weinstein. They were ultimately outbid by Bruce Wasserstein, a longtime Wall Street investor, who paid \$55 million.

In 2004, Epstein and Zuckerman committed up to \$25 million to finance *Radar*, a celebrity and pop culture magazine founded by Maer Roshan. Epstein and Zuckerman were equal partners in the venture. Roshan, as its editor-in-chief, retained a small ownership stake. Below are the links to support this source of wealth. Attached are copies of the articles from the links below.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffrey_Epstein
- http://nymag.com/nymetro/news/people/n_7912/
- <http://www.therichest.com/celebnetworth/celebrity-business/men/jeffrey-epstein-net-worth/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jan/02/jeffrey-epstein-rise-and-fall-of-teacher-turned-tycoon>

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Jeffrey Epstein

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jeffrey Edward Epstein (born January 20, 1953) is an American financier and registered sex offender in the United States.^[1] He worked at Bear Stearns early in his career and then formed his own firm, J. Epstein & Co. In 2008, Epstein was convicted of soliciting an underage girl for prostitution, for which he served 13 months in prison.^[2] He lives in the US Virgin Islands.

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Jeffrey Epstein



Epstein at Harvard University

Born	Jeffrey Edward Epstein January 20, 1953 Brooklyn, New York, U.S.
Residence	Little Saint James, U.S. Virgin Islands Palm Beach, Florida New York City
Nationality	American
Citizenship	United States
Occupation	Financier Owner, Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation

Early life

Epstein was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a middle-class Jewish family. His father worked for New York City's parks.^[3]

Epstein attended Lafayette High School. He attended classes at Cooper Union from 1969 to 1971 and later at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU. He left without a degree.

Career

Epstein taught calculus and physics at the Dalton School in Manhattan from 1973 to 1975.^[4] Among his students was a son of Alan C. Greenberg, chairman of Bear Stearns.^[5]

In 1976, Epstein started work as an options trader at Bear Stearns,^[4] where he worked in the special products division, advising high-net-worth clients on tax strategies.^[4] Proving successful in his financial career, in 1980 Epstein became a partner at Bear Stearns.^[4]

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In 2003, Epstein bid to acquire *New York* magazine. Other bidders were advertising executive Donny Deutsch, investor Nelson Peltz, media mogul and publisher Mortimer Zuckerman, who had the *New York Daily News*, and film producer Harvey Weinstein. They were ultimately outbid by Bruce Wasserstein, a longtime Wall Street investor, who paid \$55 million.^[5]

In 2004, Epstein and Zuckerman committed up to \$25 million to finance *Radar*, a celebrity and pop culture magazine founded by Maer Roshan. Epstein and Zuckerman were equal partners in the venture. Roshan, as its editor-in-chief, retained a small ownership stake.^[6]

In September 2002, Epstein flew Bill Clinton, Kevin Spacey and Chris Tucker to Africa in his private Boeing 727.^{[4][7]}

Epstein is also a longtime friend of Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and has partied with celebrities such as Katie Couric, George Stephanopoulos, Charlie Rose, and Woody Allen.^[8]

Residences

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Epstein's New York home is reputedly the largest private residence in Manhattan,^[9] it was originally built as the Birch Wathen School. The 50,000-square-foot (4,600 m²), 9-story mansion is just off Fifth Avenue and overlooks the Frick Collection. The financier's other properties include a villa in Palm Beach, Florida; an apartment in Paris; a 10,000-acre ranch with a hilltop mansion in Stanley, New Mexico,^{[10][11]} and a private island near St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands called Little Saint James that includes a mansion and guest houses.

