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Johnny Depp Strikes '8-Figure' Deal With Former Attys

By **Lauren Berg**

Law360 (October 30, 2019, 9:58 PM EDT) -- Johnny Depp's former attorneys at Bloom Hergott Diemer Rosenthal LaViolette Feldman Schenkman & Goodman LLP have agreed to pay the actor a confidential eight-figure settlement to resolve claims the firm wrongfully collected a cut of his film earnings, the star's current counsel said Wednesday.

In a statement to Law360, Depp's attorney Adam Waldman of The Endeavor Law Firm PC said Bloom Hergott on Wednesday agreed to pay the actor a "massive eight-figure settlement to avoid the shame of evidence in their looming public trial" set for December in downtown Los Angeles.

An attorney for Bloom Hergott, Bryan Freedman of Freedman & Taitelman LLP, on Thursday evening disputed Depp's lawyer's characterization of the settlement.

"The settlement amount is exactly the opposite of how Mr. Depp's team is characterizing it; we're prepared to share it if they are willing to allow it," the firm's representative told Law360.

Depp, the star of such films as "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Public Enemies" and "Fantastic Beasts" of the Harry Potter franchise, sued Bloom Hergott and his longtime personal attorney, Jacob Bloom, **in October 2017**, alleging they breached their fiduciary duty by wrongly collecting \$30 million in contingent fees.

Depp says the firm, where he had been a client for 18 years, failed to disclose years of misconduct between itself and The Management Group, his former business manager, which the actor **sued earlier in 2017**.

Bloom Hergott collected its fees from The Management Group without a written contract in violation of state law, the suit alleged.

Depp **settled** with The Management Group in July 2018.

In August, a Los Angeles judge granted Depp's **bid to dismiss** Bloom Hergott's counterclaim that the actor breached their oral fee agreement, saying the show business deal is no different from any other attorney contingency fee agreement and thus is voidable because it had not been put in writing.

On Wednesday, Freedman confirmed the deal, saying that Bloom Hergott "has favorably settled the litigation with Johnny Depp for a fraction of his original demand."

"While the firm was confident it would prevail at trial, we are nonetheless pleased with this resolution as it expedites the firm's winding down process and allows it to get off the endless Johnny Depp litigation train," Freedman said.

Waldman had a wry response to Freedman's comment that the firm will pay just "a fraction" of what Depp sought. "It is true that eight figures is a fraction of nine figures," he told Law360.

Waldman said the actor "stood up to Hollywood and won," saying artists and entertainers who have been taken advantage of for decades would follow in his steps.

Depp is represented by Adam R. Waldman of The Endeavor Law Firm PC, Ronald Rus, Randall A. Smith, Camille M. Vasquez, Samuel A. Moniz and Benjamin G. Chew of Brown Rudnick LLP and Robert B. Gilmore and Kevin L. Attridge of Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP.

Bloom Hergott and Jacob Bloom are represented by Bryan J. Freedman of Freedman & Taitelman LLP and Kurt C. Peterson, Peter J. Kennedy and Mathew M. Wrenshall of Reed Smith LLP.

The case is Depp et al. v. Bloom et al., case number BC680066, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

--Additional reporting by Dave Simpson, Kat Greene and Daniel Siegal. Editing by Jill Coffey.

Update: This story has been updated with additional comment from a representative for Bloom Hergott.

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