



Portfolio Media, Inc. | 111 West 19th Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10011 | www.law360.com  
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

## Lin Wood Drops Libel Counterclaims Against Ex-Colleagues

By **Rosie Manins**

Law360 (February 3, 2021, 7:19 PM EST) -- Controversial libel attorney L. Lin Wood dropped defamation counterclaims Tuesday against three trial lawyers he used to work with, saying he thinks they're well-founded but he'd rather focus his resources on fighting their contract breach suit against him for alleged nonpayment.



Lin Wood, a member of former President Donald Trump's legal team, speaks at a Dec. 2, 2020, rally in Alpharetta, Georgia. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

The well-known defamation lawyer is being investigated by the State Bar of Georgia in relation to several complaints that he says are "errant nonsense" over his loyalty to former President Donald Trump and unwavering claims that widespread voting fraud produced the wrong result in the Nov. 3 election.

Wood's political views have sparked **a sanctions bid** in Michigan, and his eligibility as a Georgia voter is now under investigation by the secretary of state's office following his change of residency to South Carolina.

On Tuesday, Wood voluntarily dismissed with prejudice his counterclaims of defamation and false light against Nicole Wade, Jonathan Grunberg and Taylor Wilson — who claimed to be former L. Lin Wood PC partners, though Wood denies it — and their firm, Wade Grunberg & Wilson LLC. They **sued Wood and his firm** in September, alleging he refused to pay them for work they did for his firm, in violation of a March separation agreement.

"This voluntary dismissal is not an admission or acknowledgement that his counterclaims lack merit, that any of the allegations in plaintiffs' complaint or amended complaint that form the basis of Mr. Wood's counterclaims are true or do not depict him in a false and misleading light, or that plaintiffs' motion to strike [the counterclaims] was well grounded in fact or law," Wood said in his notice of dismissal. "Rather, Mr. Wood wishes to focus his financial resources and time on defending the main case."

Wood told Law360 he tries to choose his battles carefully and "prioritize them correctly." He said in the big scheme of things, his counterclaims are not important.

"My main goal is for the full truth to be revealed publicly," Wood said Wednesday. "I can establish the truth in the defense of the claims lodged against me."

The three attorneys are accusing Wood of breaching the separation contract by withholding their share of what he collected from common clients. They claimed that Wood's abusive, offensive and erratic behavior forced them to flee his firm on Valentine's Day in 2020, and that he continued to threaten to "massacre" them while withholding their money and saying they must pay his firm's office lease.

In November, Wood answered the suit with counterclaims of defamation and portrayal in a false light, alleging the lawyers were never partners in his firm but merely shared office space.

He said the aim of their complaint is to falsely portray him as mentally unstable, vindictive, delusional and emotionally and physically abusive, "despite the fact that these false characterizations are wholly irrelevant to the parties' business dispute," in an attempt to publicly humiliate him into a quick settlement.

Wood sought in his counterclaims actual and punitive damages as well as attorney fees and costs.

Andrew M. Beal of Buckley Beal LLP, an attorney for Wade, Grunberg, Wilson and their firm, told Law360 they were pleased Wood had dismissed his counterclaims, for which they would withdraw their motion to strike.

"My clients are pleased that the counterclaims have been dismissed with prejudice so that the parties can focus on the merits of the case," Beal said.

Wood told Law360 on Wednesday he's certain beyond any doubt that he was eligible to vote in Georgia in the Nov. 3 election and had heard nothing from state election officials about their investigation. The Georgia Secretary of State's Office confirmed to Law360 on Wednesday it was investigating Wood's voter eligibility and that he had last cast a ballot in the Nov. 3 election.

Wood posted on his public Telegram account that he changed his residency Monday to South Carolina, having lived in Georgia since 1955. He said he was being harassed by Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger because he had revealed credible evidence of election fraud.

"I was a legal voter who cast a legal vote," Wood told Law360. "Tens of thousands of voters in Georgia did not fit that description."

Wood said the state bar had received four complaints against him made by "strangers" from outside Georgia whom he'd never represented. The claims are "errant nonsense" and "clearly asserted in furtherance of personal political agendas," he said.

On Friday, the attorney **publicly revealed** the state bar's potential desire for him to be mentally examined, but said Wednesday he had yet to be asked to undergo an evaluation.

Wood is also fielding criticism from his alma mater, Mercer University School of Law, which is considering whether to **remove his name** from its trial courtroom, despite accepting a \$1 million donation in exchange.

Wood said that he had no idea what Mercer was going to do, but that he was informed by a student Wednesday that his name was still on the building.

The State Bar of Georgia did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

Wood is represented by R. Joseph "Joey" Burby IV and Christopher C. Marquardt of Alston & Bird LLP.

Wade, Grunberg, Wilson and their firm are represented by Andrew M. Beal and Milinda Brown of Buckley Beal LLP.

The case is Wade et al. v. Wood et al., case number 2020CV339937, in the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia.

--Additional reporting by Ryan Boysen and Dave Simpson. Editing by Breda Lund.