

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JENNER LAW FIRM / GRANT & EISENHOFER, P.A.**

**BALTIMORE ARCHDIOCESE SURVIVORS AND ADVOCATES ASK COURT TO RELEASE  
SEALED GRAND JURY REPORT ON SEXUAL-PREDATOR PRIESTS**

*Litigators from Jenner Law Firm and Grant & Eisenhofer today announced joint representation*

BALTIMORE, MD. (December 7, 2022) – Guided by their “hope that justice will prevail”, a group of Archdiocese of Baltimore sexual assault and abuse survivors, and advocates, joined their civil rights attorneys today to announce the latest legal action aimed at holding accountable all those responsible for pervasive, decades-long abuse. The legal team, led by Jenner Law of Baltimore, and Delaware-based Grant & Eisenhofer, represents Survivors Michele Stanton and Donna Vondenbosch, and Advocates Gemma Hoskins and the international organization, Survivors Network for those Accused by Priests (SNAP), represented today by its Maryland Director, David Lorenz.

Attorney Rob Jenner, of Jenner Law, along with Barbara Hart, Suzanne Sangree, and Elizabeth Graham, from Grant & Eisenhofer., catastrophic injury firms with vast experience representing victims/survivors of life-altering, systemic sexual assault-abuse, said they are “honored and humbled to represent SNAP and these courageous individuals seeking truth, transparency, accountability, and, ultimately, justice”. Today the legal team will deliver to court chambers its Motion supporting the Maryland Office of Attorney General’s recent motion to publicly disclose its Report, “Clergy Abuse in Maryland” which contains some Grand Jury materials. (*In Re Special Investigation No. CID 18-2673*). As press reports concerning the AG Motion indicate, and as SNAP, Stanton, Vondenbosch, Hoskins and Lorenz know (because they provided facts for the Report and they enabled others to provide facts), the Report documents decades-long sexual assault and abuse of children within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The team did not file its Motion with the Clerk’s Office and cannot provide a copy of its filing, in compliance with the Court’s recent confidentiality order.

Ms. Stanton and Ms. Vondenbosch jointly stated following the filing, “How much longer do we have to live before the horrors that we and others endured – in our Archdiocese schools and parishes where we were supposed to be safe – are brought to public light? We endured reliving those horrific events in interviews to help advance the Attorney General investigation. We did with the expectation that the Report would be public, to encourage other survivors to speak up, and to make perpetrator accountability possible.”

Ms. Hoskins, on her role as a plaintiff, said, “I’ve now spent most of my life in this fight, on behalf of those who were shamed and silenced. Our fight for justice lives on and this court action is a demonstration that we haven’t lost faith that justice can prevail, and we haven’t lost hope. There can be no closure for those taken, the survivors and their loved ones – and our beloved

community - as long as the Grand Jury report remains a secret. Secrecy is what allowed the abuse to flourish in the first place and it cannot continue.” Ms. Hoskins was a student at Baltimore’s Archbishop Keough High School, where the abuse was rampant, and where she was inspired by the late Sister Cathy Cesnik, to become a teacher. Sister Cesnik’s murder in 1969 remains unsolved.

Mr. Lorenz added, “We commend the work of the Maryland Attorney General which over four years conducted a detailed investigation of Catholic child sexual abuse in Maryland. It is time that its work concerning the Baltimore Archdiocese be made public in the name of justice. It is time for those findings to meet the light of day.”

Ms. Hart, who currently represents numerous adult survivors of sexual abuse in claims against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, added, “We have seen first-hand in other jurisdictions, including New York and Pennsylvania, similar investigating Grand Jury reports on alleged clergy abuse become an appropriate and useful mechanism in the search for truth and in the service of justice. We have also seen in those other states where legislative reform has also been hugely instrumental in helping obtain justice and deterring further assault and abuse by predators.”

Mr. Jenner said, “As someone who lives and works in Baltimore, I am an especially proud member of this legal team and honored to represent these clients. We join with the Maryland Crime Victim’s Resource Center who also filed motions supporting the Motion of the Attorney General. As press reports of the AG Motion itself report, the 600 victims the Report identifies is a vast undercount of the actual number of survivors of clergy abuse. Disclosing the Report will communicate to those silent survivors, the hundreds of innocents preyed upon – overpowered by those they trusted – you will be heard, you will be believed. We share the belief that the whole truth must be discovered and disclosed.”

Ms. Sangree, who before joining G & E, represented the City of Baltimore as a litigator in its Department of Law, added, “For too long, the voices of sexual abuse survivors were not only muffled, they were completely ignored and, in too many cases and places, dismissed as collateral damage by those in authority. As attorneys, we take a solemn oath to respect and uphold the rule of law. Our clients, we believe, were wronged beyond belief. We’ve pledged to them to seek accountability on their behalf.”

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