Model's \$25M suit over split

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By Julia Marsh May 29, 2013

A former runway model said she was two-timed twice — first by her cheating husband, then by her divorce attorneys, according to a \$25 million legal-malpractice lawsuit.

Former Chanel model Kristina "Kicki" Armstrong, who was married to Morgan Stanley director R. Michael Armstrong, 53, claims in the suit that her lawyers withheld \$8 million in marital assets from her because they were also employed by her husband's bank.

Kicki, 48, claims Norman Heller and Dylan Mitchell from the firm Blank Rome were doubledealing, representing the bank in multimillion dollar contracts while defending her in the divorce. Her new counsel, Jonathan Sack, said they were "under an ethical obligation" to disclose the alleged deception.

Kicki married Armstrong in 1989.

He became a director, overseeing \$734 billion in assets, they settled in Westchester and he had an affair, the Manhattan Supreme Court documents charge.

Kicki claims the attorneys forced her to sign an agreement setting aside \$16 million in Michael's future potential earnings, which were "the single largest asset of the marital estate."

She fired Blank Rome in October 2010. The divorce was later finalized with Kicki receiving a "significant amount" of money, Sack said.

In addition to the \$25 million in damages, she wants a refund on her \$235,000 legal bills.

A spokeswoman for Blank Rome called the suit without merit.

"The firm intends to defend itself, and the individual lawyers named as defendants, vigorously," she added.