

Spiritual healer accuses barrister of trying to paint him as 'madman'

By [Michaela Whitbourn](#)

6 September 2018 – 4:18pm



A Sydney tennis coach turned spiritual healer suing for defamation over social media posts branding him a "sleazebag guru" and cult leader has denied touching a client without her consent and accused a barrister acting against him of trying to paint him as a "madman".

Serge Benhayon, 54, is suing acupuncturist and former client Esther Rockett for defamation over a series of social media posts including a blog post in which Ms Rockett accuses him of subjecting her to a "sleazy ovarian reading" and touching her inappropriately.



Serge Benhayon outside the NSW Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Photo: AAP

He is also suing Ms Rockett for alleging he is delusional, dishonest and the leader of a "socially harmful cult", among a range of other claims.

Ms Rockett has pleaded the defences of truth and honest opinion.

On the fourth day of the three-week trial, Mr Benhayon denied he told Ms Rockett during a treatment session in 2005: "Today I think we should do an ovarian reading."

He said this was not possible because "no such modality" – a word he used to describe a type of healing technique – "existed back then".



Esther Rockett outside court earlier this week.

Photo: AAP

He denied Ms Rockett had told him she did not need such a reading and said that "if a client doesn't want something; it's not done".

Mr Benhayon said Ms Rockett was "very deficient in kidney energy, which is life force". He denied placing his hands on her lower abdomen near the pubic bone and said they were higher up on her stomach. Ms Rockett was fully clothed at the time, a fact that is not in dispute.

Mr Benhayon denied he had told Ms Rockett during the session about a series of men who had appeared in her life at various ages, including a man who had "tortured" her and another who was "not there for [her]" when she was 11.

He agreed under cross-examination by Ms Rockett's barrister, Tom Molomby, SC, that it was possible for him to get "information" from women's ovaries. In a 2010 audio recording, played in court, he told an audience that as far back as 1999 he was able to detect that a woman's ovaries were hardened and shrivelled.

During a lengthy cross-examination, Mr Benhayon was asked about healing techniques he had described as "great for cases of rape recovery", alongside traditional medical treatment.

He accused Mr Molomby of "playing games" and trying to paint him as a "madman" when he took the subject of rape very seriously.

Earlier on Thursday, Mr Benhayon admitted that he believed people he described as "authority abusers" such as corrupt politicians and dictators were reincarnated as disabled people.

Mr Benhayon has previously told the court he understood he was the reincarnation of Leonardo da Vinci.

The hearing continues.



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