



MEDIA ADVISORY

SURVIVORS OF DR. JOHNNIE “JACK” BARTO CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF CONEMAUGH HEALTH SYSTEMS AND LAUREL PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHAT: Women who accused former Johnstown pediatrician Johnnie “Jack” Barto of sexual assault will speak to the media following Barto’s sentencing on criminal sexual assault in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Barto pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two family members and admitted to sexually assaulting more than two dozen patients some as young as two months old.

More than 20 women are expected to speak in court. The following is a list of our clients who have agreed to speak with media.

WHO: **Erika Brosig**, trauma therapist and victim advocate

Clinical Director at Victim Services

Age 13 when abused at a well check

Amanda Dorich, teacher

Age 10 when abused at a visit for an asthma attack

Adrienne Cochrane, psychiatric RN

Age 11 when abused at a visit for a psychical for 6th grade

Jennifer Goetz, local health care provider

Age 8 or 9 when abused at a visit for strep throat

Brooke Rush, administrator of surgical center

Age 12 when abused at an exam when she had appendicitis

Drew Dalton, Attorney Dalton and Associates

Ms. Brosig, Ms. Dorich and Ms. Corchrane are charged victims and will be making victim impact statements in court.

WHEN: Sentencing Hearing -Monday, March 18 at the Cambria County Courthouse

Press conference following sentencing at the Commissioners Meeting

WHERE: Cambria County Courthouse
200 S. Center St
Ebensburg PA 15931

WHY: Dr. Johnnie Barto's abuse spanned decades and typically involved girls and boys between ages 8 and 12, prosecutors said. One of the victims was 2 weeks old. Barto allegedly molested children in the exam room at Laurel Pediatric Associates in Cambria County and at local hospitals owned by Conemaugh Health Systems.

Complaints about Barto go back at least to 1994 when the mother of a 4-year-old patient filed a report with the police alleging that Barto had touched the child's private area. A complaint was filed with the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs which failed to take action.

A complaint was filed by another patient in 1998. The Bureau rejected the complaint saying, "Allegations against (Barto) are incongruous to his reputation."

During the next 20 years, Barto was the subject of a long series of complaints from young patients and their families, yet he was allowed to continue practicing medicine until he was arrested in January of 2018 for allegedly molesting a member of his own family.

Now that Barto is being held accountable for some of his crimes, many of his alleged victims are asking for a full independent investigation by law enforcement to determine who at Laurel Pediatric Associates and Conemaugh Health system knew of should have known about his criminal behavior and failed to stop him.

The women's attorneys represented 180 victims of former Olympic gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar and currently represent more than 200 alleged victims of former University of Southern Californian gynecologist George Tyndall