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Statement of Gloria Allred

On November 1, 2013 we filed a lawsuit against the University of Connecticut (UConn) in federal court in Hartford Connecticut on behalf of rape or sexual assault victims who were students or former students of UConn.

Our lawsuit alleged that UConn had discriminated against our clients on the basis of their gender and retaliated against them in violation of Title IX, a federal law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and which guarantees equal educational opportunity to students at educational institutions which receive federal funds, such as the University of Connecticut. We sought damages according to proof at trial.

Today we are very happy to announce the settlement of our lawsuit on behalf of our named plaintiffs Carolyn Luby, Kylie Angell, Erica Daniels, Rosemary Richi and Sylvana Moccia.

The settlement requires UConn to compensate our clients in the total amount of \$1,285,000.

We appreciate and acknowledge UConn's constructive role and approach which allowed a settlement to occur at this early stage in the litigation process. We particularly wish to commend UConn's General Counsel, Richard Orr, for his leadership and important commitment to resolving these cases in a sensitive manner that was respectful of our clients.

In our joint press statement with UConn, UConn has acknowledged our clients' role in inspiring important public conversation regarding the issue of sexual violence. We also believe that our clients played a vital role in UConn's strengthening its policies and procedures for addressing sexual violence.

We appreciate UConn's willingness to resolve this lawsuit in a positive manner allowing our clients and the University to move forward and put this

lawsuit behind them. We believe that the settlement is in the best interests of our clients and that it is also in the best interest of UConn.

We are very proud of our courageous clients who came forward to assert their rights under Title IX. They want to eliminate sexual and gender based harassment and violence, to prevent its recurrence, to support survivors and to hold perpetrators accountable.

UConn has indicated its firm commitment to these goals and we are encouraged that UConn has taken important steps to make UConn the safest possible campus and to support survivors, which UConn acknowledges is a goal that they share with our clients.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to my law partner, Nathan Goldberg, for his significant legal efforts in this case, and to my co-counsel Nina Pirrotti for her exceptional dedication and legal work on this case.

Last Sunday, July 13 2014, the New York Times published an article about a female college student at a New York college who alleged that she had been raped.¹ The article suggested that the student seemed to regret having reported her allegations to her college.

I hope that other students who are victims of sexual violence on college campuses throughout this nation will hear about the positive results in our case involving UConn and be inspired and encouraged to report rape and sexual assault to their institution of higher learning with the hope that their rights will be respected by their colleges and that they are able to win change and greater protection for themselves and other victims on their campuses.

Title IX is there for their protection and other universities should follow the law and UConn's example in working to improve their policies, procedures, and services to all victims of crimes, including rape and sexual assault, so that victims will be encouraged, not discouraged from reporting to them violations of the law or student codes of conduct. The negative experience of the one college student in New York should not discourage others from reporting.

Our clients are moving forward with their lives in a positive manner with full knowledge that they have made a difference. They are examples of what

young empowered women can accomplish when they work together to win change and greater protections at the University that they love.

1. *Reporting Rape, and Wishing She Hadn't*
How One College Handled a Sexual Assault Complaint by Walt Bogdanich

Attorney Gloria Allred
Representing
Carolyn Luby, Kylie Angell, Erica Daniels, Rosemary Richi and Sylvana Moccia
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