

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE GIRL AT A TIME



ADMISSION PREVIEW:
Sunday, Dec. 7
1:00 – 4:00 pm

DAY: PRE-K-12
BOARDING: 8-12

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- [Park Cities People](#)

PRESTON HOLLOW PEOPLE

Eagle Says ESD Planned Appeal from Outset

In an email to ESD parents sent yesterday after compensatory damages were awarded, board chairman John Eagle said an appellate team had been in courtroom for 10 weeks, which is the entire length of the trial. He also said the school’s “policies and procedures went a long way in protecting the students.” Go to the jump for the full text.

From: John Eagle <REDACTED>
Sent: Wed, Sep 21, 2011 12:22 pm
Subject: ESD Message from Mr. Eagle and Mr. Colonna Regarding Ruling

Dear ESD Parents,

A Dallas County Jury today ruled against ESD and imposed a multi-million dollar award. ESD leaders say the ruling and damage award is “beyond belief” and will be appealed.

The jury largely found that ESD was not liable for the teacher’s inappropriate relationship with the student and that its policies and procedures went a long way in protecting the students from these kinds of events. However, the jury did award damages to the family regarding the student’s separation.

While we all hoped for justice today, we planned for this possible outcome because it has been so obvious that our attorneys have been defending ESD on an uneven playing field. The Court did not allow ESD to present critical evidence as part of its defense, including testimony from the former student’s best friend and expert psychologists. In addition, the court refused to allow ESD to present rebuttal evidence regarding last-minute, surprise testimony.

As a result, we have had an appellate team in court every day for the last ten weeks developing the arguments for an appeal. Along with our insurance company, we plan to file our appeal as soon as possible.

As school leaders testified during the trial, ESD did not know, and ESD could not have known about the relationship between the former student and teacher. The school moved quickly after Farmers Branch police contacted us after questioning them in a parking lot on a Sunday afternoon. In addition, school officials did their best to protect the former student and provide her with the privacy she and her parents requested.

This has been a difficult time for the school community. Be assured that we regularly examine and re-examine our policies, procedures and training programs to protect your children. A safety program is never “finished.” It has to be in a state of constant evaluation.

The Board and school leaders are totally committed to the mission of the Episcopal School of Dallas. Thank you for your support over the last ten weeks of this trial.

Attached you will also find the news release issued by the school following the final stage of the trial.

Sincerely,

John Eagle

Chairman of the Board

Joe Colonna

Vice-Chairman of the Board

By [Claire St. Amant](#) Sep. 22, 2011 | 9:10 am | [66 Comments](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

66 comments to "Eagle Says ESD Planned Appeal from Outset"

wow @ September 22, 2011 at [9:27 am](#)

so they plan to continue with this PR nightmare. It is time to meet with the Doe's and try to end this thing.

trial follower @ September 22, 2011 at [9:30 am](#)

It does not appear that the leadership at ESD believes there is or was a problem with how this situation was handled which is disheartening. Based upon this e-mail I would be surprised to see any changes at ESD. It looks like there is job security for each of the administrators that were involved in this mess. If I were on the board, I would be making changes to send a message to the administrators that they were at fault for not bringing these issues to the board. It is unbelievable to me that the administrators handled this incident from start to finish without consulting the board. IMO, the board should be involved anytime a student is separated from the school and anytime there is the existence of an improper relationship between a student/teacher. For the board to do their job properly, the board needs to be made aware of issues in a timely manner. The administrators should be dismissed for not consulting the board sooner as well as for the way they handled the student and the teacher.

wow @ September 22, 2011 at [9:36 am](#)

<http://www.weblocator.com/attorney/tx/law/b13.html>

for anyone wanting to get a base understanding of the appeal process

stupid much?? @ September 22, 2011 at [9:40 am](#)

Oh. I get it! ESD's plan all along was to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to lose at trial to win on appeal. Makes perfect sense!

Not.

wow @ September 22, 2011 at [9:48 am](#)

and if they lose on appeal, they will also have to pay the legal costs for the Does. ESD, please stop.

Noah @ September 22, 2011 at [10:01 am](#)

This is a sad story that will haunt our proverbial hallways for a very long time. That and the nine million dollar email. #giftwrappedforplaintiffs

A Rival School parent @ September 22, 2011 at [10:25 am](#)

Rattle the sword like they are doing, then quietly settle and have it sealed. ESD was wrong in the eyes of the law. Our laws are set up to protect the individual's rights, not the organization and it was felt the ESD leadership victimized the victim. Actually a pretty simple decision and IMO the jury was 100% right. In my company, if I fired an employee that had sex with a superior, even without my knowledge of the affair, we would have all kinds of liability exposure. Just like a lot of things in life, it was not the actual event, but the handling of the event where things went wrong. Add the fact this girl was 16, ESD should have been much smarter in the handling of this matter

Quit blaming the 16 year old and move on.

