

LAW & ORDER

Mick Gatto sues Daily Mail over defamation claims in Lawyer X article

Melbourne underworld figure Mick Gatto has launched legal action against the *Daily Mail* for an article about Lawyer X which he claims exposed him to “public ridicule and contempt”.

Genevieve Alison, Herald Sun

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📷 Melbourne gangland identity Mick Gatto. Picture: AAP

Underworld figure Mick Gatto is suing the *Daily Mail* for defamation after it published a

“sensationalist” article which claimed he had threatened to kill police informer Lawyer X.

The *Herald Sun* can reveal Mr Gatto has launched legal action against the publication and its reporter Hannah Moore for the report which he claims was “reckless with the truth” and exposed him to “public ridicule and contempt”.

It is the second time in less than two months Mr Gatto has attempted to sue a media organisation for articles relating to the [Lawyer X scandal](#).

In April, he commenced civil action against the ABC and their journalists Nino Bucci and Sarah Farnsworth for a February 10 report titled: “Gangland figure Mick Gatto threatened to kill police Informer 3838, court told” which centred on allegations made by a senior police officer in a 2016 affidavit.



 Mick Gatto. Picture Alex Coppel

Mr Gatto has again taken issue with the same allegations published by the *Daily Mail* Australia website and is seeking aggravated damages, claiming his feeling and reputation have been “seriously injured”.

In a Supreme Court writ obtained by the *Herald Sun*, Mr Gatto alleges the article’s headline — “Underworld figure Mick Gatto ‘threatened to kill police informer Informer 3838’ if it was ever proven she was talking to police” — was “inflammatory and sensationalist”.

The writ also asserts the report was excessive and sensationalist in manner and the journalist was reckless to the “falsity of the imputations it conveyed”.

The court documents reveal Mr Gatto had requested the website remove the article and apologise in May —

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but this request was refused.

Two days after the story was first published Mr Gatto issued a statement through his lawyer denying allegations he had threatened the police informer, now revealed as Nicola Gobbo.

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“Over the last couple of days, numerous media outlets have reported that Mick Gatto has threatened to kill police informer 3838,” a statement titled ‘Mick Gatto Press Release’ says.

“Not only is the reporting false, it is mischievous and damaging to Mr Gatto.”

In 2015, Mr Gatto launched a defamation action against Fairfax media over a report which stated Mr Gatto was “a crime figure who works closely with the Calabrian Mafia”.

Mr Gatto is claiming aggravated damages, interest and costs.

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