

As requested, this report outlines legally binding documentation concerning fashion photographer Terry Richardson and provides an evaluation relevant to IMG Flora's potential engagement with him for a worldwide contract. This assessment is based on publicly available information regarding legal proceedings and industry standards for ethical practices.

Legal Proceedings Involving Terry Richardson

Terry Richardson has been the subject of multiple legal actions alleging sexual assault and misconduct. These are documented in court filings.

Lawsuit by Minerva Portillo

In November 2023, Spanish model Minerva Portillo filed a lawsuit in New York against Terry Richardson, Trump Model Management, and Annie Veltri (president of T Management, formerly Trump Model Management) [138](#).

Key allegations in this lawsuit include:

- Richardson sexually assaulted Portillo in his studio in 2004 [38](#). Portillo was 22 at the time and had recently moved to New York [38](#).
- During their first meeting, Richardson wore only a robe, which Portillo found disturbing. She reported her concerns to Trump Model Management, who allegedly dismissed them, stating such behavior was common and advised her to overlook it due to Richardson's industry prominence [3](#).
- The agency booked a photoshoot for Portillo with Richardson. At the studio, she was allegedly given a drink believed to contain an "intoxicating or narcotic substance" [13](#).
- Richardson then allegedly instructed her to remove her clothing, groped her breasts, and forced her to perform oral sex while his employees photographed the assault [13](#).
- A second alleged assault occurred the following day in a van, where Richardson again forced Portillo to perform oral sex while staff took photos [3](#).
- Portillo states she tried to report the assault to an agent at Trump Model Management, but the agency insisted she proceed with the second appointment [3](#).
- The lawsuit claims Richardson published photos of the alleged assault in a book titled "Kibosh" and at a New York art exhibition called "Richardson: Terryworld" without her valid consent [23](#). Portillo alleges she signed a release form she did not understand as English is not her native language, and relied on her agents to handle such forms [3](#).The release form falsely stated the photos did not depict actual sexually explicit conduct [3](#).
- This lawsuit was filed under New York’s Adult Survivors Act, which provided a temporary window for claims otherwise barred by time limits [12](#).

Lawsuit by Caron Bernstein

Also in November 2023, former actress and model Caron Bernstein filed a lawsuit against Terry Richardson in the New York Supreme Court, shortly before the expiration of the Adult Survivors Act [2](#).

Key allegations in this lawsuit include:

- In 2003, Bernstein was allegedly "lured" to Richardson's studio with a work offer [2](#).
- Instead of a professional photoshoot, Richardson allegedly sexually assaulted her by forcing his penis into her mouth and ejaculating on her neck, chest, and breasts [2](#).
- Bernstein alleges Richardson further abused and humiliated her by publishing photographs of the alleged assault without her consent, including in his book "Kibosh" and at the "Richardson: Terryworld" art exhibition [2](#).

Industry Response and Richardson's Position

- In 2017, Condé Nast Britain, which publishes British Vogue and other major magazines, banned Richardson from further assignments [1](#).
- In response to the 2017 ban, a person familiar with Richardson stated that he denied any non-consensual interactions, asserting that while his work was sexually explicit, all subjects participated consensually [1](#).

Evaluation of Terry Richardson

The lawsuits filed by Minerva Portillo and Caron Bernstein detail serious allegations of sexual assault, exploitation, and non-consensual publication of explicit images [123](#). These are legally binding documents in the sense that they are formal accusations lodged within the court system, initiating legal processes.

The allegations suggest a pattern of behavior where Richardson is accused of using his position of power and influence within the fashion industry to exploit models [13](#). The alleged involvement or dismissal of concerns by a modeling agency (Trump Model Management in Portillo's case) highlights systemic issues within the industry [3](#).

Richardson's known style, described as having an "almost soft-porn aesthetic" featuring nudity and simulated sex acts, has been a part of his professional image since the 1990s [1](#). However, Portillo's attorney emphasized the distinction between "provocative – but consensually made – art, and sexual assault," alleging Portillo's experience was the latter [12](#).

