



Bloomberg Testifies At His Company's Discrimination Suit

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg testified in a Midtown Manhattan law firm Thursday for a federal discrimination lawsuit filed by formerly pregnant employees against his own finance and media corporation.

In 2007, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sued Bloomberg L.P. over an alleged pattern of underpaying or demoting women employees after they announced that they were pregnant or after they returned to work from maternity leave.

The mayor spent the entire day since 9 a.m. answering questions in regards to the lawsuit and is still in the Midtown law firm.

"Plaintiffs - over 80 formerly pregnant females - alleged the improprieties were severe, systematic and pervasive throughout his company," said **Richard Roth**, an

attorney for two plaintiffs. "We are determining if and when Mr. Bloomberg became aware of these issues, whether they were happening under his watch, and if so, what he did about them."

He founded the company in 1981 and stepped down as its chairman in 2001, but later admitted to keeping up regular contact with the company's executives.

Bloomberg officials denied all allegations and said they will fight the charges in court.

Coincidentally, the mayor spoke this morning at the New York Women's Foundation's Celebrating Women Breakfast.

A spokesman for the mayor would not comment on the day's procedures.

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