



A MOTHER OF A SUIT

4TH BLOOMY-FIRM EXEC EYES PREG-BIAS BID

A woman who claims a female boss at Mayor Bloomberg's company harassed her following maternity leave is considering joining a bombshell federal suit accusing the firm of systematic discrimination against pregnant women, her lawyer said yesterday.

Monica Prestia, who filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against Bloomberg LP in June, may sign on to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's action against the information-services firm, said her lawyer, **Richard Roth** "I haven't yet decided," he said. But he ripped the company, saying, "How can you promote family values while punishing young women in your company for starting families?"

Roth also insisted mistreatment of pregnant women was part of "the culture and climate" at the firm - even while Bloomberg was running

the place, before he took office in January 2002. "This culture existed while he was there," **Roth** told The Post.

A spokesman for the mayor at City Hall referred calls to a Bloomberg LP spokeswoman, who called **Roth's** claim "nonsense," but did not comment on the suit. The EEOC on Thursday filed a suit against the firm, saying women at almost every level faced demotions, lower-paying job assignments and denials of promotions when they returned to work after taking leave to have children.

The EEOC substantiated the complaints of three women - Tanys Lancaster, Janet Loures and Jill Patricot - who filed discrimination complaints. Company officials have strongly denied the accusations and said they intend to fight the suit. Prestia, who began as an account executive at Bloomberg LP in 1997, also filed an EEOC complaint last

year. **Roth** said the agency gave him a "right to sue" letter, so he filed the claim in Manhattan federal court.

Prestia said she became pregnant at age 38 with her first child in February 2005. One of her supervisors, Carole Kaschak, isn't able to have a baby, according to the suit. Prestia said Kaschak became hostile to her even before she had the baby, and she took an early maternity leave. She claimed that when she returned to work in February 2006, she was "chastised . . . for not finishing enough work before she went on maternity leave," made to feel guilty for taking the time off, denied raises and physically isolated from co-workers.

Prestia was diagnosed with "major depression," she claimed, and went on disability leave. She was then terminated on Dec. 31, 2006, the suit says.

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