The biggest worry for ESD right now is not the money but has to be in protecting the brand and the institution. ESD has been dragged thru the mud these last several weeks due to their leaders and the decisions they made. I have said it earlier, move Swann to a emeritus role, bring in a new leader with fresh ideas and vision, let him/her clean house in the administration, turn over the board (Has Eagle really been chairman for 10 years?) and the school will thrive. The leadership is tarnished by these proceedings and cannot effectively make the changes that are needed.

Move on and rebuild your reputation ESD, you have a lot of really good things going for you!

HSF @ September 22, 2011 at [10:30 am](#)

I would never EVER send my kids to this school after all this. It's ridiculous. Im so angry by this.

episcopalian @ September 22, 2011 at [10:35 am](#)

The aftermath of this trial is causing even more damage to the teenagers this school. The hatred being spewed on the ESD fb page about the victim in this case is typical teenage comprehension of consequences vs. actions. They view Doe II as having the maturity to realize/understand the implications of carrying on an affair with a married man several years older than her. Hence the creation of statutory rape laws to protect them. ESD, while trying to protect their reputation in the community, should be turning their immediate focus to the current student body. Please counsel these teens on a daily basis about the cunning and saavy that predators use to trick/brain wash their victims. ESD was tricked in believing that this guy was a great teacher with his popularity and praise among the students. I have no doubt that charm oozed from every pore. This makes the shock that the students are experiencing all the more understandable; and all the more imperative that they learn to identify and protect themselves from predators. There is a tremendous lesson here that both the school's administration and student body can learn together. There is no shame in being the victim of a sociopath! ESD please don't miss this opportunity to lead your students by example of fearless and shameless recognition and management of deceit and evil in this world

They Have A Right @ September 22, 2011 at [10:51 am](#)

They have every right to appeal. There were so many wrong headed decisions by that judge. Here's to the Doe's walking away without one penny.

trial follower @ September 22, 2011 at [11:30 am](#)

@They Have A Right – Yes, they do have a “right” to appeal but they also have a “responsibility” to former and current students to handle issues with basic moral and ethical standards. It does not appear that they have put the students’ best interests at the forefront of their decision making.

Informed Observer @ September 22, 2011 at [11:30 am](#)

The Doe family wants to take no responsibility. They want to punish someone to deflect guilt from themselves. This was not a fair trial. The Doe family is angry with a couple of people at ESD and their idea of justice is to punish thousands of innocent people – most of them children, others are loving, faithful parents and the dedicated faculty staff –not to mention the alumni.

Whoever of you out there who seems to be so “pleased” about this judgement need to look more closely at your own values.

My Blessings to all of you out there, the ESD family. Please stay strong and faithful.

Former ESD Family @ September 22, 2011 at [11:50 am](#)

For those who are still in the school, whether you agree/disagree with the verdict, hate/like the Doe's, you should ask the powers that be to please “clean house” for the sake of the school and the kids. Appeal/no appeal, justice/injustice....the bottom line is the school now has a huge PR problem and “The Board” knows it. If “The Board” chooses to do nothing, then one could say the victim is being victimized a third time. “A List” parents who are part of the ESD community....you can do something about this..you will get the board's attention. ESD was/is a fabulous school....keep it that way by asking for removal of these poor decision makers.

juror @ September 22, 2011 at [12:03 pm](#)

SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WAS THE FACT THAT THE DOES DIDN'T MIND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT THEY MISSED AT HOME BUT ONCE IT WAS DISCOVERED AND TEACHERS SPREAD THEIR THOUGHTS EVEN AFTER 3 WARNINGS FROM SCHOOL TO KEEP QUIET AND WERE TOLD THESE WERE FIREABLE OFFENCES THEY STILL KEPT THEIR JOB,(WHICH GOES TO SHOW EVEN IF THEY “ESD” HAVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE THEY DONT ENFORCE THEM) AND THEY BLAMMED JANE DOE FOR THE RUMORS AND FRAUDENTLY PRESENTED TO PARENTS TO REMOVE HER OR THEY WOULD EXPELL HER (WITH NO INTENT ON DOING SO)EVEN BY TESTAMONY BY REBECCA “SHE THOUGHT THE WOULD REFUSE AS OTHER PARENTS HAVE IN THE PAST” ITS SAD TO SEE ALL THESE PARENTS STICK UP FOR ESD. WAIT UNTILL YOUR FAMILY IS THE ONE THREATENED TO MAKE A DECISION BECAUSE THEY WANT YOU OUT BECAUSE YOU ARE DAMAGING THE PRESTIGE OF THE SCHOOL! FATHER SWAN SHOULD BE FIRED HE KEEPS THINGS TO HIMSELF INSTEAD OF SHARING INFORMATION WITH

