

## **STATEMENT OF ALISON FOURNIER**

In my career I routinely traveled and often chose to stay at Starwood properties. Starwood is the go to brand for business travelers and I expected a certain level of security from their hotels.

The idea that a hotel without my permission and without even checking for identification would give my key to anyone, let alone a visibly intoxicated man so that he could gain access to my hotel room in the middle of the night and be able to get in bed with me where I was sleeping is horrifying to me. I am sure it would be shocking to any woman.

Before getting into bed with me the assailant took off most of his clothes. When he laid down in bed he rolled toward me and put his hands on me. I was naked because I had been exhausted and taken off my clothes and fallen asleep without anything on. Although I was still sleepy I bolted out of bed when he attacked me and I feel fortunate to have been able to get out of the room and escape from him.

To this day, I still suffer from the memories of that night and I am still not able to put it behind me.

Because of this incident I have left my career and moved from New York City to be closer to my family. This was a very painful but necessary decision for me to make.

I feel lucky that I am here today to tell my story. Women business travelers deserve to feel safe and protected by hotels in which they stay. We shouldn't have to worry that the hotel staff who are tasked with keeping us safe will be reckless in their protection of a guest.

I don't want this to happen again to any woman traveling for her career. Business travel is often a critical part of a successful career, and women should not have to fear traveling or wonder if they will be targets of violence when they are staying alone in a hotel. When I was Starwood's guest, Starwood had an obligation to protect me and it failed terribly.

My life will never be the same but through this lawsuit I hope to do whatever I can to help protect other women.

Alison Fournier

Represented by Gloria Allred and Mariann Meier Wang

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