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## MARKETS

# Israeli Intelligence Firm Used By Harvey Weinstein Resurfaces In Toronto Suit

West Face Capital files motion concerning intelligence firm Black Cube in connection to dispute with rival Catalyst Capital

By *Jacquie McNish and Rob Copeland*

Updated Nov. 15, 2017 5:06 p.m. ET

West Face Capital Inc. filed a motion with an Ontario court Wednesday seeking an order to stop Israeli intelligence firm Black Cube from continuing alleged attempts to covertly obtain confidential information from the Toronto firm's former and current employees.

In a motion filed with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, private-equity firm West Face alleged its rival in a long standing legal dispute, Catalyst Capital Group Inc., hired Black Cube to approach some of its former and current employees to obtain company secrets, including information about the legal battle. Black Cube employees used false names, businesses, websites LinkedIn profiles and business cards to lure current and former staff to meetings, the motion alleged.

West Face has asked the court to order Catalyst, Black Cube and others to preserve all records relating to the matter.



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but onto bare rocks, with a gun to our heads.

A person familiar with the matter said Black Cube was investigating West Face on behalf of another client and that Catalyst wasn't a client.



Toronto-based West Face Capital Inc. filed a court motion involving Black Cube, an Israeli intelligence firm used by Harvey Weinstein to counter investigations into alleged sexual abuse.  
PHOTO: RON SACHS/ZUMA PRESS

A spokesperson for Catalyst didn't immediately return requests for comment. In a statement, a Black Cube spokesman said: "It should be highlighted that Black Cube applies high moral standards to its work, and operates in full compliance with the law of any jurisdiction in which it operates — strictly following the guidance and legal opinions provided by leading law firms from around the world."

Black Cube has been in the news lately. It was named by the New Yorker in an article published earlier this month as the firm used by Harvey Weinstein to counter probes into his alleged sexual abuse.

Last week, The Wall Street Journal reported that an operative of Black Cube had met with critics of New York insurance firm AmTrust Financial Services Inc. The operative had been granted the meetings by purporting to

be an overseas consultant and dangling enticing work offers. Afterward, however, the critics discovered the operative wasn't who they said they were.

An AmTrust spokeswoman didn't respond to questions to last week's Journal article. The firm said in the past it hired Black Cube to investigate a former Italian business partner, but it has denied hiring the firm or any private investigators to probe its U.S. critics.

In a statement at the time, Black Cube said it is company policy "to never discuss its clients with any third party," adding that it "applies high moral standards to its work" and operates within the law. Launched in 2011, the firm describes itself as "a select group of veterans from the Israeli elite intelligence units that specializes in tailored solutions to complex business and litigation challenges."

The battle between West Face and Catalyst dates back to 2014 when West Face won a bidding war for Toronto wireless carrier Wind Mobile Corp. Catalyst, a losing bidder for Wind Mobile, sued West Face alleging improper conduct during the takeover contest. An Ontario Judge dismissed the case last year, ruling against what the judge called a "hardball" legal attack lead by Catalyst Chief Executive Newton Glassman. Catalyst has appealed the decision.

Earlier this year, the Journal reported at least four individuals had filed whistleblower complaints with Canadian securities regulators alleging fraud at Catalyst and its publicly traded lending arm, Callidus Capital Corp., according to people familiar with the matter and documents reviewed by the Journal.

Callidus and Catalyst last week sued Dow Jones & Co., the owner of The Wall Street Journal, and Journal reporters Rob Copeland and Jacquie McNish for defamation over the article, and named Mr. Copeland as one of several co-defendants in the West Face lawsuit. A Journal spokesperson has said the news organization is "confident in the fairness and accuracy" of its reporting.

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