




‘Embarrassing, scandalous, irrelevant’: Costs mount in Waislitz case



Patrick Durkin
BOSS Deputy editor

May 15, 2025 – 7:54pm

SaveShare

Gift this article

Listen to this article

3 min


A judge has warned [billionaire investor Alex Waislitz](#) and his singer fiancée Rebekah Behbahani that their legal costs in a dispute with Rebekah's sister, Venus, will soon pass the value of a Toorak townhouse in dispute, unless the two sides try to reconcile.

Victorian Supreme Court judge Claire Harris on Thursday rejected a legal application by former Melbourne Real Housewife Venus Behbahani to include new claims against the couple, relating to content scoured from an old iPhone which was Rebekah's but has come into the possession of Venus.

“It did beg the question for me why a phone gifted to her [Venus] daughter, why it would be an inappropriate use to send it to a technician and dredge up more material on the phone,” the judge said.

But the judge ruled that: “These are matters which are not directly, or even indirectly, in dispute. It’s also my view that it is, in a legal sense, embarrassing, scandalous and irrelevant.”

In the case, Venus claims Waislitz and Rebecca separated in October 2019 before resuming the relationship in February 2020.



Alex Waislitz is facing growing legal costs in his multiple disputes. Eamon Gallagher



As part of a separation agreement with Waislitz, drawn up in December 2019, Rebekah would receive the two townhouses and \$2.5 million, Venus claims.

She claims that in February 2019, Rebekah had moved into one unit and fell pregnant. Venus moved into the other unit in November 2019, at the request of Rebekah, to help look after her baby daughter, Storm, and assist with her singing career.



Rebekah Behbahani and Alex Waislitz at the Australian Open men's final in January. [Arsineh Houspiian](#)

Venus claims that in a Deed of Gift and Confidentiality, drawn up at around the same time, Rebekah promised to give her one of the townhouses.

In her defence, Rebekah claims that she was in a distressed state and signed the agreements under duress. She argues that had she obtained legal advice from her solicitor, she would not have signed either document.

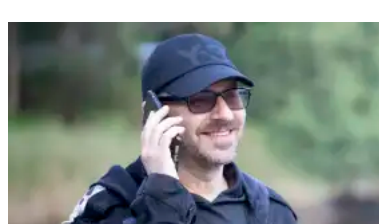
The case has been listed for another hearing on June 6 but on Thursday the judge warned that it would not take long for the legal costs to overtake the amount in dispute.

“It will not take long for people of your calibre, counsel of your calibre [and] instructing solicitors, to validly, charge fees that will outstrip the value of the amounts in dispute, the property and any other amounts,” the judge warned.

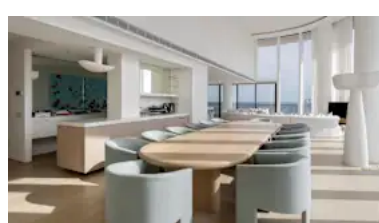
Waislitz and his former wife Heloise Pratt are also set for a September showdown in a separate case over the couple's \$1.5 billion private investment vehicle. The couple split in 2015, but the divorce is still being finalised.

The 2025 Financial Review Rich List will be published on Friday, May 30.

RELATED



[Rear Window](#)
Alex Waislitz joins billionaires hosting dinners for Dutton



[Luxury property](#)
Antony Catalano lists \$36m penthouse in Tim Gurner's tower

SaveShareGift this article

License article

READ MORE

[Rich List](#)[+](#)

[Alex Waislitz](#)[+](#)

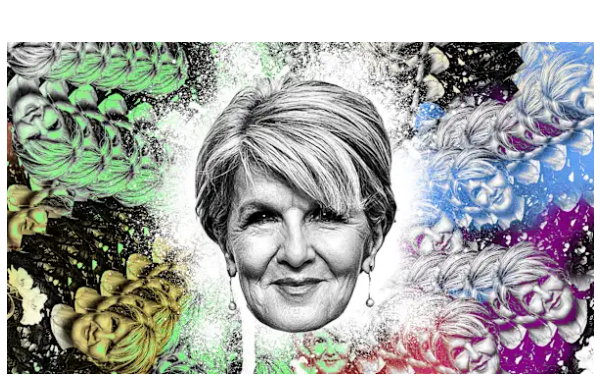
LATEST IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Fetching latest articles

