

Industries

Epstein Accusers Sue Wexner Claiming His Funding Enabled Crimes



Les Wexner in 2016. *Photographer: Astrid Stawiarz/Getty Images*

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March 31, 2026 at 12:17 PM EDT

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✦ Takeaways by Bloomberg AI

- Several of Jeffrey Epstein's accusers sued Leslie Wexner for allegedly enabling Epstein's sex crimes through significant funding.
- The lawsuit claimed Wexner gave Epstein about \$200 million over 20 years, which Epstein used to "build his sex trafficking network and commit acts of gender-motivated violence."
- A Wexner spokesperson denied the allegations, stating that Epstein received compensation for his financial advisory services and purchased the New York mansion, and that the claims "have no basis".

Several of Jeffrey Epstein's accusers sued billionaire Leslie Wexner for allegedly enabling the disgraced financier's sex crimes through significant funding.

The lawsuit, which was initially filed in state court, claimed Wexner gave Epstein about \$200 million over 20 years, which the pedophile used to "build his sex trafficking network and commit acts of gender-motivated violence." The complaint focuses on the transfer of a New York mansion from Wexner to Epstein – a location US prosecutors had earlier claimed was a prime spot where sexual abuse of minors occurred.

The case was moved to New York federal court on Monday.

A Wexner spokesperson in a statement denied that the billionaire "gave Epstein approximately \$200 million over the course of twenty years," noting that Epstein received compensation for his financial advisory services and purchased the New York mansion.

The claims, which have no basis, "appear to be based on the ownership of a house Wexner sold years prior to the time of the allegations," added the spokesperson, noting that the Wexners "have tremendous sympathy for the victims of Jeffrey Epstein's horrendous crimes."

Wexner, 88, has attracted renewed scrutiny from the public and lawmakers after the Justice Department recently released millions of pages of material related to its probes into Epstein. The files were released following a law passed by Congress last year in response to bipartisan pressure from lawmakers, victims and activists.

Wexner, the founder of L Brands Inc., in February sat through nearly five hours of questioning by the House Oversight Committee, which, among other things, sought answers on his financial relationship with Epstein.

"We should be very clear that there would be no Epstein island, there'd be no Epstein plane, there'd be no money to traffic women and girls" without Wexner, said California Representative Robert Garcia, the top-ranking Democrat on the panel, speaking to reporters during a break.

Wexner has denied facilitating, knowing about or participating in Epstein’s crimes.

Wexner handed over significant financial control of his wealth to Epstein in the 1990s, including giving him power of attorney. The billionaire said he cut ties in 2007 after finding out that his former money manager had misappropriated significant sums of money.

Read More: [‘I Was Deceived:’ Leslie Wexner Says Epstein Swindled Him](#)

The lawsuit focuses on Epstein’s former New York townhouse on 9 E. 71st St., which Wexner sold to Epstein for \$20 million in 1998.

The complaint claimed that Wexner for 13 years “furnished Epstein” with the New York mansion where the pedophile “sexually abused and trafficked” the plaintiffs. They accused Wexner of using his foundation and a company that owned the New York property to “conceal the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars of money, property, and other assets to Epstein.”

– *With assistance from Bob Van Voris*



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