Science philanthropy

In 2000 he established the Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation, which funds science research and education. Prior to 2003, Epstein's foundation funded Martin Nowak's research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. In May 2003, Epstein established the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University with a \$30 million gift to the university.^[12] Under the direction of Martin Nowak, the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics is a graduate department that studies the evolution of molecular biology with the use of mathematics, focusing on diseases such as cancer, HIV and other viruses.^{[4][13]}

The Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation has also funded genetic research leading towards advances in such fields as Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, colitis and Crohn's disease. Epstein has given funds to the American Cancer Society, for projects such as circulating tumor cell technology, a blood test to identify genetic mutations to anti-inhibitor cancer drugs.^[14]

Through such philanthropy, Epstein has associated with many well-known scientific figures, such as Gerald Edelman, Murray Gell-Mann, Stephen Hawking, Kip Thorne, Lawrence Krauss, Lee Smolin and Gregory Benford.^{[4][13][16]} In 2006, Epstein's foundations sponsored a conference on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands with Hawking, Krauss, and Nobel laureates Gerard 't Hooft, David Gross and Frank Wilczek, covering such topics as unified gravity theory, neuroscience, the origins of language and global threats to the Earth.^[16]

The Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation has backed research into artificial intelligence; it had been supporting Marvin Minsky at MIT (until his death) and is supporting Ben Goertzel in Hong Kong.^{[17][18]}

The extent of Epstein's claimed philanthropy is unknown. This foundation fails to disclose information which other charities routinely disclose. Concerns have been raised over this lack of transparency, and in 2015 the New York Attorney General has reported as trying to get information.^[19]

Criminal proceedings

In March 2005, a woman contacted Palm Beach, Florida police and alleged that her 14-year-old stepdaughter had been taken to Jeffrey Epstein's mansion by an older girl. There she was paid \$300 to strip and massage Epstein.^[11] She had undressed, but left the encounter wearing her underwear.^[20]

Police started an 11-month undercover investigation of Epstein, followed by a search of his home. The FBI also became involved in the investigation.^[9] Subsequently, the police alleged that Epstein had paid several escorts to perform sexual acts on him. Interviews with five alleged victims and 17 witnesses under oath, a high school transcript, and other items they found in Epstein's trash and home allegedly showed that some of the girls involved were under 18.^[21] The police search of Epstein's home found large numbers of photos of girls throughout the house, some of whom the police had interviewed in the course of their investigation.^[20]

The *International Business Times* reported that papers filed in a 2006 lawsuit alleged that Epstein installed concealed cameras in numerous places on his property to record sexual activity with underage girls by prominent people for criminal purposes such as blackmail.^[22] Epstein allegedly "loaned" girls to powerful people to ingratiate himself with them and also to gain possible blackmail information.^[9] In 2015, evidence came to light that one of the powerful men at Epstein's mansion may have been Prince Andrew of the UK.^[9]

A former employee told the police that Epstein would receive massages three times a day.^[20] Eventually the FBI received accounts from about 40 girls whose allegations of molestation by Epstein included overlapping details.^[9]

The Guardian said, "Despite this, the US government eventually agreed to allow Epstein to plead guilty to just one count of soliciting prostitution from an underage girl under Florida state law. ... Epstein agreed not to contest civil claims brought by the 40 women identified by the FBI, but escaped a prosecution that could have seen him jailed for the rest of his life. ... Prosecutors agreed not to bring far more serious federal charges against Epstein, and not to charge "potential co-conspirators", including four named individuals."^[9]

In May 2006, Palm Beach police filed a probable cause affidavit saying that Epstein should be charged with four counts of unlawful sex with minors and one molestation count.^[20]

His team of defense lawyers included Gerald Lefcourt, Alan Dershowitz and later Ken Starr.^[11] Epstein passed a polygraph test in which he was asked whether he knew of the underage status of the girls.^[23]

After the federal government agreed to charging Epstein on one count under state law, the prosecution convened a grand jury. Former chief of Palm Beach police Michael Reiter later wrote to State Attorney Barry Krischer to complain of the state's "highly unusual" conduct and asked him to remove himself from the case.^[11] The grand jury returned a single charge of felony solicitation of prostitution,^[24] to which Epstein pleaded not guilty in August 2006.^[25]

Sentencing

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In June 2008, after Epstein pleaded guilty to a single state charge of soliciting prostitution from girls as young as 14,^[26] he was sentenced to 18-months in prison. He served 13 months before being released. At release, he was registered in New York State as a level three (high risk of re-offense) sex offender, a lifelong designation.^{[27][28]}