MOST VIEWED IN RICH LIST

1 ‘Embarrassing, scandalous, irrelevant’: Costs mount in Waislitz case

Financial Review Magazine




Bishop stares down critics: 'I turn down many more roles than I take on'

Myriam Robin

This restaurant has New York buzz. You'll never guess where it is

The watch brands attracting women with dazzling designs

BOSS



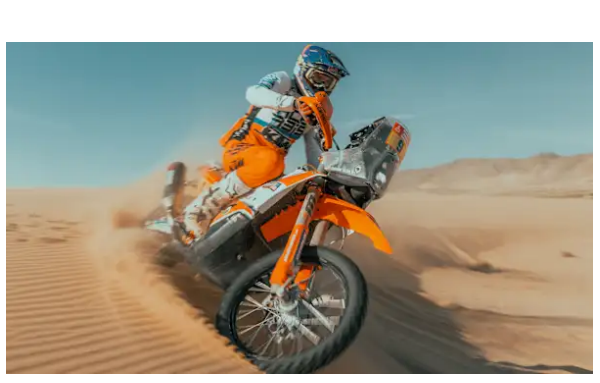
Bill Gates swears by it. What you can do to become a top CEO

Hannah Tattersall

How Brian Hartzler uses AI to get free advice from a top investment banker

How the Ford family plans to avoid a Murdoch succession battle

Life & Leisure



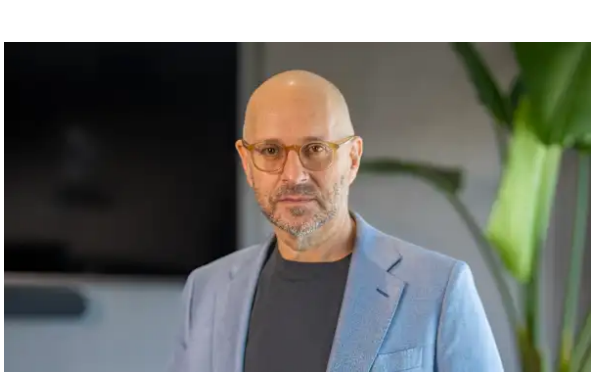
Move over FI. This is the motorsport separating the men from the boys

Tony Davis

How younger drinkers are shaping Australia's wine industry

Make waves with an electric surfboard and a new Panerai Marina

RICH LIST



‘Embarrassing, scandalous, irrelevant’: Costs mount in Waislitz case

Patrick Durkin

Billionaire Chemist Warehouse scion cashes out a further \$380m

Gurner to go global with plans for wellness clubs in the US, Dubai

FINANCIAL REVIEWThe Daily Habit of Successful People

XInstagramLinkedInFacebook

ABOUT US

Products & services

Editorial team

Charter of Editorial Independence

AI Editorial Guidelines

History

Work with us

Announcements

Corrections

Platinum Year

CONTACT

Support

Letters to the editor

Freelance Contributions

Submit a story

Advertise

Delivery Status

MAGAZINES

AFR Magazine

Fin! Magazine

BOSS

Life & Leisure

COLUMNS

Chanticleer

Street Talk

Rear Window

The AFR View

PODCASTS

15 Minutes with the Boss

Chanticleer

Tech Zero

The Fin

The Sure Thing

How I Made It

MARKETS DATA

Australian Indices

World Indices

Commodities

Bonds & Currencies

Companies index

LISTS

Rich List

Power List

Young Rich

More Lists

EVENTS

Business Summit

Property Summit

AI Summit

Banking Summit

Energy & Climate Summit

Infrastructure Summit

Super & Wealth Summit

ESG Summit

Higher Education Summit

More Events

MY ACCOUNT

Login

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe

Corporate subscriptions

Student subscriptions

The Sydney Morning HeraldThe AgeBrisbane TimesWAtodayDomainDrive

Site MapAccessibilitySubscription termsPrivacy policyTerms of useReprints & permissions

© Copyright 2025 The Australian Financial Review, Nine Entertainment Co. Pty Ltd

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play