BOARD BECAUSE HE IS SCARED INFORMATION WILL GET OUT! AND MRS. MAYO SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF HERSELF SPEAKING OF A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE THE WAY SHE DID! IT EVEN FUTHER MORE GOES TO SHOW THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE GOING ON AT THE SCHOOL REGARDING BOUNDARIES AND SEXUAL ABUSE GIVEN THAT THE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL ALL ARE BLIND TO THE FACT THAT THEY TO WERE GROOMED BY THIS MAN. YALL ARE ALL IN MY PRAYERS GOD BLESS

juror @ September 22, 2011 at [12:11 pm](#)

THE SADDEST PART OF ALL OF THIS IS THE FACT THAT THE THREE MAJOR ROLE PLAYERS FOR ESD ALL SAY IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DO OVER AGAIN WOULD THEY CHANGE ANYTHING THEY DID AND THEY ALL SAID NO. SO FAMILIES OF ESD GET READY YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY COULD BE NEXT IF U DO NOT DEMAND A CHANGE IN YOUR SCHOOL AND THE WAY THESE MATTERS ARE HANDLED! AND ONE MORE PIECE OF INFORMATION THE BISHOP TESTIFIED ESD IS IN NO WAY PART OF THE EPISOCPAL CHURCH SO PLEASE KNOW THIS AND NO LONGER BE FOOLED. IRS IS NEXT TO DEAL WITH ESD THEY BETTER STOP NOW WHY THEY ARE MARGINALLY UNDER THEIR RADAR!

ESD follower @ September 22, 2011 at [12:25 pm](#)

No surprises here.

My guess is the 'board' (if there really is one) has been run over by the two authors of the letter. This is an angry, wrong-headed, arrogant and ignorant response. My prediction is the Attorney General charitable organizations division will be forced to take the next steps in saving this institution.

Shameful.

FomerESD DadX2 @ September 22, 2011 at [12:27 pm](#)

@ Informed Observer - you are exactly right! [REDACTED]

My two cents worth - I'd appeal for as long as possible. I suspect that the PR damage is already done. How much worse can it get from a PR perspective to pursue vindication? As my kids say - "haters are gonna hate".

sandra @ September 22, 2011 at [12:40 pm](#)

How old is John Eagle? A hundred? What an antiquated archaic mind. This comes from a man that is never told no. Nobody right in the head will apply to send their children to this school. Current students will stay until the others start jumping ship. Pay up and shut up. Accept the resignations of the admin and board and let this nightmare fade away or you may as well chain the doors. This is not the only Episcopal school in Dallas and there are other private schools without this baggage also. Drag this out and see what happens??? Idiocy! What arrogance to think you will win in appeal. You were already slaughtered once. What if the next trial awards 15 million.

Try to settle with the Does and say your prayers ESD.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [12:44 pm](#)

Former ESD Family @, The people at ESD made the right decisions. They may have not handled it perfect but they did the right thing for Jane and the other students and teachers.

The Jury should have been able to hear from other students. They should have also let Swann give his explanation after the surprise witness. ESD must appeal this because the judgement from the jury is tainted. They were not allowed to hear the defense at all. How could the jury understand this situation without hearing from other students and teachers? It is not the jury's fault. Just a very bad judge.

Despite what CarolinaBorn@ says people are really not talking about this accept on this blog. People I have spoken with are very supportive of ESD. They understand what happened and are behind the school. Sure there may be a few that are not (like the Does and their attorneys) but this blog is in no way representative of the ESD community. The Does had their day in court. I think the school deserves the same. APPEAL! BTW, Is there a defense fund for ESD? If there was one I would donate and I am sure others would too. I want ESD to know that people are behind them and understand how they have been wronged here.

amanda @ September 22, 2011 at [12:51 pm](#)

Wait, I have a question. Is ESD claiming that their entire case/appeal hinges on the testimony of a 17 year old girl, former friend, who has already said some

pretty awful things about the victim? On the other side, there is the ever-changing version of “truth” from a priest, principal, academic officer, and teacher...
Hmmm.

