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# Bumbling at Bumble?

THE town’s top hairdressing salons, it’s fair to say, are generally havens for sexual freedom of choice. So when an establishment like Bumble & Bumble gets sued for alleged sexual harassment — well, this could be stirring up a hornets’ nest.

Hair assistant **Dawn Dawson** has retained the crack legal firm of Leeds, Morelli & Brown to prosecute her \$2 million suit against the plush beauty spot where the likes of **Gwyneth Paltrow**, **Kate Moss**, Red Hot Chili Pepper **Anthony Kiedis** and the family of **Harrison Ford** are regular clients.

Dawson is alleging she was harassed on the job because “she does not meet stereotyped expectations of femininity and may be perceived as more masculine than a stereotypical woman,” according to the complaint.

The lawsuit claims that Dawn was often referred to as “Donald” as she went about her task of helping the highly paid cutters and colorists at the salon. It also claims she was told by her supervisors that “people outside of New York will not understand her looks and that she will frighten them.”

I tried to get some comment from the management at Bumble & Bumble yesterday, but no one wanted to volunteer anything. “This is a happy workplace where we all respect one another,” was the best I could get from an employee who wouldn’t give her name.

Dawson certainly has real legal muscle on her side. Leeds, Morelli & Brown has won some of New York’s largest awards in cases where it has proved racial, sexual or age discrimination in the workplace.