

‘Orange is the New Black’ star Taryn Manning’s alleged stalker claims actress sent her ‘sexually-charged’ messages

The lawyer for Jeanine Heller, who is charged with stalking and harassing Manning, says the actress sent the messages that would make most people, "blush," after Heller's appearance Wednesday in Manhattan Criminal Court.

BY [Shayna Jacobs](#)
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Gabe Ginsberg/FilmMagic
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A lawyer for a woman accused of stalking “Orange is the New Black” star Taryn Manning says the actress sent his client “sexually-charged” messages that would make most people “blush.”

Jeanine Heller, 32, is charged with stalking and harassing Manning, who is best known for playing a homophobic former meth user jailbird Tiffany (Pennsatucky) Doggett on the hit Netflix series set in a woman’s prison.

“Ms. Manning will answer as to why she’s sending these explicit” messages, defense attorney Jeremy Saland said Wednesday after Heller’s brief appearance in Manhattan Criminal Court.

“My client filed a [POLICE]complaint and that sort of fell on deaf ears,” he added. “The complainant was harassing my client.”

Saland declined to describe the nature of the relationship between the two women and would not disclose the content of the lewd missives.



Jefferson Siegel/New York Daily News

Heller made a brief appearance in Manhattan Criminal Court Wednesday on charges she stalked and harassed Manning.

There was no romantic relationship between Heller and Manning, one source told the Daily News.

Manning released a statement saying, “There’s not much else I can say about this situation except that my heart goes out to anyone who has endured being stalked and cyber-bullied. I wish Jeanine nothing but the best and hope she gets the help she needs.”

Between April and July, Heller allegedly harassed Manning with “numerous text messages, emails, voicemails, and messages through other social media” after Manning told her to stop.

In court Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Zachary Weintraub suggested Heller had been making “anonymous contact through Twitter” with the 35-year-old actress, who also had a role in the 2002 blockbuster “8 Mile.”



Jessica Mielke

Manning plays a homophobic, former meth addict on the hit Netflix series, “Orange is the New Black.”

Heller has not been charged with making such contact and authorities are still investigating the case, the ADA added.

“We are still in the process of going through Ms. Heller’s computer,” Weintraub told Judge Erika Edwards.

Saland argued there has been no breach of the restraining order and Edwards issued Heller another strict warning.

“You can’t have anybody else try to contact this individual,” the judge said.

The case was adjourned to October 6.