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SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM'S ATTORNEYS ASK COURT TO PROTECT 18 YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM HARRASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION BY ANTELOPE VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Irvine, California - Attorneys representing Jane DN Doe, an 18 year-old girl who alleges sexual battery by Marcus Williams, a former girls basketball coach at Palmdale High School, a school within Antelope Valley Union School District, have filed a motion in Los Angeles County Superior Court asking the court to protect their client from the "harassment and intimidation" of being subjected to 340 complex and burdensome questions by the District attorneys. [Click here for Motion for Protective Order](#)

According to the motion, Jane DN Doe was sexually harassed, abused and raped by her basketball coach Marcus Williams when she was 14 to 15 years old. She became pregnant by Williams and gave birth to his child when she was still 15.

Williams was subsequently reported to the police, arrested and pled no-contest to 7 felony charges. He was convicted and sentenced to nearly five years in state prison.

"AVUSD knew that Williams had serious problems when they hired him," said Morgan Stewart, attorney for Jane DN Doe. He had a criminal record for vehicle burglary and had been dismissed from his coaching job at another school for misconduct which included sending inappropriate text messages to a student. He never should have been hired at Palmdale High school and my client never should have met this criminal." said Mr. Stewart. [Click here for Marcus Williams Record](#)

The motion alleges that the District accused Jane DN Doe of "freely and voluntarily assuming the risk of injury and damages" resulting from the alleged sexual assault by Williams even though she was 14 years old and legally incapable of consenting to sex with the 38-year-old Williams.

According to the motion, "Instead of receiving compassion from the District (Jane DN Doe's) claim has been met with further abuse and accusations that (Jane DN Doe) herself was responsible for the harassment, intimidation and rape by Williams. The District's vile conduct did not end there but has morphed into a further assault and harassment of (Jane DN Doe) by way of overly burdensome and harassing discovery methods."

Mr. Stewart asserts that this case is not the only instance of sexual misconduct at Palmdale High School being ignored by the District.

"As testified to by Carlos Davis in a sworn deposition on December 13, 2018, Palmdale High School has had additional recent incidences of inappropriate behavior between staff and students. Mr. Davis reported that in the 2017/18 school year, Palmdale teacher Antek Ignatowicz was alleged to have been sending sexually inappropriate social messages to a senior female student. After the District was notified and undertook to

investigate, Mr. Ignatowicz committed suicide. According to Mr. Davis, a mandatory report may not have been made to law enforcement, despite a law requiring such notification to occur, allowing the District to effectively cover up the abuse of this teacher,” said Mr. Stewart.

The District is alleged to have engaged in a pattern and practice of suppressing and covering up sexual abuse allegations lodged against employees accused of abusing minor students. “The conduct alleged in the Motion is yet another step that the District has taken to bully victims into silence,” Said Mr. Stewart.

[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is the nation’s leading firm representing athletes in child sexual abuse cases against school districts, Universities and Olympic Governing Bodies. They recently represented 180 alleged victims of former Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar resulting in a \$500 million-dollar settlement against Michigan State University. In 2018 the firm settled cases against the Torrance Unified School District for \$31 million on behalf of alleged victims of former wrestling coach and convicted child molester Thomas Snider, against Los Angeles Unified School district for \$8 million in cases involving former football coach and convicted child molester Jamie Jimenez and for \$14 million in cases involving former Los Angeles Unified District employee Ronnie Lee Roman. The firm has also settled \$30 million in claims against Redlands Unified School District.