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WEB-ONLY

Greenberg Traurig sued over burned document

Leigh Jones / Staff reporter

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A former manager of Apollo Management, a New York hedge fund, has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Greenberg Traurig and attorney Leslie Corwin alleging deceit or collusion.

Plaintiff James Melcher claims that in the process of discovery for an underlying case in which he sued the hedge fund for breach of contract, Greenberg Traurig's client, fund manager Brandon Fradd, set fire to a key document.

The lawsuit further alleges that Corwin claimed the firm was holding the document safely in escrow when, in fact, it had only a scorched remnant.

Fradd asserts that he burned the document while making tea in his West Village apartment. Melcher claims that the defendant set fire to the document after his attorney requested that the firm turn it over to determine how old it was, a fact crucial to the breach of contract case.

Corwin was not available for comment. A spokeswoman for the firm said in an e-mail message that the lawsuit was "utterly baseless" and was "nothing but a litigation tactic designed to distract by suing an opposing party's lawyers." The complaint, *Melcher v. Greenberg Traurig*, 650188/2007, was filed July 9 in New York County Supreme Court. Melcher's attorney, Jeffrey Jannuzzo in New York, declined to comment.