

Contact: Gloria Allred

Phone: 323-653-6530

Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

We are here today to announce that we filed a lawsuit yesterday on behalf of Nichol Lechmanik against Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, as a result of his assault on her on January 27, 2023, in Newbury Park, California.

The lawsuit that we filed in Ventura County, California contains the following allegations against the defendant Ye.

At approximately 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. on January 27, 2023, Nichol (Plaintiff) was in the vicinity of the Sports Academy in Newbury Park, California. She had filmed Kim Kardashian going into the Sports Academy and plaintiff was driving her car while taking a break during the interval of time before Kardashian emerged after the sporting event she was attending. The Plaintiff, lawfully engaged in her vocation, was among other professional photographers outside the Sports Academy filming Ms. Kardashian.

As she was driving, Plaintiff noticed an interaction between Defendant Ye and another photographer on a street near the Sports Academy. Both had exited their vehicles and Ye was angrily confronting the photographer. Given Defendant

Ye's reputation for violence against photographers, his history of physically harming them, and based on his threatening body language, Plaintiff became fearful for the photographer's safety. Defendant Ye went through his pockets, and Plaintiff thought that he might have a weapon.

From her car, Plaintiff began filming the incident on her cell phone, with her hand extended outside the driver-side window. Plaintiff remained in the driver's seat as she was filming. She did not want to get out of her car because she was afraid of Defendant Ye.

Defendant Ye was enraged. He reached into Plaintiff's car and ripped her phone out of her hands. As he did so, Plaintiff was fearful Defendant Ye had a weapon or would strike her. Defendant Ye then threw her phone onto the street towards oncoming traffic.

Next, Defendant Ye walked to the other side of her car where Plaintiff's business partner was also filming from the passenger seat. Plaintiff's business partner was likewise terrified. He locked the door and rolled his window up. As Defendant Ye arrived at the passenger side of the car, Plaintiff remained fearful as to what was going to happen next. Defendant Ye gave them a "death stare" before finally turning and walking away.

As a result of what Ye did to Nichol, we are suing him for assault, battery, negligence, and violation of her civil rights.

Our complaint alleges that the California Constitution Article I, Section 1 of the California Constitution guarantees certain inalienable rights to persons in this state and has been construed specifically to include the fundamental right to pursue a lawful occupation.

At the time of this incident, Nichol was a professional photographer in California, and we allege that at the time of this incident, Ye attempted to interfere with and did interfere with her fundamental constitutional right to pursue her lawful occupation.

As a result, we are seeking general, special, and punitive damages according to proof at trial.

We are seeking a court order preventing Ye from attacking or otherwise interfering with plaintiff or other photographers' right to pursue their occupations.

Ye has a prior history of assaulting photographers, and we want him to be accountable.

We are bringing this case because Nichol wants Ye to know that what he is doing to photographers is wrong and in Nichol's case, it was harmful to her physically, emotionally, and financially. Nichol wants justice and that is why she filed her lawsuit against Ye. In addition, she wants him to stop interfering with the rights of other photographers to engage in their lawful occupation.

Nichol and I look forward to seeing Ye in court.

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law

June 1, 2023

Representing Nichol Lechmanik