

Federal Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Against Ex-Gov. Spitzer

By THOMAS KAPLAN

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A federal judge on Friday dismissed a libel lawsuit against former Gov. [Eliot Spitzer](#) and the online magazine Slate for a column Mr. Spitzer wrote in 2010 about an insurance bid-rigging scandal.

The suit [had been brought last year](#) by a former executive at the insurance broker Marsh & McLennan, who was the target of a prosecution by Mr. Spitzer when he was the state attorney general. The former executive, William Gilman, accused Mr. Spitzer of defamation and sought at least \$60 million.

The judge, J. Paul Oetken of Federal District Court in Manhattan, did not provide his reasoning for dismissing the case, but wrote in a one-page order that an opinion would be forthcoming.

Marsh [agreed in 2005 to pay \\$850 million](#) to settle a lawsuit by Mr. Spitzer that accused the company of rigging prices and steering business to insurers in exchange for kickbacks. Mr. Gilman was among a group of Marsh executives [who were later indicted](#); he was [found guilty of a felony antitrust charge](#) in 2008, but his conviction was [reversed in July 2010](#) after new evidence emerged.

Mr. Spitzer wrote [his column](#) later that summer, responding to [an editorial](#) in The Wall Street Journal that criticized some of his prosecutions as attorney general, including his case against Marsh. Mr. Spitzer did not explicitly mention Mr. Gilman in the column, which carried the headline “They Still Don’t Get It,” but referred generally to “criminal conduct” at the firm.

In an interview on Friday, Mr. Spitzer, who now hosts a show on Current TV, said people on Wall Street who shouldered responsibility for triggering the financial crisis were trying to allow the passage of time “to blind us to what was being done that was illegal and improper.”

“What the executives at Marsh & McLennan did was heinous, violative of the law, and the company settled for \$850 million for a reason,” Mr. Spitzer said. “The importance of the lawsuit is merely that hard as they tried to rewrite history, they can’t be permitted to get away with it.”

Mr. Gilman’s lawyer did not respond to a request for comment on Friday. Another former Marsh executive, Edward McNenney, had also filed a libel lawsuit last year against Mr. Spitzer and Slate; that suit, filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, had been delayed while Mr. Gilman’s lawsuit was considered.