

# The New York Times

VOL. CLVIII . . No. 54, 750

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NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

\$2.00

## *Bloomberg Testifies in Bias Suit Brought Against His Company*

By **DAVID W. CHEN**

A lawyer who questioned Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on Monday during a deposition in a federal discrimination lawsuit against Mr. Bloomberg's giant media company described him as more dismissive and uninterested than he was during his previous appearance, two months ago.

The lawyer, **Richard A. Roth**, who represents two of the plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against Mr. Bloomberg's financial news company, Bloomberg L.P., said that while the mayor was calm in his demeanor and direct in his answers, he gave the impression that he found the legal procedure a bit pointless.

"His answers were short," Mr. **Roth** said. "I think that he believes that he has many more important things to do than sit here at this deposition."

When asked to elaborate, Mr. **Roth** continued: "I think the difference is really the area of questioning. I think we dug a little deeper into his relationship with the company."

Thomas H. Golden, a lawyer representing Bloomberg L.P., disagreed with Mr. **Roth's** characterization. In a statement, Mr. Golden, whose firm, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, convened the deposition in its Midtown offices, said, "Mr. Bloomberg answered every question that was asked, and he did so directly and appropriately."

All told, Mr. Bloomberg was questioned for three and a half hours, one hour less than during his first appearance, on May 14. Mr. Bloomberg's appearances have represented the most notable moments yet in a class-action lawsuit filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in September 2007 on behalf of more than 80 female employees. The suit accuses Bloomberg L.P. of systematically discriminating against pregnant women who took maternity leave.

Mr. Bloomberg, who is the majority shareholder of the company, is not a defendant. The discrimination is said to have taken place after he departed to make a successful mayoral bid in 2001.

But the mayor has acknowledged that he was briefed by senior executives on company developments after taking office. So his testimony was crucial, Mr. **Roth** said Monday, because "in proving your case, you want to show that the decisions were inappropriate, and you want to show who made the decisions, and you want to show why they made them."

Mr. **Roth** said that it was unlikely, though possible, that Mr. Bloomberg would be asked to return for another session. He also said that a trial could begin in the spring of summer of 2010. Mr. Bloomberg is seeking election to a third term as mayor in November.

