



PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH JAIME JIMENEZ PLEADS NO CONTEST TO CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING STUDENTS

Jaime Jimenez, a former football coach at LAUSD's Franklin High School, pleaded no contest on November 10 to charges of sexually abusing five current and former Franklin students. The boys were between 13 and 16 years old when Jimenez allegedly abused them. Jimenez faces more than 36 years in prison when he is sentenced on January 13, 2017.

"The shocking crimes committed by Mr. Jimenez illustrate the continuing failure of the LAUSD to properly screen and supervise its teachers, coaches and staff," said attorney John Manly of Manly Stewart & Finaldi. His co-counsel, victim rights attorney Ronald Labriola of The Senators (Ret.) Firm, said he and Manly currently represent six alleged victims of Mr. Jimenez, who coached at Franklin High School in Highland Park and with the Glendale Bears All American Football Association for roughly 17 years. He encouraged other victims to "Come forward and seek justice. You will be believed, especially now that Jimenez has accepted responsibility for his crimes."

Manly and Labriola have filed a lawsuit against LAUSD for its failure to protect students from Jimenez's sexual abuse. [The lawsuit alleges that](#) "Defendants failed to take reasonable steps and implement reasonable safeguards to avoid acts of unlawful sexual conduct by Jimenez, including prevent abuse of plaintiffs...Instead, defendants ignored and concealed the sexual abuse of plaintiffs and others by Jimenez that already occurred."

Multiple "red flags" existed regarding Jimenez's behavior, which included secluding students in equipment and locker rooms, spending long periods of time with them on and off campus, giving them rides in private automobiles, and taking photos with them, according to the lawsuit.

The failure to investigate Jimenez follows a similar pattern in which the LAUSD did not properly look into complaints of sexual abuse by other employees, including teachers Mark Berndt at Miramonte Elementary School, Paul Chapel III at Telfair Elementary School, and Robert Pimentel at George De La Torre Jr. Elementary School, the lawsuit alleges. Those three former educators all pleaded no contest to criminal charges and were sentenced to lengthy state prison terms.

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[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is California's leading law firm representing child victims of sexual abuse. The firm has represented more than 150 victims of clergy sexual abuse in California and hundreds of others throughout the United States. The firm also represented plaintiffs in the \$140,000,000 settlement against LAUSD in the Miramonte case, the largest sex abuse settlement against a School District in the US.