



Press Release

Contact: Tiffany Garcia
(310) 405-7337
Tiffany@Berbay.com

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AGNEWBRUSAVICH AND TAYLOR & RING FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TEACHER FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINOR

*--Eighth grade teacher pled guilty to several counts of sexual abuse
and will serve six years in prison--*

LOS ANGELES, CA – [AgnewBrusavich](#), a Torrance-based serious personal injury law firm, and [Taylor & Ring](#), a Los Angeles-based trial law firm, filed a lawsuit against Hawthorne School District, Hawthorne Middle School and its physical education instructor Rafael Hernandez on behalf of “Jane Doe” for sexual abuse, harassment and other misconduct. The lawsuit alleges that Mr. Hernandez emotionally manipulated Ms. Doe before engaging in multiple acts of sexual harassment. Several teachers and personnel at Hawthorne Middle School witnessed the inappropriate behavior but did not report it to officials.

"The school district did not uphold their legal obligation to protect their students, and as a result, Rafael Hernandez was able to sexually assault not one, but two vulnerable children over the course of his career," said [Bruce Brusavich](#) of AgnewBrusavich.

"Mr. Hernandez is a sexual predator and knew how to take advantage of Ms. Doe's fragile mental state by sharing intimate personal details and showering her with compliments and gifts," commented [Dave Ring](#) of Taylor & Ring.

The lawsuit demands a jury trial and seeks compensation for personal injuries and damages.

Background

During the 2014-2015 school year, Mr. Hernandez began “grooming” his 13-year-old student before committing multiple acts of sexual harassment and abuse. He sent her sexually explicit photos and messages; exposed his genitals to her while on campus; asked Ms. Doe to expose herself; and made regular comments that he was going to take her virginity. On two other occasions, Mr. Hernandez touched Ms. Doe over her clothing and even pushed her into a dark closet and groped her buttocks while on school campus.

Around mid-Fall 2014, teachers and personnel at Hawthorne Middle School began to comment on the inappropriate amount of time that Mr. Hernandez spent with Ms. Doe. One teacher witnessed Mr. Hernandez giving the student a shoulder massage and another scolded him for caressing the student’s head. However, the criminal investigation did not commence until Ms. Doe’s sister found inappropriate text messages from Mr. Hernandez and encouraged Ms. Doe to tell her family.

In July 2015, Mr. Hernandez pled guilty to several felony counts of sexual abuse of Ms. Doe and two other minor female victims. He will be serving six years in prison.

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AgnewBrusavich

Founded in 1984, AgnewBrusavich represents those who have suffered serious personal injuries or the families of those who have been wrongfully killed from bicycle and vehicular accidents, medical malpractice, defective products, construction accidents, premises, elder abuse and other acts of negligence.

20355 Hawthorne Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
Phone: 310-793-1400
Fax: 310-793-1499

www.AgnewBrusavich.com

Taylor & Ring

Taylor & Ring, a Los Angeles-based trial law firm, represents plaintiffs across California in personal injury, wrongful death and sexual assault matters.

10900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 920
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Phone: 310-209-4100
www.TaylorRing.com