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BY CHRISTOPHER MANGUM OCTOBER 06 2009 2:45 PM ET

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Martina Navratilova's former partner Toni Layton is suing the tennis legend for half of the money and assets acquired during the couple's relationship, which lasted from 2000 to 2008.

Layton claims partial ownership to vehicles, guns, African pictures, an Apple computer, pets, electronics, a Vince Salvati painting, Wyland animal sculptures, a porcelain cookie bowl, collectible "frog art," and other property worth more than \$1.5 million combined, reports

Tampa Bay Online.

The lawsuit cannot be treated as a divorce case since same-sex couples cannot marry in Florida. Layton's lawyer, Raymond Rafool, who represented Linda Bollea in her divorce from wrestler Terry "Hulk Hogan" Bollea, is arguing instead that the partnership was similar to a business venture.

"We're taking the position this is a private matter and we're not going to be making any statements," said Navratilova's lawyer, Barry Greenberg, according to Tampa Bay Online.

According to legal documents filed by Greenberg, the case is calling for palimony, which he claims cannot be applied to Florida's same-sex couples. Greenberg believes that the suit treats the breakup as a divorce, which violates Florida's constitutional amendment that bans both gay marriage and treating any union as a "substantial equivalent."

Navratilova was previously sued for palimony in 1991 when her relationship with former Miss Texas Judy Nelson ended. That case was settled out of court.

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