

LEGAL AND PRIVACY

## LVMH faces \$10M suit over alleged broken employment promise

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*Sammy Mourabit worked on MakeUp Forever's campaign featuring Jessie J. Image credit: Sammy Mourabit*

By STAFF REPORTS

Makeup artist Sammy Mourabit is bringing a \$10 million lawsuit against conglomerate Mot Hennessy Louis Vuitton, with claims the company backed out of a contract deal.

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According to Mr. Mourabit, the group courted him for years to become artistic director of its cosmetics label MakeUp Forever. However, the suit against both LVMH and MakeUp Forever alleges that after offering the makeup artist a multi-million-dollar contract, LVMH abruptly rescinded its offer without compensation.

### Contract case

Per Mr. Mourabit's claims, LVMH asked him to turn down all other jobs ahead of his expected start date of Jan. 1, 2018. Throughout 2017, he says he was forced to give up opportunities to work with MAC during Paris Fashion Week and missed out on private client gigs.

Mr. Mourabit had also been asked to apply for artistic director at Rihanna's Fenty Beauty and turned down world tours for pop stars Lady Gaga and Katy Perry.

The suit claims LVMH called Mr. Mourabit in October to cancel his contract. At this point, he was making plans to move from Los Angeles to Paris and he had already been enrolled in LVMH's health benefits program.



*Sammy Mourabit's suit surrounds MakeUp Forever. Image credit: MakeUp Forever*

"As an independent artist without an agent, it is very rare to reach the level I have in my career," Mr. Mourabit said in a statement. "I rely solely only on my work and reputation to gain clients.

"I was instructed to give up all of my clients, so when I began work on Jan. 1, 2018, I would be entirely associated with MakeUp Forever and LVMH," he said.

"This position of artistic director was the culmination of 30 years of working with the best in the business and a dream come true. When the job did not come to fruition not only was I disappointed, but my career suffered after turning down 12 months of work because of my contract with LVMH."

Per The Fashion Law, the suit filed in New York claims fraudulent inducement to contract/promissory estoppel.

LVMH was reached for comment.

Employment disagreements have ended up in other luxury legal battles.

Hedi Slimane, the former creative director of Saint Laurent Paris, was paid \$13 million by the label's parent company Kering Group after the designer took the conglomerate to court over his non-compete agreement.

Mr. Slimane filed legal action against Kering last year in an attempt to extend the non-compete agreement he signed with the conglomerate in 2012 when he joined Saint Laurent. According to Kering, Mr. Slimane's legal action was fueled by a desire to receive the financial support he would be given if still under contract ([see story](#)).