



SEARCH

# Fourth lawsuit filed against Georgia pastor

By the CNN Wire Staff

September 24, 2010 8:23 p.m. EDT



Fourth complaint pending against Long

### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

**NEW:** Long says "we will arise," TV station reports

Fourth young man sues megachurch pastor Eddie Long

The pastor will speak from pulpit Sunday about allegations

Long "categorically denies the charges," spokesman says

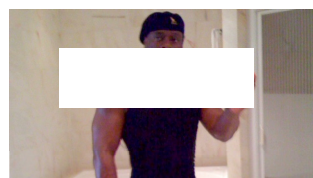
**(CNN)** -- A fourth lawsuit has been filed against Atlanta-area pastor Eddie Long, alleging he coerced a 17-year-old into a sexual relationship during a 2005 trip the two took to Africa.

The suit -- filed, like the others, in DeKalb County, Georgia, State Court -- claims Long invited Spencer LeGrande, now 22, on a trip to Kenya.

On the first night in Nairobi, Long asked LeGrande to come to his room, where the youth told the pastor he was having difficulty going to sleep, the suit states. Long provided Ambien, a sleep aid, and they both took the drug, according to the suit.

Long then gave LeGrande a hug, kissed and licked the youth's lips and rubbed the teen's chest, according to the lawsuit. They slept in bed together that evening and during the rest of the Kenya trip, the lawsuit states, adding they went on shopping sprees.

In a statement released by his spokesman, Long denied the allegations.



"Our position about the lawsuits has not changed. Bishop Long categorically denies the charges," said spokesman Art Franklin. "We believe that it is unfortunate the young men have chosen to take this course of action. The defense team will review the complaints and respond accordingly at the appropriate time and in the appropriate forum."

In a statement issued Thursday, Long asked for patience "as we continue to categorically deny each and every one of these ugly charges" and requested prayers for himself, his family and the church. He said he will respond to his congregation from the pulpit on

### RELATED TOPICS

- Eddie Long
- Sexual Offenses
- Religion
- Atlanta

ADVERTISEMENT

### NewsPulse

Most popular stories right now

[DirecTV drops Weather Channel amid contract dispute](#)

[JPMorgan replaces 2 million cards after Target hack](#)

[Pizza Hut serving up single slices](#)

[75 economists back minimum wage hike](#)

[Tesla sales surge, predicts 'reckless growth'](#)

[Explore the news with NewsPulse »](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Lawyers.com



### Law firm search

Search for attorneys by location and area of practice. Enter the city name below.

Select a state

Area of practice

or: [advanced search](#)

Sunday.

He also spoke during a Friday conference call, saying "we will arise through this situation," an Atlanta TV station said.

Long's church, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, also is a defendant in the civil action filed Friday.

The men who brought lawsuits this week claim Long took them on overnight trips to various locations within the United States and beyond, sharing a room and engaging in sexual contact with them, including massaging, masturbation or oral sex.

Friday's action, which does not ask for a specific amount of damages, claims Long manipulated, coerced and deceived LeGrande by convincing him that a sexual relationship was "a healthy component of his spiritual life." It says Long uses church money and other accounts to entice young men with cars, clothing, jewelry and electronics.

According to Friday's court filing, LeGrande and his family in March 2003 joined New Birth-Charlotte in North Carolina, a satellite location of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. LeGrande approached Long after a 2005 sermon at a "Men of War Conference" at the Charlotte location.

LeGrande was moved by Long's message of forgiving fathers who had been absent because his father had not been active in his life, the lawsuit states. Long told the plaintiff, "I got you. I will be your dad."

Long initiated phone calls and LeGrande would see him in Charlotte and Atlanta, the lawsuit states. It said Long took LeGrande on trips to South Africa -- where he met Winnie Mandela -- Zimbabwe and Kenya in 2006, when LeGrande graduated from high school. The pair engaged in "intimate sexual contact" during the trips, the suit alleges.

The pastor encouraged LeGrande to move to Atlanta to attend Beulah Heights University to prepare for the ministry. Long told the young man to have no girlfriends, the suit says, adding Long paid the tuition, bought him a car and gave him cash.

The lawsuit says Long had sexual contact with LeGrande in his private church office in October 2008. LeGrande lived in several residences and eventually began to separate from Long, the suit states.

The two had occasional sexual relations through most of 2009, the suit states.

"In or about the spring of 2009 plaintiff LeGrande began to become disillusioned and confused by defendant Long's actions and began pulling away from defendant Long," the suit states.

