

## BANKING/ FINANCE

# Edward Jones Sued by Ex-Rep Over Sexual Harassment



An ex-Edward Jones rep alleges a member of its leadership team repeatedly pressured her to have sex with him.

by Jeff Berman

A female former registered representative at Edward Jones is suing the firm and has alleged it was aware that one of its male managers was a “sexual predator” and “repeat offender” but did nothing to stop his behavior before she became a target of his sexual harassment and a forced encounter at his home.

The ex-Edward Jones manager, Christopher Gervais, is currently registered as a rep for LPL Financial, according to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority’s BrokerCheck website. Gervais is mentioned in the suit but is not named as a defendant.

“We are currently reviewing the lawsuit,” an Edward Jones spokesperson said Thursday. “We take allegations of this nature seriously and are committed to a safe and healthy workplace of belonging for all. The allegations in this lawsuit relate to matters that date back to 2016. Edward Jones terminated the employment of Chris Gervais due to these allegations in 2016.”

LPL and Gervais did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a complaint filed April 6 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division, Amanda Daugherty said she was hired as a financial advisor by Edward Jones on Nov. 30, 2015, to manage a branch and replace another female advisor who was relocating.

While attending mandatory training in Tempe, Arizona, in December 2015, Daugherty met Gervais, who was a part of the leadership team for the area and in a senior position relative to her, according to the complaint.

Daugherty, who was 32 at the time, “became Gervais’s target for sexual harassment and conquest,” the complaint alleged, saying she was “vulnerable and looked up to Gervais, who was older and occupying a leadership role at Edward Jones, as a potential mentor.”

At the end of the professional development program training week, Gervais “propositioned Plaintiff outside of her hotel room and continued to press Plaintiff for a sexual encounter in order to ‘get their relief’ from the high stress of working at the Firm,” the complaint alleges.

“Gervais continued to pressure Plaintiff by stating that everyone at ... Edward Jones has sex with each other and that the firm culture was ‘just like the Olympics, where condoms are the most purchased item by the athletes,’” the complaint alleges.

After Daugherty “denied Gervais and closed herself in her hotel room, Gervais continued to send sexually inappropriate text messages to Plaintiff insisting, among other things, that ‘it took everything not to kiss [her] good night,’ ‘[he didn’t] think [he] could stop though with just a kiss,’” the complaint alleges.

In July 2016, Gervais insisted that Daugherty fly to Minnesota to meet him for further training and provided airline tickets for her, according to the complaint.

Upon arrival, however, she learned there was no training event and Gervais had used it as an excuse to force her to meet him at his home “many states away from her branch,” the complaint alleges.

While in Gervais’s home in Minnesota, Gervais aggressively kissed Daugherty, then pressured her “into a forced sexual encounter,” according to the complaint.

The plaintiff later discovered that his “predatory conduct was known by Edward Jones as Gervais had received counseling for his behavior,” the complaint alleges.

Gervais’s wife also “confirmed that Edward Jones was aware of Gervais’s previous unlawful conduct but did nothing to remedy it,” according to the complaint.

“Despite Gervais status as a sexual predator and repeat offender, Edward Jones’ management permitted Gervais to continue in his leadership role grooming young female employees of Edward Jones at out of state mandatory training events which led directly to Plaintiff’s victimization,” the complaint alleges.

After Daugherty complained about Gervais’s behavior, “Edward Jones treated Gervais and Plaintiff differently and in irregular ways,” with Gervais being “permitted to resign without further adverse action” while “making a formal warning of her ‘unprofessional conduct’ part of her employment record,” according to the complaint.

“Despite having knowledge of [Gervais’s] prior tendencies and having delivered Plaintiff to Gervais for grooming and mentoring, Edward Jones wholly failed to prevent and promptly correct the harassing behavior, but instead brought adverse action against the victim,” the complaint alleges.

“Eventually, Edward Jones used this event as a basis for the unlawful termination of the Plaintiff” in May 2019, despite her “being the victim of the sexual grooming and harassment by the team leader,” according to the complaint.

**Jeff Berman reports for ThinkAdvisor.com, an ALM affiliate of the Daily Business Review. Contact him at [jberman@alm.com](mailto:jberman@alm.com).**



## CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL ZONING MEETING** on **April 28, 2021 beginning at 10:30 AM.**

**General Public Comments:** members of the public that wish to provide comments in writing may do so by emailing the City Clerk at [cityclerk@cityofdoral.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityofdoral.com). Comments must be submitted with your name and full address by **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm**. The comments will be circulated to the elected officials and administration, as well as remain as a part of the record for the meeting.

**Public Hearing Comments (Pre-Registration):** interested parties that wish to speak on the Public Hearing item(s) **ONLY**, must register by **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm** via this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2550983937261710605>

The meeting will be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City of Doral’s website (<https://www.cityofdoral.com/government/city-clerk/council-meetings>) as well as Channel 77 and Facebook Live.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

### ORDINANCE No. 2021-13

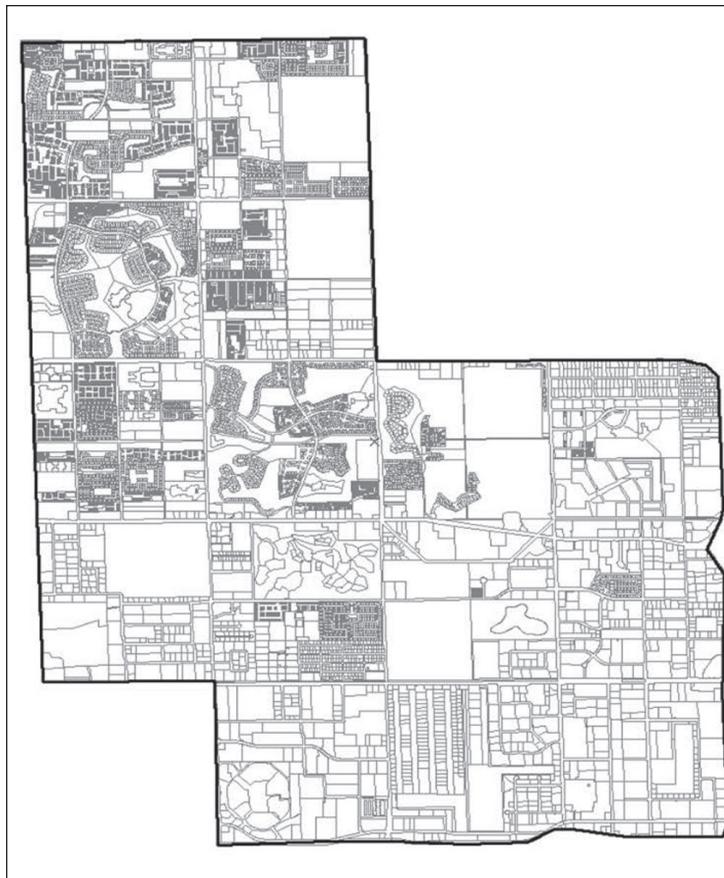
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING/DENYING A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF DORAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REFLECT THE CITY’S UPDATED 20-YEAR WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN, APPROVING THE WATER SUPPLY AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN; AUTHORIZING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**HEARING NO.:** 21-04-DOR-09

**APPLICANT:** City of Doral

**REQUEST:** The City of Doral Staff is requesting Mayor and City Council approval of an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan in order to adopt the Updated 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan and incorporate by reference Miami-Dade County 20-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan into its Comprehensive Plan as supporting data and analysis.

### Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC  
City Clerk  
City of Doral City of Doral