Reactions

After the accusations became public, several persons and institutions returned donations which they had received from Epstein, including Eliot Spitzer, Bill Richardson,^[13] and the Palm Beach Police Department.^[21] Harvard University announced that it would not return any money.^[13] Various charitable donations that Epstein had made to finance children's education were also questioned.^[26]

On June 18, 2010, Epstein's former house manager, Alfredo Rodriguez, was sentenced to 18 months incarceration after being convicted on an obstruction charge for failing to turn over to police, and subsequently trying to sell, a journal in which he had recorded Epstein's activities. FBI Special Agent Christina Pryor reviewed the material and agreed it was information "that would have been extremely useful in investigating and prosecuting the case, including names and contact information of material witnesses and additional victims".^{[29][30]}

Suit against federal government re: plea deal

In a separate case, on April 7, 2015, Judge Kenneth Marra ruled that the allegations made by Virginia Roberts against Prince Andrew had no bearing on a current (and longrunning) lawsuit by alleged victims seeking to reopen Epstein's non-prosecution plea agreement with the federal government; he ordered it to be struck from the record.^[31] There was an effort to add Roberts and another woman as plaintiffs to that case. Judge Marra made no ruling as to whether claims by Roberts are true or false.^[32] Marra specifically said that Roberts may later give evidence when the case comes to court.^[33]

Civil proceedings

On February 6, 2008, an anonymous Virginia woman filed a \$50 million civil lawsuit^[34] in federal court against Epstein, alleging that when she was a 16-year-old minor in 2004–2005, she was "recruited to give Epstein a massage". She claims she was taken to his mansion, where he exposed himself and had sexual intercourse with her, and paid her \$200 immediately afterward.^[24] A similar \$50 million suit was filed in March 2008 by a different woman, who was represented by the same lawyer.^[35] These and several similar lawsuits were dismissed.^[36]

All other lawsuits were settled by Epstein out of court.^[37] Epstein has made many out-of-court settlements with alleged victims and, as of January 2015, some cases remain open.^[36]

A December 30, 2014, federal civil suit was filed in Florida against the United States for violations of the Crime Victims' Rights Act by the Department of Justice's agreement to Epstein's limited 2008 plea; the suit also accuses Alan Dershowitz of sexually abusing a minor provided by Epstein.^[38] (See *Two Jane Does v. United States*.) The allegations against Dershowitz were stricken by the judge and eliminated from the case because he said they were outside the intent of the suit to re-open the plea agreement.^{[31][39]} A document filed in court alleges that Epstein ran a "sexual abuse ring", and lent underage girls to "prominent American politicians, powerful business executives, foreign presidents, a well-known prime minister, and other world leaders".^[40]

Another woman, identified by the pseudonym "Katie Johnson",^[41] filed a lawsuit in California federal court on April 26, 2016, accusing Epstein and real estate businessman Donald Trump (now President of the United States) of raping her in 1994, when she was 13 years old.^{[42][43][44]} At the time of filing, Trump was campaigning to become the Republican Party candidate for the office of U.S. President. Judges Ronnie Abrams and James C. Francis IV presided over the case against Epstein and Trump.^[45]

The suit, which Johnson had filed without counsel, was dismissed on technical grounds after the court determined that the address listed for "Katie Johnson" was a foreclosed abandoned home whose resident had died and the provided telephone contact information was also not a functioning contact.^[42] The woman (now using the pseudonym "Jane Doe") filed a new lawsuit in June 2016, this time in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. She excluded some of her previous accusations, such as that Trump threw money for an abortion at her and that he called Epstein a "Jew bastard".^[46]

Following a delay caused by the accuser failing to show that the defendants had been served with formal notice of the suit,^[47] the suit was voluntarily dismissed on September 16.^[48] The woman's lawyer said she would re-file the lawsuit and would provide an additional witness to substantiate the claims.^[49]

