

Brooklyn meat supplier featured on CNBC's 'The Profit' faces \$3M discrimination lawsuit by ex-employee

Ex-employee Donna Johnson says her bosses made mincemeat out of her after Marcus Lemonis withdrew his offer to buy half of A. Stein Meat Products. She was branded a 'traitor' for telling Lemonis the company was not giving him accurate financial information, even though she was only following his orders.

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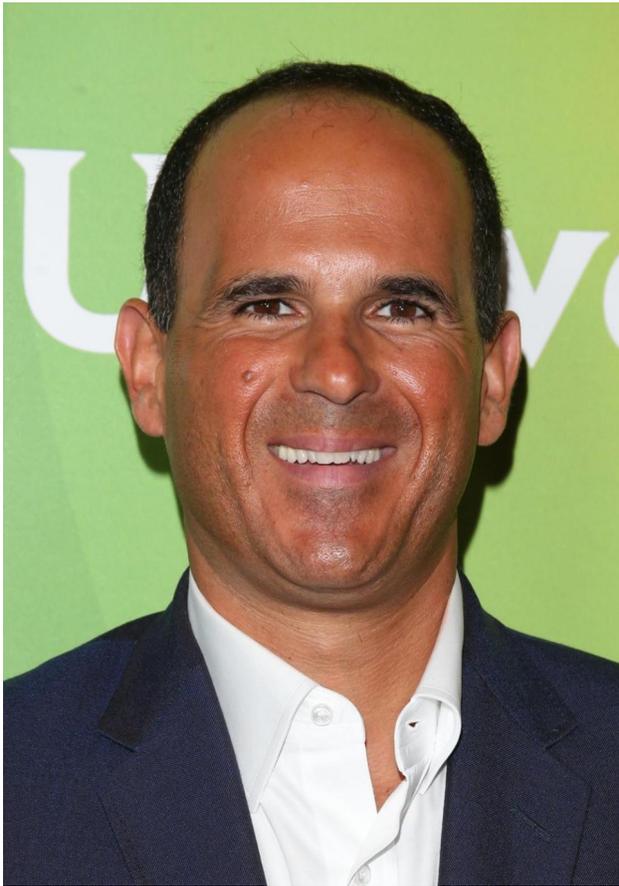
Donna Johnson claims she resigned from the meat supplier because she could no longer take the abuse by company honchos.

A Brooklyn meat supplier showcased on the CNBC show "The Profit" is turning into a courtroom drama.

An ex-office manager at A. Stein Meat Products has filed a \$3 million discrimination and defamation lawsuit claiming her bosses made mincemeat out of her after the reality show's turnaround guru Marcus Lemonis withdrew his offer to buy half of the company.

Donna Johnson, 52, says she was only following Lemonis' strict orders when she reported to him that the company was not giving him accurate information about its finances. She was branded a "traitor" and a "backstabber" by company honchos and resigned because she could no longer take the abuse, according to the suit filed in Brooklyn Federal Court.

After the show aired last April, the attacks spilled into social media, the suit alleges. The meat company owner's wife wrote on Lemonis's Facebook page, "It is beyond amazing how you took an employee of over 20 years and turned her into a backstabber, traitor and mole."



MARK DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES

Marcus Lemonis attends NBCUniversal's 2014 Summer TCA Tour.



A. Stein Meat Products website says the company supplies meat throughout the tri-state area.

Johnson also claims she was paid less than male colleagues at the company. "They (A. Stein) had an opportunity to resurrect their business and when the deal went south, she became the fall woman," lawyer Walker Harman told The Daily News.

Earlier this year Lemonis filed a breach of contract suit against A. Stein for failing to sell him their Brooklyn Burger brand. The meat company did not respond to a request for comment.