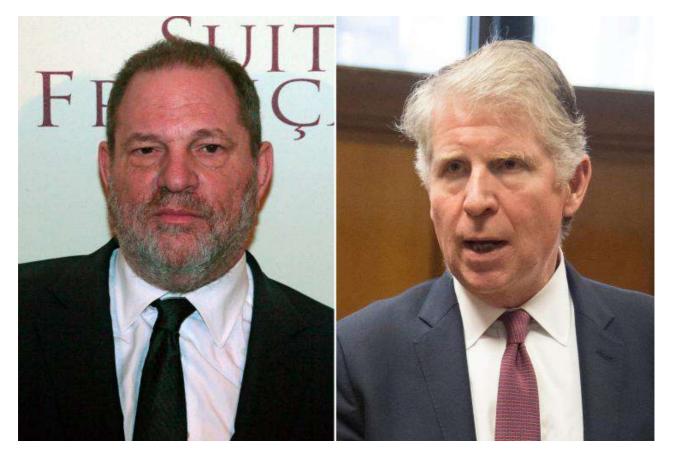
Weinstein's lawyer gave thousands to Vance after DA let client off hook

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The lawyer who helped Harvey Weinstein avoid charges for <u>admittedly groping a model in</u> <u>2015</u> has donated \$26,550 in campaign cash to Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. — including \$2,100 after Vance let Weinstein off the hook, The Post has learned.

Weinstein hired high-powered defense lawyer Elkan Abramowitz, a partner at the firm where Vance worked before he became DA, after Ambra Battilana Gutierrez accused him of grabbing her breasts and trying to put his hand up her skirt inside his Tribeca office in March 2015, sources told The Post on Wednesday.

Ambramowitz led a team of attorneys who met with prosecutors before Vance decided not to pursue a case against Weinstein, even though cops had secretly recorded him apologizing to Gutierrez and promising: "I won't do it again."

In addition to the money Abramowitz personally gave Vance, his firm — Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohre — donated \$11,500, all before the decision involving Weinstein, state campaign finance records show. A spokeswoman for Vance — who's running unopposed for a third term in November — declined to discuss the contributions and instead referred to remarks Vance made Wednesday afternoon.

"No contribution, ever, in my seven years as district attorney has ever had any impact on my decision making in a case," he said.

"Contributions are unfortunately a part of running for office, they're legal and I have a very sound vetting system."

Abramowitz didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.