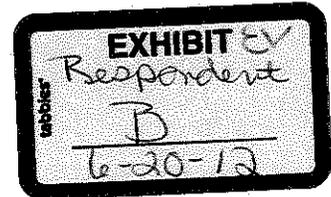


**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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March 28, 2012
Via Federal Express

Honorable John J. Postel, Esq.
Deputy Administrator In Charge
New York State Commission on
Judicial Conduct
400 Andrews Street, Suite 700
Rochester, New York 14604



Dear Mr. Postel:

I am writing to inform you about a serious act of misconduct committed by an individual who is now a sitting Family Court Judge in Onondaga County. I recently received an e-mail from Randi Bregman who is the Director of our local Rape Crisis Center. In the e-mail, Ms. Bregman informed me about a victim of sexual abuse that she wanted me to meet and discuss her possible options.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2012, I met this victim at the Rape Crisis Center. Present were Ms. Bregman, myself, the victim, her husband, her advocate from Rochester and two interpreters for the deaf. The victim's name is E ■■■■■, date of birth June 5, 1967, who is married with four children. She has been deaf since birth but is otherwise physically and mentally in great condition. Born in Pennsylvania, her family moved to Albany when she was two years old in order that she might avail herself of some specialized educational opportunities. It was not until she was approximately seven years old that E ■■■■■ began to communicate. It was also about this time that her parents divorced, her father now still living in Albany and her mother now living in Boulder Colorado.

When she was about sixteen and becoming aware of her own sexuality, E ■■■■■ disclosed an incident to her mother that had happened to E ■■■■■ years earlier. When she was four or five and attending a family function in a large house in Albany, she remembered being on the third floor

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and walking past a bedroom. E████ would sometimes walk through the house as this was all new to her as she was unable to speak, hear or communicate at this stage of her life. As she passed the open door of a bedroom, she saw her uncle, Bryan Hedges, alone and on the bed. He somehow gestured for her to come in and she observed that he was naked and had an erection. He placed her hand on his penis and after a brief period of time, she described what she now knows is an ejaculation.

E████ recalls that her mother was shocked by this disclosure and her mother called her ex-husband to inform him. The father, R████████, is the brother of Bryan Hedges' wife, Liz Hedges. E████ recalls that she learned her father confronted Hedges about the abuse and that Hedges admitted it had occurred. For whatever reason, the matter seemed to go no further and E████ was denied the emotional and mental support she clearly needed.

In December of 2011, the national news contained numerous stories regarding the sexual abuse scandals at Penn State and Syracuse University. Seeing this brought back painful memories to E████ and she again reached out to her mother, now M████████, and the two had a very lengthy conversation on what to do which eventually led E████ to making contact with me.

In discussing various options available to E████ I informed her that although the statute of limitations had run on any civil or criminal action, I had an ethical obligation as an attorney to inform the appropriate agency about the felonious conduct of Bryan Hedges, now a sitting Family Court Judge. I also explained to E████ that although he admitted his actions many years ago, Judge Hedges could very well opt to deny that any of this had happened and simply call E████ a liar.

I then, with E████'s permission, contacted her mother M████████ in Boulder. By an incredible twist of fate, Ms. ██████ told me that Judge Hedges was in Boulder and was scheduled to have lunch with her at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday whereupon she intended to confront him about the abuse. With Ms. ██████'s consent, and with the assistance of local law enforcement, Ms. ██████ was wired and her conversation with Judge Hedges was recorded. I have not listened to the tape but my investigator has been told by those that monitored the call that Judge Hedges admitted all the elements of this crime against E████.

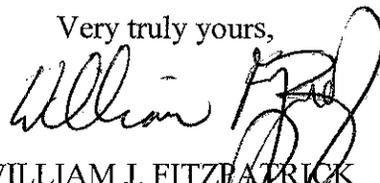
I am enclosing for your file a copy of said tape along with a series of e-mails that appear to corroborate E████ as well. E████ has not decided whether to go public at this point. I too am wrestling with what my obligations are in this regard as I am concerned about the possibility of other victims. I am also very concerned, whether he is a one time offender or a serial offender, of a sexual predator sitting on the bench making decisions every day that involve allegations of sexual abuse.

E████ was the perfect victim for a predator . . . a beautiful, innocent child who had no idea what had happened to her and even if she had, no way to tell. With E████'s support, I am now

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asking you and the Commission if necessary to reap a small measure of justice for the terrible thing that was done to her and offer Judge Hedges the option to resign as quickly as possible. I will abate any further action until I hear from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

WILLIAM J. FITZPATRICK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WJF/mac
Enclosures