LeGrande quit Beulah and moved back to Charlotte, where he currently lives, in October 2009.

New Birth had a duty to warn and protect LeGrande, according to the suit, which claims negligence, fraud, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and failure to supervise.

Long made a conference call Friday to pastors and supporters around the country.

"We will arise through this situation, and go forward, and we are moving forward," Long said, according to CNN affiliate WGCL-TV, which monitored the call.

"I have never dealt with anything like this before. I have been under

attack before, but everything else has been different levels and different challenges," Long said. He took no questions.

FOLLOW THIS TOPIC 

### From around the web

[CES 2014: Trends in Tablets are Shifting \(iQ by Intel\)](#)

[Will Apple's "Kill Switch" Really Deter Cellphone Theft? \(Asurion\)](#)

[7 best credit cards for those with excellent credit \(NextAdvisor Daily\)](#)

[Homeowners Are In For A Big Surprise... \(Lifestyle Journal\)](#)

[Remembering Jessica Savitch 30 Years After Her Death \(AARP\)](#)

[Matt Damon's Miami Mansion Is Just As Luxurious As You'd Expect \(Picture Gallery\) \(Lonny Magazine\)](#)

### More from CNN

[Rumors fly about Khloe K.'s love life](#)

[10 things to know about nation's first recreational marijuana shops in Colorado](#)

[More legal problems for teen drunk driver in "influenza" case](#)

[Ex-FAMU football player's family files lawsuit in fatal police shooting](#)

[Zip gun found at evacuated Texas high school](#)

[Police: Motorist called 911 several times before he died in road-rage shooting](#)

[\[what's this\]](#)

Comments for this thread are now closed.

1050 comments



Best Community

Share

Login



**ARIZ** · 3 years ago

25,000 congregants are OK with their pastor driving a Bentley (not by his merits, unless you count spending tithe money as a skill). And besides, wasn't Jesus a carpenter who hung out with lepers and overturned the money changers tables at the Temple? Are people really this stupid??? These types of churches are a JOKE, and if you believe in this kind of church/pastor, your faith is a JOKE!!

87 | · Share >



**think4urself** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

I am black and i never heard of this guy before the scandal. but i have always been put off by mega churches and flashy pastors. the poster who mentioned he never took a vow of poverty. that may be true but it's just improper to live lavishly when people in your congregation may be giving their last dollar to the church.

45 | · Share >



**verify** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

freelow:

"...it wasn't your and/or my money."

It was if he's got a tax-free scam going.

32 | · Share >



**deepdigits** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

@freelow123

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matthew 6:24.

Coming from an atheist btw. Read your own book.

18 | · Share >



**TheBossisOut** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

"Are people really this stupid"? Absolutely and even stupider than that.

16 | · Share >



**thes33k3r** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

Religion strikes again.

14 | · Share >



**HarryJr** → ARIZ · 3 years ago

I cannot understand how these rich pastors can reconcile their lifestyles with the fact that Jesus said it would be easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than a rich man to get into heaven.

13 | · Share >



**verify** → ARIZ · 3 years ago


As near as I can tell, he is a church of one (plus his wife). I don't see any affiliation with any Baptist Church oversight committee, or the like -- it looks like anyone can claim to be a Baptist church. I don't see any ethics committee in his church's mission statement to oversee his spending. \$250,000+ salary seems out of line to me.

I'm hoping that the government is looking into his non-profit status.

6 | · Share >



[Home](#) | [Video](#) | [CNN Trends](#) | [U.S.](#) | [World](#) | [Politics](#) | [Justice](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Living](#) | [Travel](#) | [Opinion](#) | [iReport](#) | [Money](#) | [Sports](#)  
[Tools & widgets](#) | [RSS](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Blogs](#) | [CNN mobile](#) | [My profile](#) | [E-mail alerts](#) [CNN shop](#) | [Site map](#) | [Contact us](#)

**CNN** © 2013 Cable News Network. Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
[Terms of service](#) | [Privacy guidelines](#) | [Ad choices](#)  | [Advertise with us](#) | [About us](#) | [Work for us](#) | [Help](#)  
[CNN Newsource](#) | [License Footage](#)

[CNN en ESPAÑOL](#) | [CNN México](#) | [CNN Chile](#) | [CNN Expansión](#)  
| | |  
[CNN TV](#) | [HLN](#) | [Transcripts](#)