



BLOOMY BIZ'S PREGNANT 'PERIL'

The number of women suing Mayor Bloomberg's financial-news company for pregnancy discrimination has swelled past 80 -- including two who claim they were harassed so badly, they suffered premature contractions.

The revelations came in a series of Manhattan federal court filings in which the feds also accused Bloomberg LP of retaliating against female workers who complained about their allegedly illegal treatment.

The payback included "reduction in compensation, unfounded criticism of performance, reduction of job opportunities and threats of termination," according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which has interviewed potential plaintiffs since the suit was filed in 2007.

Two of the approximately two dozen new plaintiffs -- Maria Mandalakis and Marina Kushnir -- claim their bosses piled on work after they became pregnant.

Mandalakis claimed she twice went into premature labor after her boss

ignored the fact that she was bleeding and had been prescribed bed rest.

"Bloomberg's [the business'] conduct is, in a word, outrageous. It wholly ignores the sanctity of pregnancy," said her lawyer, **Richard Roth**.

Mandalakis said that once the pregnancy became visible to her supervisors, "they began to treat her differently," according to court papers. She said her supervisors "became very aggressive about knowing her whereabouts.

Mandalakis, an ad saleswoman, claimed she was given assignments that "required driving long distances to meet with clients. On one occasion, on a hot and humid day, she was even hospitalized after driving all over New Jersey."

Bloomberg LP has denied any wrongdoing, and spokeswoman Judith Czelusniak said yesterday that "we continue to be extremely confident in our position."

Bruce Golding