On September 30, 2016, the woman re-filed the lawsuit in New York, with an additional witness identified by the pseudonym "Joan Doe".^{[50][51]} There was no further information available on the allegations outside the claims made anonymously by the two women. They were not made available for contact by the press.^[42] Civil rights lawyer and legal analyst Lisa Bloom wrote in a June 2016 blog post for the *Huffington Post* that the claims by the anonymous individuals were credible enough to warrant further investigation.^[44] Journalist Jon Swaine reported in *The Guardian* in July 2016 that the "Katie Johnson" lawsuits appeared to be orchestrated by Norm Lubow, a former producer on the *The Jerry Springer Show*. He described Lubow as "an eccentric anti-Trump campaigner with a record of making outlandish claims about celebrities".^[52]

The woman failed to appear at a press conference announced by her attorneys, saying she was fearful because of threats. She granted an interview to *The Daily Mail* together with Bloom (whom the *Daily Mail* identified as her lawyer) and permitted photographs. Soon after that, the woman dropped her lawsuit against Epstein and Trump on November 4, 2016.^{[41][53][54]} The *Daily Mail* said their reporters were aware of the woman's identity but were honoring her request to protect her privacy and not release her name. Her attorneys said the woman dropped her suit out of fear, based on having received "numerous threats" against her life.^[41]

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In March 2017, some sources reported that President Donald Trump had been called as a witness in a new case against Epstein.

Virginia Roberts lawsuits

In January 2015, a 31-year-old American woman, Virginia Roberts, alleged in a sworn affidavit that at the age of 17, she had been held as a sex slave by Epstein. He trafficked her to several people, including Prince Andrew and Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz. She claimed that Epstein and others had physically and sexually abused her.^[55]

She alleged that the FBI may have been involved in a cover-up.^[56] Roberts said she served as Epstein's sex slave from 1999 to 2002, and recruited other under-age girls.^[57] Prince Andrew, Epstein and Dershowitz all deny having had sex with Roberts. Dershowitz reportedly was taking legal action over the allegations.^{[58][59][60]} A diary purported to belong to Roberts was published online.^{[61][62]} Epstein made a settlement with Roberts out of court, as he did in several other lawsuits.^[9]

The BBC television series *Panorama* planned an investigation of the scandal.^[63] As of 2016 these claims had not been tested in any law court.^[64]

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- Collected news and commentary (http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/e/jeffrey_e_epstein/index.html) at *The New York Times*
- Collected news (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091223074727/http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Jeffrey%2BEpstein>) at the *New York Daily News*

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PROFILE

Jeffrey Epstein: International Moneyman of Mystery

He's pals with a passel of Nobel Prize-winning scientists, CEOs like Leslie Wexner of the Limited, socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, even Donald Trump. But it wasn't until he flew Bill Clinton, Kevin Spacey, and Chris Tucker to Africa on his private Boeing 727 that the world began to wonder who he is.

By Landon Thomas Jr. (Email) [Sign Up](#)

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Cash Casual: Epstein dresses down.

(Photo Courtesy of Justice 1 p.k. in)

He comes with cash to burn, a fleet of airplanes, and a keen eye for the ladies -- to say nothing of a relentless brain that challenges Nobel Prize-winning scientists across the country -- and for financial markets around the world. Ever since the Post's "Page Six" ran an item about the president's late-September visit to Africa with Kevin Spacey and Chris Tucker -- on his new benefactor's customized Boeing 727 -- the question of the day has been: Who in the world is Jeffrey Epstein?

It's a life full of question marks. Epstein is said to run \$15 billion for wealthy clients, yet aside from Limited founder Leslie Wexner, his client list is a closely held secret. A former Dalton math teacher, he maintains a peripatetic salon of brilliant scientists yet possesses no bachelor's degree. For more than ten years, he's been linked to Manhattan-London society figure Ghislaine Maxwell, daughter of the mysteriously deceased media titan Robert Maxwell, yet he lives the life of a bachelor, logging 600 hours a year in his various planes as he scours the world for investment opportunities. He owns what is said to be Manhattan's largest private house yet runs his business from a 100-acre private island in St. Thomas.

