

Russell Simmons sues HBO for \$20 million over bombshell documentary alleging sexual misconduct

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Hip hop mogul Russell Simmons says filmmakers of a documentary [detailing sexual misconduct allegations against him](#) “suppressed evidence” that refuted the accusers claims, according to a new \$20 million defamation lawsuit filed against HBO and the film’s creators.

Simmons says that the [2020 film “On the Record,”](#) a documentary about women accusing the Def Jam records co-founder of sexual misconduct, “willfully” ignored evidence “including interviews, and over 20 witnesses” that were favorable to Simmons.

Simmons’ attorneys, Imran H. Ansari and Carla DiMare, told The Post that HBO “simply disregarded” the “voluminous support” for their client, “and released, and continue to re-release globally, a film that tremendously disparaged and damaged Mr. Simmons with salacious and defamatory accusations that he vehemently denies.”



HBO is accused of discarding CIA-level polygraph results. John Roca

The evidence, which would have “refuted and rebutted the accusations falsely made against Plaintiff in the film,” was presented to the filmmakers, plus top HBO and parent company Warner Bros. executives, but they ignored the materials, claims the lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Manhattan Supreme Court.

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That evidence includes “nine consecutive credible and favorable CIA-grade polygraph results” that HBO “disregarded,” according to the lawsuit.

It notes that the film’s backers were “requested” to review the alleged exculpatory evidence by unnamed “luminaries in media and politics, including but not limited to, civil rights leaders and members of Congress, and other high-profile black leaders.”

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Simmons cites how [former executive producer of the film, Oprah Winfrey, left the project](#) “after publicly noting inconsistencies in the accusations,” and claims that news outlets — including The Post — “declined to publish defamatory content.”

But Winfrey told reporters at the time that [Simmons had pressured her to abandon the project](#), and that she still believed the woman at the center of the film, Drew Dixon.

Simmons had directly confronted Oprah in social media posts in 2019 over her involvement, along with hip hop star 50 Cent.

"It's so troubling that you choose to single me out in your recent documentary [sic]. I have already admitted to being a playboy (more appropriately titled today 'womanizer') sleeping with and putting myself in more compromising situations than almost any man I know ... So many that some could reinterpret or reimagine a different recollection of the same experiences."

Simmons references the nine "CIA-grade polygraph results," specifying that the tests were three-hours-long.

Accusations against Simmons first surfaced in 2017, when multiple women accused him of rape stretching back to the 1980's, plus "violent sexual behavior" by others.

In January, three of the accusers sued Simmons for not paying nearly \$8 million in settlements.

Two of the accusers were granted new money judgements in May — with an additional \$950,000 in interest — while the third awaits a new judgement.

In February, an anonymous former producer at Simmons' Def Jam records sued him for rape.

Simmons has been held in pricey legal judgements before.

Months before his first #MeToo accusations surfaced in 2017, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ordered Simmons to pay \$13 million for a prepaid-debit-card debacle.

A Warner Bros. / Discover spokesperson defended the doc.

"We dispute Mr. Simmons' allegations, stand by the filmmakers and their process, and will vigorously defend ourselves against these unfounded allegations," the spokesperson said.

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