Well, in the words of Kenny Rogers, “Know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em, know when to walk away, and know when to run.”

SPORT @ September 22, 2011 at [1:10 pm](#)

Maybe if the next jury has some hispanics, Domingo Garcia can get the gig..... Face it, ESD screwed up making the student leave. That’s what all of the fuss was about, until all of the lies and efforts to cover it all up came to light. Those who blame the judge for not allowing some former teenaged friend to get up and screw the victim over some more, are idiots. The school and its current students will all be fine. They have just had their pride hurt. No big deal compared to what happened to the Doe girl.

It's the Brand, Stupid @ September 22, 2011 at [1:20 pm](#)

The problem with dragging this through Appeals — and the public — is that it’s going to take ESD & Lisa LeMaster YEARS to undo the BAD PR in this whole mess. The ESD brand, if they are not aware of this, is now synonymous with “Sex Scandal.” In fact, every time my husband and I both see those little ESD decals on the back of Lexus SUVs, the topic always comes up. Frankly, keeping it in the news does no one any favors. They may think they’re winning the battle, but they’ve lost the war.

So, when parents are thinking about where to send their sons and daughters over the next DECADE or two, I can guarantee ESD will be the first crossed off the list. Do they want to tell their friends that their kid is starting their pricey academic career going to ESD???? The cache’ is gone, folks.

It’s upfront cost vs. back-end expense. It’s gonna cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to make ESD shiny and new again. Suck it up and settle the darn thing already. Swann, Eagle and others, leave your egos at the door.

Peace @ September 22, 2011 at [1:30 pm](#)

Just the fact that you recognize each other as “A list” people is so shallow. I guess we are all starting to understand that anyone not an “A-lister” at ESD is inconsequential. Is this the legacy you are handing down to your children? How sad for you. Every time they don’t get their way they will throw a tantrum about how unfairly they are being treated. Oh, right – the appeal. It’s funny because even those of us who want to empathize with your community keep getting pushed away by your own words. Sadder yet, you don’t care to understand that. Stop before you become even more of a pariah in the Dallas private school community. We want to believe there are so many good kids and parents at ESD but you sure don’t make it easy. Money, power and influence do not equate to intelligence or morality. Some of you “B”, “C” and “D” listers need to be more of an influence in your own community and end this perception of ESD. Stop accepting everything they are shoveling down your throats, speak up and take your school back from these people.

stupid much?? @ September 22, 2011 at [1:30 pm](#)

Wait, did @Nancy just admit ESD is not perfect? Somebody call hell and see if a cold front set in...

Informed Observer @ September 22, 2011 at [1:40 pm](#)

. Informed Observer @ September 22, 2011 at 11:30 am The Doe family wants to take no responsibility. They want to punish someone to deflect guilt from themselves. This was not a fair trial. The Doe family is angry with a couple of people at ESD and their idea of justice is to punish thousands of innocent people – most of them children, others are loving, faithful parents and the dedicated faculty staff –not to mention the alumni.

. Whoever of you out there who seems to be so “pleased” about this judgment need to look more closely at your own values.

. My Blessings to all of you out there, the ESD family. Please stay strong and faithful.

SUCH VENOM AND UGLINESS OUT THERE IN DALLAS!!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU HATEFUL PEOPLE??????

Wow guys – Must be the heat in TX

wow @ September 22, 2011 at [1:50 pm](#)

Nancy,

People are talking about this all over. I work at another private school and I am getting emails from friends all over the country asking what is going on. This is national news. News I wish was not being told, but told it is.

Informed Observer @ September 22, 2011 at [2:02 pm](#)

I HOPE PEOPLE 'ALL OVER THE COUNTRY' ARE NOT READING THE MALICIOUS AND UGLY VOICES HERE IN NORTH TEXAS - WHAT AN POOR REFLECTION OF HUMANITY THIS IS. CLEARLY NOT 'CHRISTIANS'!

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [2:14 pm](#)

wow@ This isn't even news on the other side of town. LOL National news? I don't know what you have going in your sewing circle but then again who cares. I am actually kind of amazed it even made the Dallas Morning News. But of course they have been trying to focus more on local stuff lately. Where is this national news? You are funny.

