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Maryland Father of Five Shares His Clergy Abuse Survival Horror, Hails New Child Victims Act

*David Schappelle's **Survivors Stories** episode starts today as new law takes effect October 1st*

Baltimore, MD (September 21, 2023) - David Schappelle was only 9 in 1986. That year he was raped by Fr. Wayland Brown at his family's St. Rose of Lima Catholic parish picnic. Brown was, unbeknownst to parishioners, a serial pedophile from the Savannah Archdiocese who was in Maryland while he received "treatment" for his predatory behavior at St. Luke's Institute. Mr. Schappelle, a Maryland father of five, who until just a few years ago was unable to confront the abuse he suffered as a child in Gaithersburg, could also never suppress the image of the perverse, violent clergyman (who died in prison in 2019 following a conviction on abuse charges) showing him a handgun right before he violated the child inside an isolated house on the picnic grounds: *"He said he wanted to make sure I didn't tell anyone what happened."*

Mr. Schappelle was among several survivors who testified earlier this year in support of the state's new Child Victims Act of 2023. He is now also sharing his horrific childhood experiences as part of the online *Survivors Stories* series of victim-impact profiles. Speaking out for survivors' justice, the corporate HR manager says he is motivated by the fact that passage of the CVA demonstrated that survivors not only must be heard, but that they also are credible forces for positive change.

"The Child Victims Act is more than just a law, it is now part of our moral fabric," he explains. "I'm now focused on being a strong and confident parent, and I have a lot of optimism."

Survivors Stories is presented as a public service by sexual abuse attorneys from [Jenner Law, Grant & Eisenhofer](#), and [Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico](#), in conjunction with SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused By Priests). The multi-part series premiered just before the legislative hearings on the CVA, and prior to the release of the Maryland AG's report on systemic child sexual abuse within and beyond the Baltimore archdiocese. Mr. Schappelle's episode can also be [viewed here](#).

Survivors Stories is part of the wide ranging public information effort that included a successful online grassroots petition supporting the CVA. David Lorenz, of the state's chapter of SNAP, hosted the petition campaign, and has been among the most outspoken supporters of the new law.

Attorneys Robert K. Jenner, of Jenner Law; Steven Kelly of Grant & Eisenhofer; and Philip Federico of Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico, commended the courage of Mr. Schappelle along with all the participants in the series. Jenner Law and G&E are co-sponsoring the Saturday, September 30th [Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center \(MCVRC\)](#) annual survivors recognition event in Annapolis.

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