

# Sir Philip Green hires Kevin Spacey's lawyer to help him fight allegations he slapped a pilates instructor on the bottom

- Topshop billionaire Philip Green is accused of groping a pilates instructor
- He is recruiting Alan Jackson, who was this week defending Kevin Spacey
- Former UK employees have accused Sir Philip of sexual harassment and racism – but no case has been brought here

By EMILY KENT SMITH IN TUCSON, ARIZONA  
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Philip Green has hired a top lawyer who is also representing **Kevin Spacey** as he tries to fight off assault charges in the US.

The Topshop billionaire is accused of groping a pilates instructor by slapping her bottom 'vigorously' when she was running a fitness session.

He is recruiting Alan Jackson, who was in court this week defending Spacey, 59, on charges of indecent assault and battery of an 18-year-old man. Sir Philip is said to have spanked Katie Surridge up to ten times at the Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, in 2016.

He returned to the ranch last year and is alleged to have touched the 37-year-old again.

The tycoon, who owns a £2.3million house at the retreat, was charged with four counts of misdemeanour assault last week after a police investigation. Sir Philip saw his spa privileges temporarily suspended over the alleged incidents. Canyon Ranch, which costs around £750 a night, ruled after an investigation that he should not 'be around' spa worker Mrs Surridge.



Philip Green has hired a top lawyer who is also representing Kevin Spacey

Former UK employees have accused Sir Philip of sexual harassment and racism – but no case has been brought here.

He will not have to attend court in person on June 19 and can still travel to the US for leisure reasons. He will not be extradited on the charges. Asked how the case would progress, Pima County district attorney Lauren Deakin said: 'It could take a while. It could take a matter of months, it could take a year or two. He is free to come and go as he wishes.'

She said the British authorities had not been in touch over the case and added she was not aware of any other women coming forward.



Sir Philip is said to have spanked Katie Surridge (pictured) up to ten times at the Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, in 2016



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If found guilty, Sir Philip could face up to 30 days in a county jail or a fine of up to \$2,000 (£1,572).

In court in Massachusetts, Mr Jackson rejected the charges against Spacey as 'ridiculous'.

He added: 'He is suffering every day that this goes on. That's a day he is not getting justice.'

The House of Cards actor, who has pleaded not guilty, is alleged to have groped the teenager after he was asked for a photograph.

He is said to have attempted to persuade the man to come home with him – before unzipping his trousers and touching him for around three minutes.

In 2014, Mr Jackson succeeded in having charges of sexual assault and torture against a Saudi royal dismissed – with 23-year-old Thamer Albalawi completely exonerated by the judge. The attorney describes himself as 'constantly called upon' in 'must win' criminal cases.

Mrs Surridge is being represented in the Green case by Tucson-based lawyer Peter Limperis, who specialises in personal injury and defamation matters.

A spokesman for Canyon Ranch said: 'Canyon Ranch does not condone or tolerate inappropriate behaviour towards our employees, guests, homeowners or any other person who comes into contact with our brand. Canyon Ranch has strict policies and procedures that prohibit such behaviour, and takes prompt, remedial action based on the claims presented.

'This particular matter was no exception. Any statement inferring otherwise is inaccurate.'

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