Power on Wall Street has generally accrued to those who have made their open bids for it. Soros. Wasserstein. Kravis. Weill. The Sturm und Drang of their successes and failures has been played out in public. Epstein breaks the mold. Most everyone on the Street has heard of him, but nobody seems to know what the hell he is up to. Which is just the way he likes it.

"My belief is that Jeff maintains some sort of money-management firm, though you won't get a straight answer from him," says one well-known investor. "He once told me he had 300 people working for him, and I've also heard that he manages Rockefeller money. But one never knows. It's like looking at the Wizard of Oz -- there may be less there than meets the eye."

Says another prominent Wall Streeter: "He is this mysterious, Gatsbyesque figure. He likes people to think that he is very rich, and he cultivates this air of aloofness. The whole thing is weird."

The wizard that meets the eye is spare and fit; with a long jaw and a carefully coiffed head of silver hair, he looks like a taller, younger Ralph Lauren. A raspy Brooklyn accent betrays his Coney Island origins. He spends an hour and fifteen minutes every day doing advanced yoga with his personal instructor, who travels with him wherever he goes. He is an enthusiastic member of the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations.

He dresses casually -- jeans, open-necked shirts, and sneakers -- and is rarely seen in a tie. Indeed, those close to him say the reason he quit his board seat at the Rockefeller Institute was that he hated wearing a suit. "It feels like a dress," he told one friend.

Epstein likes to tell people that he's a loner, a man who's never touched alcohol or drugs, and one whose nightlife is far from energetic. And yet if you talk to Donald Trump, a different Epstein emerges. "I've known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy," Trump booms from a speakerphone. "He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it -- Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

But beautiful women are only a part of it. Because here's the thing about Epstein: As some collect butterflies, he collects beautiful minds. "I invest in people -- be it politics or science. It's what I do," he has said to friends. And his latest prize addition is the former president. In his eyes, Clinton as a species represents the highest evolutionary form of the political animal. To be up close to him, as he was during the African journey, is akin to seeing the rarest of beasts on a safari. As he put it to a friend upon his return from Africa: "If you were a boxer at the downtown gymnasium at 14th Street and Mike Tyson walked in, your face would have the same look as these foreign leaders had when Clinton entered the room. He is the world's greatest politician."

"Jeffrey is both a highly successful financier and a committed philanthropist with a keen sense of global markets and an in-depth knowledge of twenty-first-century science," Clinton says through a spokesman.

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"I especially appreciated his insights and generosity during the recent trip to Africa to work on democratization, empowering the poor, citizen service, and combating HIV/AIDS."

Before Clinton, Epstein's rare appearances in the gossip columns tended to be speculation as to the true nature of his relationship with Ghislaine Maxwell. While they are still friends, the English tabloids have postulated that Maxwell has longed for a more permanent pairing and that for undetermined reasons Epstein has not reciprocated in kind. "It's a mysterious relationship that they have," says society journalist David Patrick Columbia. "In one way, they are soul mates, yet they are hardly companions anymore. It's a nice conventional relationship, where they serve each other's purposes."

Friends of the two say that Maxwell, whose social life has always been higher-octane than Epstein's, lent a little pizzazz to the lower-profile Epstein. Indeed, at a party at Maxwell's house, her friends say, one is just as apt to see Russian ladies of the night as one is to see Prince Andrew. The Oxford-educated Maxwell, described by many as a man-eater (she flies her own helicopter and was recently seen dining with Clinton at Nello's on Madison Avenue), lives in her own townhouse a few blocks away. Epstein is frequently seen around town with a bevy of comely young women but there has been no boldfaced name to replace Maxwell. "You may read about Jeffrey in the social columns, but there is much more to him than that," says Jeffrey T. Leeds of the private equity firm Leeds Weld & Co. "He's a talented money manager and an extremely hardworking person with broad interests. Most unusual, though, is that in this media-obsessed age he is not in any sense a self-promoter."

