## Fight for control of CBS interfered with how company dealt with accusations regarding Les Moonves's behavior - WSJ

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- In a lengthy front-page story, people familiar with the battle tell the WSJ that the battle for control of CBS made the two sides on the board suspicious of each other, causing them to dig in rather than cooperate to deal with the allegations.
- People familiar with the board's deliberations tell the WSJ that as relations between board factions worsened, it became difficult to have an open discussion of rumors about Moonves.
- As a specific example, people familiar with the matter tell the WSJ that Shari Redstone phoned other
  directors to ask about rumors that Moonves was going to be accused of sexual assault in January,
  and they told her not to worry.
  - The sources tell the WSJ that some directors thought Redstone was spreading the rumors.
  - The article says that at roughly the same time, Moonves told some but not all directors that a sexual assault complaint had been filed against him in Los Angeles, but the board waited for months before investigating Moonves.
- People familiar with the matter tell the WSJ that if the litigation between CBS and Redstone and National Amusements had been settled quickly in July, Moonves probably would have walked away with a healthy exit package, but the 27-Jul New Yorker article caused problems.
- Current and former CBS executives tell the WSJ that Moonves created a "boy's club" culture and valued loyalty above everything else, leaving CBS with issues that his successor will need to deal with.
- Former executives tell the WSJ that Moonves had consensual romantic relationships with numerous employees that made other executives uncomfortable.
- Former female executives tell the WSJ that they were professionally disrespected for getting pregnant, and CBS's HR didn't provide them any help.

## **Reference Links:**

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