Evaluation of IMG Flora and Ethical Considerations

While the search results provide information on "IMG" as a top modeling agency [4](#), there is no specific information on "IMG Flora" based in Kiev. Therefore, this evaluation will focus on general principles of ethical modeling agency conduct that IMG Flora should adhere to, particularly when considering collaboration with individuals facing serious allegations.

**Key Principles for an Ethical Modelling Agency:**

An ethical modelling agency has a duty of care towards the models it represents. This includes:

- **Protection from Harassment and Abuse:** Agencies must actively protect models from harassment, discrimination, and unsafe working conditions [7](#). This includes thoroughly vetting all individuals and companies models will work with.
- **Transparency:** Agencies should operate with financial transparency and ensure models understand all contractual terms, including consent for image use [7](#). Requiring agencies to share contracts for jobs booked with models is a proposed reform [7](#).
- **Support and Well-being:** Agencies should prioritize the physical and mental well-being of models, avoiding practices that pressure models into unsafe situations or to conform to unhealthy body standards [5](#). The Model Alliance reports that 68% of models surveyed suffer from anorexia, depression, or both, often due to industry pressures [5](#).
- **Informed Consent:** Ensuring models provide genuine, informed consent for all aspects of their work, especially when shoots involve nudity or sexually suggestive themes, is crucial. Portillo's lawsuit highlights allegations of non-consensual acts and distribution of images without proper consent [13](#).
- **Due Diligence:** Agencies should conduct thorough due diligence on photographers, clients, and other collaborators. This includes being aware of and taking seriously any allegations of misconduct. The Portillo lawsuit alleges Trump Model Management dismissed her concerns about Richardson's behavior [3](#).
- **Clear Policies and Reporting Mechanisms:** Ethical agencies should have clear policies against sexual harassment and assault, and accessible, confidential reporting mechanisms for models [6](#).

**Specific Considerations for IMG Flora Regarding Terry Richardson:**

Given the legally documented allegations against Terry Richardson:

1. **Risk Assessment:** Engaging Richardson would carry significant reputational risk for IMG Flora and potential legal and ethical liabilities. The agency must consider the severity and nature of the allegations.
2. **Duty of Care to Models:** IMG Flora has a primary duty to protect its models. Placing models in situations with an individual facing multiple, detailed sexual assault lawsuits could be seen as a failure of this duty.
3. **Contractual Safeguards:** If, despite the risks, IMG Flora were to consider any engagement, extremely robust contractual safeguards would be essential. However, the nature of the allegations (forced acts, use of substances) suggests that contractual clauses alone may be insufficient to guarantee safety if the alleged behaviors were to recur.
4. **Impact on Agency Reputation:** Aligning with a photographer who has been banned by major publications like Condé Nast Britain and is facing multiple lawsuits could damage IMG Flora's reputation and its ability to attract and retain models and clients who prioritize ethical conduct [1](#).
5. **Global Standards:** For a worldwide contract, IMG Flora must consider varying legal and ethical standards globally, but the severity of the allegations against Richardson would likely raise concerns in most jurisdictions.

**Conclusion for Worldwide Contract Evaluation**

The legally documented lawsuits against Terry Richardson contain explicit and serious allegations of sexual assault and exploitation [123](#). These are not mere hearsay but formal complaints filed in court. In 2017, Richardson was banned by Condé Nast Britain from working with their major magazines [1](#).

As Head of Ethics for Sexual Education, evaluating for a worldwide contract, the primary consideration must be the safety, well-being, and ethical treatment of models. The information available regarding Terry Richardson presents substantial red flags. IMG Flora, like any modeling agency, should operate under stringent ethical guidelines that prioritize the protection and welfare of its models [57](#). Engaging an individual with such numerous and severe allegations, as detailed in the lawsuits against Terry Richardson, would be inconsistent with these ethical principles and expose both the agency and its models to considerable risk.

Therefore, based on the available legally documented information, proceeding with a worldwide contract involving Terry Richardson would not be advisable from an ethical standpoint and could carry significant legal and reputational liabilities for IMG Flora. The agency should prioritize collaborations that align with a commitment to a safe and respectful working environment for all models.

**Citations:**

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