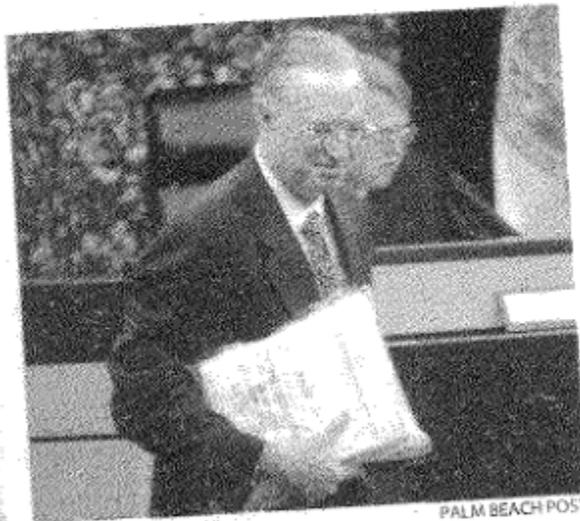


JEFFREY EPSTEIN CASE Victims say they were kept out of loop

ATTORNEYS FIGHT TO KEEP PLEA DISCUSSIONS PRIVATE



PALM BEACH POST

Miami attorney Roy Black and two other lawyers who represented sex offender Jeffrey Epstein have filed a motion to intercede in a lawsuit seeking to nix the one-time Palm Beach billionaire's nonprosecution agreement with the federal government.

by John Pacenti, DBR. Three attorneys who represented sex offender Jeffrey Epstein have filed a motion to intercede in a lawsuit seeking to nix the one-time Palm Beach billionaire's nonprosecution agreement with the federal government.

Epstein, who served a 13-month sentence after agreeing to plead to a state charge of soliciting sex with a minor, was accused

of molesting dozens of underage girls from 2001 to 2007. The new pleading seeks a protective order to keep e-mails and other correspondence between Epstein's attorneys and the U.S. attorney's office out of the hands of two alleged victims who brought the suit.

His attorneys object to turning anything over. They say the sanctity of plea negotiations is critical to the criminal justice system, and they need to be assured plea talks with prosecutors do not end up as evidence in civil lawsuits.

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on the web

Read the motion filed by Jeffrey Epstein's attorneys on DailyBusinessReview.com

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ATTORNEYS FIGHT TO KEEP PLEA DISCOURSE PRIVATE

by John Pacenti

Miami attorney Roy Black and two other high-profile attorneys who represented billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein have asked a federal judge to prohibit two alleged victims from obtaining correspondence between the defense team and federal prosecutors who hammered out a nonprosecution agreement.

The two women identified in court papers only as Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 say the agreement should be invalidated because they were not adequately informed of the plan not to file federal charges against Epstein.

The defense attorneys' motion to intervene states the sanctity of plea talks would be undermined if U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra in West Palm Beach allows the correspondence to be used in the third-party civil action brought by the alleged victims.

New York litigator Jay Lefkowitz and Boston criminal defense attorney Martin G. Weinberg joined Black in the motion filed April 7.

The fight over the records comes amid claims that the defense strong-armed prosecutors into a cushy deal for Epstein.

"The release of these letters and the precedent it would establish would have a severe chilling effect on the lawyers' ability to engage in candid settlement discussions with the government in future cases," the 13-page motion reads. "Indeed, to the extent such written correspondence is deemed discoverable by third parties, criminal defense attorneys and the government's lawyers alike would lose the ability to ne-

gotiate such agreements."

The alleged victims maintain evidence shows Epstein molested more than 30 girls from 2001 to 2007, luring them to his Palm Beach mansion on the pretext of giving him a massage.

As part of the nonprosecution agreement, he pleaded guilty to a state charge of soliciting sex with a minor and served 13 months of an 18-month sentence. He resurfaced recently in New York and has become the subject of news reports about socializing with Britain's Prince Andrew.



POOL PHOTO

Miami attorney Roy Black and two other attorneys said the release of the plea discussions would have a "severe chilling effect" on future talks with the government.

PERSONAL INQUIRY

The women say the nonprosecution agreement should be scuttled and Epstein should be open to federal charges because they were not adequately consulted as required under the Crimes Victims Rights Act. They seek disclosure of all correspondence between Epstein's attorneys and the government, claiming it would show prosecutors failed to meet their obligation to keep them and other victims informed.

The U.S. attorney's office argued in a 54-page response April 8 to the women's lawsuit that the law does not apply because no federal charges were filed against the financier, only a state charge.

The women were denied access to the letters in their civil lawsuit against Epstein, which was settled. The motion by Black, Lefkowitz and Weinberg said there is "no doubt" the women aim to disseminate the material to news outlets. They urge Marra to "decline the invitation to fuel the media campaign against Mr. Epstein."

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ADVERTISING CLAIMS Are China-grown vegetables organic?