Born in 1953 and raised in Coney Island, Epstein went to Lafayette High School. According to his bio, he took some classes in physics at Cooper Union from 1969 to 1971. He left Cooper Union in 1971 and attended NYU's Courant Institute, where he took courses in mathematical physiology of the heart, leaving that school, too, without a degree. Between 1973 and 1975, Epstein taught calculus and physics at the Dalton School.

By most accounts, he was something of a Robin Williams-in-*Dead Poets Society* type of figure, wowing his high-school classes with passionate mathematical riffs. So impressed was one Wall Street father of a student that he said to Epstein point-blank: "What are you doing teaching math at Dalton? You should be working on Wall Street -- why don't you give my friend Ace Greenberg a call."

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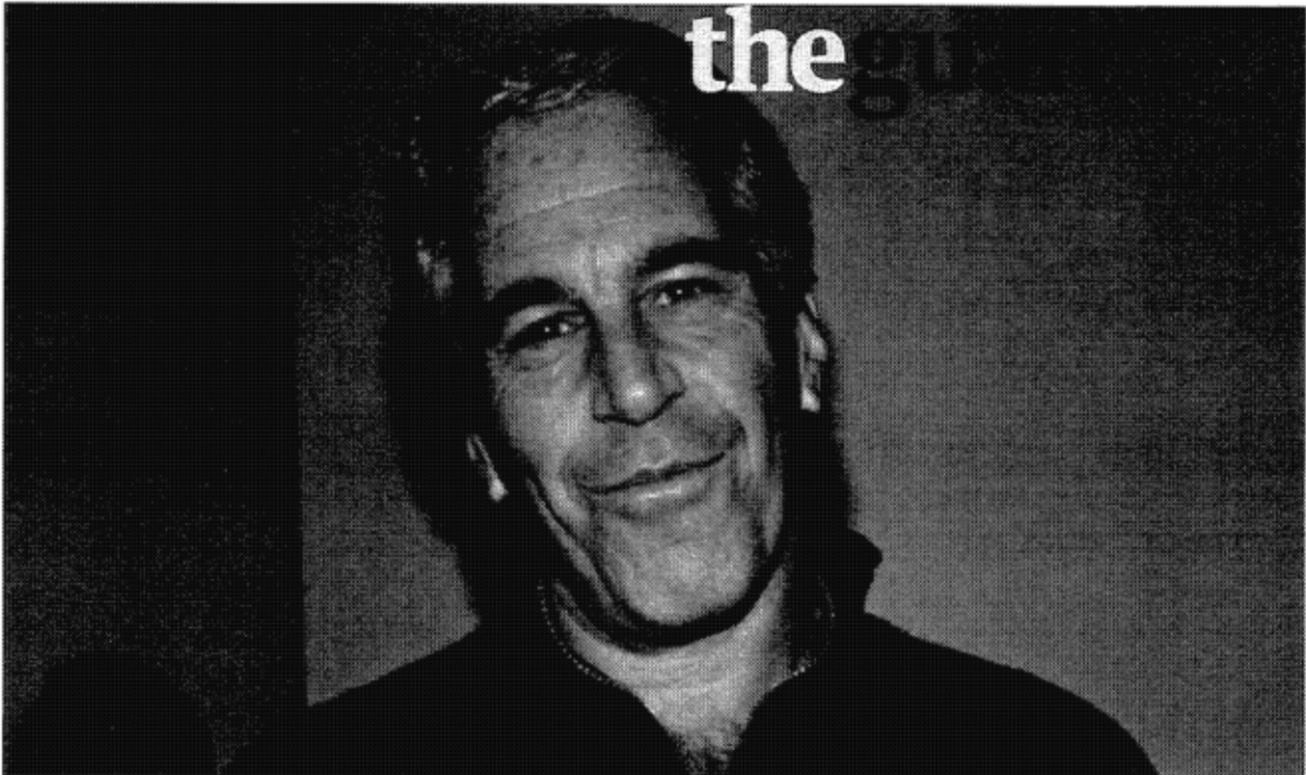
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Jeffrey Epstein: the rise and fall of teacher turned tycoon

Investment banker maintained impressive list of powerful contacts before downfall

Paul Lewis in New York

Sunday 4 January 2015 06.44 EST

The rise and fall of Jeffrey Epstein, Wall Street investment banker turned disgraced sex offender, could be a plot line in an F Scott Fitzgerald novel.

