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Paramount Settles Fee Suit Over Pacquiao-Mayweather Fight

By **Rachel Scharf**

Law360 (January 30, 2025, 10:21 PM EST) -- Paramount Global has settled a nearly decade-old lawsuit over a finder's fee for the lucrative 2015 boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr., according to a Thursday notice in California state court.

Counsel for Gabriel Rueda, an actor and waiter who **said he helped organize** the "Fight of the Century" that reaped more than \$430 million for Showtime Networks Inc., filed a **notice** Thursday that he'd reached an undisclosed settlement with the network, its owner Paramount, boxing trainer Freddie Roach and Hollywood lawyer Keith Davidson.

The case has been pending in Los Angeles Superior Court since 2016. Rueda alleged he jumpstarted negotiations for the Pacquiao-Mayweather matchup by introducing Pacquiao's trainer Roach to Les Moonves, the longtime CEO of Showtime's then-parent CBS Corp.

According to the lawsuit, Rueda was promised a 2% finder's fee for the lucrative fight. But Rueda said Showtime never paid, and Moonves instead sent Davidson to try to extort him into accepting a lowball figure.

The defendants all denied and fought the allegations. Claims against Pacquiao were tossed on summary judgment in October, but L.A. Superior Court Judge Anne Richardson said Paramount, Showtime, Roach and Davidson would have to go before a jury.

An attorney for Roach, Elias Dabaie of Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP, told Law360 on Thursday that "the matter has been addressed to the parties' mutual satisfaction."

Lawyers for Paramount and Rueda did not immediately provide comments Thursday on the settlement.

Davidson told Law360 that he is not paying anything for the resolution.

"For 8.5 years, Gabriel Rueda and his lawyers waged a relentless yet futile legal battle attempting to extract hundreds of millions of dollars from the defendants in this action," Davidson said in a statement Thursday. "But in the end, the case collapsed under the tremendous weight of plaintiff's lies."

The case had been set to go to trial on March 14, though that date was thrown into uncertainty in December when Paramount and Showtime asked for case-ending sanctions due to new revelations that Rueda had allegedly "concealed smoking gun documents."

According to Paramount and Showtime, those documents included a "bombshell" email in which Rueda supposedly admitted that he didn't ask for a finder's fee when introducing Roach to Moonves.

Rueda's lawyers sought to withdraw from the case soon after the sanctions motion was filed, citing an "irreconcilable breakdown in the attorney-client relationship." The matter was scheduled to be considered at a March 3 hearing.

Rueda is represented by Amman A. Khan, John R. Dillon IV and Chaya Weinberg-Brodt of Withers Bergman LLP.

Paramount and Showtime are represented by Lee S. Brenner, Michael C. Godino and Alicia M. Sharon of Venable LLP and Jessica L. Grant of Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP.

Roach is represented by Patricia L. Glaser and Elias Dabaie of Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP.

Davidson is representing himself.

The case is Gabriel Rueda v. Emmanuel D. Pacquiao et al., case number BC611486, in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

--Editing by Janice Carter Brown.

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