Disgusted @ September 22, 2011 at [2:16 pm](#)

@Nancy - your posts have been the most entertaining and ignorant. FYI - the whole entire DALLAS community and beyond is talking about this trial, ESD and you. Only point of difference is that most outside the ESD A-lister families are horrified that this type of mentality exists in our honorable backyard.

amanda @ September 22, 2011 at [2:23 pm](#)

Yep...I'm also getting emails from all over (California, Virginia/DC, NYC, Atlanta, Miami, St. Louis, Denver, and Canada) asking what's going on with this case. None are seeing the validity of the school's position, and are questioning the "Christian" affiliation of the school. (Or, making comments like, "It figures a Christian school would do something like this..." type of comments.)

Everyone has a local scandal, but when @ Carolina Born told us this story had legs, Nancy and others brushed it off. This IS a very BIG story. It's rare to see such a bizarre and cruel response from any organization, much less a "Christian" school. Things people have asked me are about the # of times Swann and other witnesses were called to the stand, and why I thought their stories kept changing. I really don't have a clue about the ESD mindset.

As to hand-wringing over this as "making" us look bad. I think several people in early threads were disgusted by things being said about the Does (and really ridiculous name calling.) And, others responded in kind. ESD looks really bad to a lot of us locally, and completely horrible to everyone else. One friend had to look up "strumpet." I hate to say it, but as far as ESD's "PR" nightmare, ummm, we told you so.

No Dog in the Race @ September 22, 2011 at [2:31 pm](#)

@Informed Observer @ September 22, 2011 at 11:30 am

"The Doe family wants to take no responsibility...want to punish someone to deflect guilt from themselves...their idea of justice is to punish thousands of innocent people - most of them children, others are loving, faithful parents and the dedicated faculty staff -not to mention the alumni."

It doesn't appear to me that the Does' are trying to punish the students et al. The fact that the Does' are suing may be one step in their process of taking responsibility as parents. It appears that no settlement outside of the courts could be reached. Therefore, in order to seek justice for their daughter/family they must use the legal system as it currently exists.

The verdict is the result of ESD Administration decisions. It was those poor decisions that have, unfortunately, hurt the entire ESD Community.

Peace @ September 22, 2011 at [2:33 pm](#)

@ Nancy. They also have this thing called the "world wide web", people from anywhere in the world except maybe China and Iran can access most anything and stay informed. You know, it's that thing Gore invented. As evident by @ Informed Observer referring to the hot weather in Texas. Hmmm, from where I am sitting the high will be 82 and it's cloudy. @ Nancy - quit sticking your head in the sand. These so called "A" listers like you are as sad as these so called "Real Housewives" and "Jersey Shore" reality shows who like you don't know they are joke to the rest of the world. But for the grace of God....

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [2:42 pm](#)

Disgusted@, I have lived in Dallas all my life. I have friends all over this city. People are not talking about this all over. Truth is it only seems to matter to people that care about the school and to the Does and their attorneys. Of course. I am sure if there was to make a buck off it the Does would sell "their" story.

Maybe we will see that made for TV movie after all. But until then this is just a small local issue really and getting smaller everyday. You may think I am dumb but I know what I am talking about here. Maybe people will pay more attention during the Campbell trial.

Crisis PR Person @ September 22, 2011 at [2:43 pm](#)

This is a bad case all the way around. I give credit to Claire and anyone who used their real name in the comments regarding this trial. This is the most divisive issue I've ever encountered, including counseling a Catholic Diocese on settling sex abuse cases. ESD would be foolish to drag this thing out, that simply demonstrates their sinful pride and hubris. Move on. Let the Does move on, let the ESD families move on.

Disinterested @ September 22, 2011 at [2:53 pm](#)

Definitely national. I am in New England, and it is news.

I read the whole blog about the trial, and ESD clearly had/has lax policies and procedures regarding hiring, training and monitoring teachers. Compared with typical policies and procedures in private sector business ESD was/is way behind. But grossly negligent? Or even negligent compared with other private schools in the area? Maybe not, and as I understand it, the jury did not find the school negligent in these areas. All such schools need to step up their game in this regard and I'm sure this verdict will cause them to upgrade, and that is a good thing. This relationship would have been discovered easily with a bit of vigilance. There were thousands of calls and texts.