Raised in a tough Brooklyn neighbourhood, Epstein was working as a maths teacher at a Manhattan private school when, the legend goes, the father of one of his students put him in touch with a partner at the global investment bank Bear Stearns.

That was 1976. Within six years Epstein had risen through the ranks, working as a trader, before striking out on his own and convincing some of America's wealthiest plutocrats to let him manage their portfolios.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jan/02/jeffrey-epstein-rise-and-fall-of-teacher-...> 6/23/2017
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Profiting from the 1980s boom, Epstein quickly amassed his own fortune. Often referred to as a billionaire, Epstein's true net worth remains unknown - in part because much of his wealth is concealed, according to Forbes, in a financial entity in the US Virgin Islands, a tax shelter where he owns his own private island.

However, over his career Epstein, 61, acquired properties across the world, including a ranch in New Mexico, a mansion in Palm Beach, Florida, and a 40-room mansion in New York, which is reportedly the largest residential property in Manhattan.

With huge wealth came great influence, and Epstein built friendships with powerful figures in the establishment: celebrities, politicians, business moguls and royalty. His list of clients has never been publicly disclosed, although it is well known that one is the billionaire retail magnate Les Wexner, whose empire includes the Victoria's Secret chain.

Wexner is understood to have since cut his ties with Epstein. However, the investment banker maintained an impressive contacts list, from Hollywood to Washington. He was a generous philanthropist, donating millions of dollars to Harvard and other institutions engaged in cutting-edge scientific research.

He once counted Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, Kevin Spacey and Naomi Campbell among his associates, frequently lent his private jet to powerful contacts and became famed for his extravagant parties.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Epstein found himself described as a modern-day Great Gatsby. His downfall, which began almost a decade ago, has been just as dramatic as the eponymous protagonist in Fitzgerald's novel. Epstein was arrested in 2005, after the stepmother of a 14-year-old girl told Florida police he had paid \$200 for an erotic massage with her daughter, and later became the subject of an FBI investigation.

By the following year prosecutors said they had identified 40 young women who may have been illegally procured by Epstein. Dozens of his alleged victims are reported to have settled with Epstein out of court.

The federal inquiry was eventually dropped after Epstein negotiated a deal with prosecutors in which he agreed to plead guilty to a relatively minor state charge relating to soliciting paid sex with a minor. He served 13 months of an 18-month sentence and is now a registered sex offender.

A lawsuit against the US government brought by two of Epstein's alleged victims, who are unhappy with the terms of the plea deal, has been ongoing for more than six years.

In the latest twist, lawyers for the two women filed a motion in a Florida court this week attempting to add two new plaintiffs to the case. That document surfaces new allegations against Epstein and his associates.

The motion portrays Epstein as running a "sexual abuse ring", loaning out underage women to "prominent American politicians, powerful business executives, foreign

presidents, a well-known prime minister, and other world leaders". Epstein's lawyers did not respond to repeated requests for comment but others identified in the court document have strenuously denied the woman's accusation.

Those forcefully rejecting the allegations contained in the court filing on Friday include Prince Andrew, the Duke of York. His friendship with Epstein stems back to the early 1990s. Epstein was also a friend of Andrew's former wife, Sarah Ferguson, once lending her £15,000 to reduce some of her debts. Ferguson later said she regretted taking Epstein's money, which she described as "a gigantic error of judgment".

After reports on Friday that the motion filed in the Florida court named Prince Andrew in connection with Epstein's alleged sex trafficking, Buckingham Palace released a rare public statement.

"This relates to long-running and ongoing civil proceedings in the United States to which the Duke of York is not a party," it said. "As such we would not comment in detail. However, for the avoidance of doubt, any suggestion of impropriety with underage minors is categorically untrue."

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