

CBS Sees 'Judge Judy' Lawsuit Over \$47M Salary & Profits Get Trial Date



CBS

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by [Dominic Patten](#)
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Judy Sheindlin may have to be the one facing the judge next year because today the TV host and CBS were handed a trial date in [the lawsuit over the profits from her long running show](#). Sure, everyone might put down their legal swords and rhetoric and work out a deal or even get a dismissal but as of today the House of Moonves and Rebel Entertainment are heading towards a maybe not so civil face-off over the big bucks from *Judge Judy* the show that the latter say they are owned by the former.

With the \$47 million dollar annual salary of the former family court judge near the heart of the action by Rebel, a L.A. Superior court judge on Wednesday set October 23, 2017 at 9:30 AM as the opening of the jury trial. Also in today's status conference downtown, Judge Yvette Plazuelos named October 17 next year as when a final status conference will be held.



The matter has already seen one deposition of Judge Judy take place by Rebel's Freedman + Taitelman LLP lawyers. Another Sheindlin sit-down in the offering as well as CBS boss Les Moonves, while not on a deposition list, is also among those expected to be additionally deposed.

First filed on March 14 by the successor-in-interest to the talent agency that originally packaged the Sheindlin-fronted series, the case has seen [CBS hit back on April 15 with allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation](#). Rebel are claiming that they have not been paid their contractually obliged cut of the now supposedly in-the-red syndicated show and the *Hot Bench* spinoff since 2010. *Judge Judy* is a money loser on paper, says Rebel, because Judge Judy herself is paid \$47 million a year – making her the highest paid host in TV.

Alleging some fast accounting moves by defendants CBS Studios, CBS Corporation, and producers and CBS TV Studios-owned Big Ticket Entertainment, Rebel also claim that *Judge Judy* the show has grossed over \$1.7 billion since it first went on the air back in 1996. They also assert that Sheindlin lobbied Moonves directly back in 2013 to have the spinoff *Hot Bench* put on the air.

In response, CBS and Sheindlin herself have said that talent agent Richard Lawrence and agency Abrams Rubaloff & Lawrence, who repped producers Sandi Spreckman and Kaye Switzer in the creation of *Judge Judy*, has received over \$17 million from the program over the past two decades. At almost 20 years on air as the scathing and no-nonsense judge, Sheindlin re-upped with CBS TV three years ago and in 2015 [inked an extended deal to see her on Judge Judy until 2020](#) – which would still be over 2-years after the trial begins, if it happens.



CBS are repped by attorneys at L.A. firm Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP. Rebel Entertainment is represented by Bryan Freedman and Jordan Susman. Full disclosure: Freedman has acted for PMC, Deadline's parent company, in a number of legal matters.

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