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Lawsuit Against Rock Church Ministries Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program Expands With Seven Additional Victims

Edit Summary:

Thirteen Plaintiffs Are Now Part of the Updated Court Complaint Filed on June 12

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San Diego, CA, June 12, 2014 - In May, The Zalkin Law Firm filed a civil lawsuit in the San Diego Superior Court, Central Division, (Case No: 37-2014-00014773-CU-PO-CTL) on behalf of five female participants and one employee of the Rock Church Recovery Ministry drug and alcohol recovery program. On June 12, seven additional participants in the Rock Recovery Program joined that lawsuit and allege additional claims, including a claim of sexual abuse of one plaintiff who was a minor at the time.

In the complaint filed last month, the plaintiffs alleged that the defendants, David Powers, Tina Powers, Fred Murray, ABC Sober Living, L.L.C., Recovery Housing, L.L.C., and the San Diego Rock Church, Inc. offered drug and alcohol rehabilitation services through the Rock Recovery Ministry, a Christian twelve-step based ministry. These plaintiffs allege that they were subjected to unlawful sexual battery, harassment, fraud, and negligent care as detailed in the complaint.

The plaintiffs allege in the complaint that the defendants, David Powers, Tina Powers, Fred

Murray, ABC Sober Living, L.L.C. Recovery Housing, L.L.C.; Rock Church Ministries, Inc. and the San Diego Rock Church, Inc. operated the "Rock Recovery Ministry," a Christian twelvestep ministry that offers faith-based live-in and outreach drug and alcohol recovery programs through Defendants ABC and Recovery Housing. As participants of that program, the plaintiffs were subjected to unlawful sexual battery, harassment, fraud and negligent care detailed in the complaint.

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organization, the Rock Church

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Zalkin, of The Zalkin Law Firm,

the attorney for the six

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According to the civil complaint, plaintiffs were all participants in the recovery program at different periods between 2010 to late 2013. The plaintiffs each allege that during their stay at the Soledad House or at the home of program director David Powers, they were subjected to on-going sexual battery by David Powers and by defendant Fred Murray. Plaintiff Andria Donovan was an employee of the program from 2009 to 2013 during which she alleges that David Powers created a sexually hostile work environment.

"A religious organization, the Rock Church is responsible for its ministries and the safety of all its participants," said Irwin Zalkin, of The Zalkin Law Firm, the attorney for the six women plaintiffs. "Each of these women had their lives ruined by the Rock Church Ministries where a sexual predator was allowed to prey on vulnerable women in his care and employment for years."

After filing the Plaintiffs' claims last month, The Zalkin Law Firm has received countless phone calls from independent witnesses as well as the seven women who have joined the lawsuit. Through these witnesses, the plaintiffs have obtained additional information further

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Solidifying the connection between the Nock Church, David Fowers, Thia Fowers, Fred Murray, ABC Sober Living, LLC and Recovery Housing, LLC, all of whom were involved in the management of the program where the women were alledgedly sexually abuse as detailed in the court filing.

The thirteen Plaintiffs allege in the updated court complaint filed on June 12 that Defendant David Powers selectively lured young, attractive, vulnerable women into the recovery program and then proceeded to groom, seduce, sexually harass, assault, and intimidate them at the recovery home, in his own home, and at Rock Church events. These women were promised a safe and supportive environment in which they could be treated for their additive behaviors and turn their lives around. The lawsuit details numerous sexual abuse and battery incidents and how the women's' complaints were ignored by defendants Tina Powers and Fred Murray.

As a result of the abuse, the complaint alleges that each plaintiff suffered considerable pain and emotional distress that prevented them from the normal enjoyment of life and require medical and psychological treatment. The complaint seeks compensatory and punitive damages and costs.

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