

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Media Inquiries

Barbara Bates, Director of Marketing

o 317.636.6481 | c 317.472.6744

bbates@cohenmalad.com

Lawsuit Alleges Gross Negligence, Institutional Cover-Up in Child Exploitation and Pornography Case at Bishop Luers High School

Less than a year after two Bishop Luers teachers plead guilty to and were sentenced for sex crimes against minors, a new lawsuit alleges widespread instances of child exploitation and pornography affecting more than three dozen high school victims.

Four female students, along with their parents, are suing the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Bishop Luers High School, as well as David Maugel, Superintendent of Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocesan Schools, and three Bishop Luers' staff members: Kevin Mann, Dean of Students and Athletic Director; Scott Kreiger, Principal; and James Huth, former Principal and current Director of Development.

The complaint, filed in Marion County Court on January 21, alleges gross negligence, civil liability (failure to report), fraudulent concealment and breach of Fiduciary Duty, among other allegations, in connection with the defendants' handling of disturbing pornographic videos created and distributed by classmates of Jane Does I-IV. Plaintiffs are represented by Greg Laker and Andrea Simmons of CohenMalad, LLP, Indianapolis.

“This case demonstrates what happens when those entrusted with our children’s care don’t uphold their legal and moral responsibility to protect them,” said attorney Greg Laker. “Instead, Bishop Luers High School, the Diocese and Archdiocese prioritized their own public image and reputation, utterly failing the student-victims.”

Beginning sometime in 2022, three male students at Bishop Luers began conducting internet searches for explicit images and videos of women/girls who resembled fellow female students. The student-perpetrators saved, edited and modified these files, overlaid first and last names of the intended student-victims on the media, and organized the collections into folders also bearing girls’ first and last names.

Perpetrators then marketed, sold and distributed these named pornographic “collections” to students at Bishop Luers and other Fort Wayne area high schools.

The complaint alleges that Catholic school officials including Maugel, Mann, Kreiger and Huth became aware of the creation and sale of this pornographic content, and the victimization of their students, in early 2023. However, despite being mandatory reporters of child abuse pursuant to Indiana Code 31-33-5-1, none of the defendants relayed information to law enforcement. Defendants also made a conscious decision not to notify victims or their parents, seize perpetrators’ school electronic devices, scan the school’s server for explicit material, or conduct any kind of reasonable investigation.

CohenMalad, LLP

One Indiana Square, Suite 1400
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Office 317.636.6481

TFN 866.446.7478

Fax 317.636.2593

cohenmalad.com



It was not until late September 2023 – immediately after Jane Doe II discovered the crimes, alerted other victims, and plaintiffs gave an ultimatum to contact police or they would – that school officials notified authorities.

Plaintiffs assert the defendants failed to act with reasonable care to protect Jane Does I-IV and dozens of other students from foreseeable harm, failed to uphold school policies designed to prevent sexual harassment, bullying and abuse, and failed to take appropriate action in response. Further, the defendants themselves injured and harmed Jane Does I-IV and the other victims by their negligence and deliberate, reckless indifference to the students’ privacy and welfare.

“The sexual exploitation these minors have suffered is profoundly dehumanizing,” said attorney Andrea Simmons. “To have victims further harmed by leadership’s deliberate concealment of the crimes reflects a shocking indifference for the dignity and well-being of students.”

In total, it is believed 38 current and former female students of Bishop Luers, most or all of whom were minors at the time, were victimized.

The January 21, 2025 complaint and this press release are available online here:
<https://www.cohenandmalad.com/alerts/bishop-luers-lawsuit/>

Attorneys Greg Laker and Andrea Simmons are available for further comment.

###

CohenMalad, LLP

One Indiana Square, Suite 1400
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Office 317.636.6481

TFN 866.446.7478

Fax 317.636.2593

cohenmalad.com