But what ESD really botched was the forced withdrawal. Now I have trouble with how the withdrawal hurt Jane to the tune of millions, but it hurts me to think how easily this could have been avoided. For that the administrators should be fired. If her presence was such a distraction and too difficult to manage, why not just let her finish the last 4 months of high school at home, with tutoring from the ESD faculty? There, problem solved. Anonymity was no longer the issue, and her academic performance was fine. Expulsion is retaliatory, wrong and fraught with potential liability. Myopia disqualifies these leaders. ESD needs to move on by settling quickly and finding new leaders. They will have much work to do.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [3:29 pm](#)

Hey Crisis PR Person@, What crisis are you handling? LOL.

Are you the Does' answer to John Eagle's letter? HA! The Does should have paid as much for their PR as they did for their greedy attorneys.

So what's the crisis? The Does don't have a check yet? Is that the crisis? LMAO

Former ESD Parent @ September 22, 2011 at [4:00 pm](#)

Well, the verdict is in; now it is time for the work to begin!

"TOP 10 TO-DO LIST"

- 1) Offer Stephen Swann the opportunity to become Headmaster Emeritus and "retire" or, fire him (just like he did to JDII)
- 2) Replace ESD Board of Trustee members who drink Swann's Kool-Aid and happily would wipe his a\$\$ if asked to do so. That includes John Eagle - Be proactive and get started or, maybe we just boycott your car dealerships
- 3) Contact Bill Lively and entice him with the \$1,000,000 Swann salary. He can fundraise better than Swann and not have any baggage.
- 4) Consider replacing Rebecca Royall and Erin Mayo - they are sheepul (people acting like sheep following their shepherd blindly)
- 5) Re-write the Code of Conduct to never expel a student because of the illegal actions of a rogue teacher. Public schools would have to deal with the aftermath and, so should private schools. If the child WANTS to leave, let the family decide.
- 6) Institute immediate annual sexual misconduct in-service training for all teachers and staff. Have teachers sign as a part of their annual contract a release that allows ESD to provide any info in a teacher's personnel file to another school they may be interviewing with after leaving ESD.
- 7) Increase their charitable outreach to low-income/minority students in the Dallas area. Look to Jesuit as an example of reaching out to those in need.

8) Implement new audit policies for expenses incurred by teachers and staff. Campbell received his cell phone bills for school issued phone. Not good policy. Review actual detailed receipts attached to expense reports.

9) Why have Psychologist's from Children's Medical Center on site if you are not going to use them for their professional experience and advice?!

10) Bring in outside resources to assist in crafting new policies and procedures. These resources may be from other private schools administration, parents and/or students.

LA Administrator @ September 22, 2011 at [4:04 pm](#)

@Nancy~ This is absolutely national news. I live in LA and work at a very prestigious school here. I, too, am originally from Dallas and have worked at several schools there as well. I keep tabs on all the NAIS schools and especially ones that I know well. I have followed this trial from day 1 and can honestly say that I have used this as an example of what NOT to do. My Senior Administration Team used this as a case study just last week in the event anything like this were to happen at our school. ESD was wrong in the way they handled the situation. Father Swann, and his team of Administrators who helped orchestrate this should resign and ESD should absolutely negotiate with the Does and pay and be done. There is no PR that Lisa LeMaster's can do that will undo all of the negativity that surrounds ESD at this point. Taking this further on appeal is just going to further tear down the reputation of the school. Do I still think ESD is a great school, yes. But, they very seriously need to clean house and get some new blood in there to re-energize their current faculty, staff and families. This is absolutely necessary for the sustainability of ESD. However, with that said, I wouldn't be surprised if ESD kept Swann and his team, just to try and prove that they have done nothing wrong in their appeal.

Lisa @ September 22, 2011 at [4:14 pm](#)

Wow, Nancy you've gone from rude to vulgar and still all about the money. At least you are predictable.

amanda @ September 22, 2011 at [4:34 pm](#)

@ Nancy- Dallas is a "Top 10 Media Market." People in media, finance, business, marketing, healthcare, H/R, etc. subscribe to all kinds of google alerts. I asked people HOW they know about it. Some from google, some b/c they read all big market newspapers daily, and search for things like PHP if something piques their interest. One person who is a recruiter told me that this is bad for him...in wooing applicants to Dallas, ESD was a private school that was easy to get into, but no one wants to go there anymore. Mind you, I didn't say that...but that IS what is being said.

So, we learn once again, that Nancy is a few bulbs short of a fully lit porch. Good luck with your defense fund, and letter to the DA.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [4:41 pm](#)

Gee Lisa@, you are pretty predictable yourself.

I get that you and the many nameless bloggers here that sound just like plaintiff attorneys want a check and don't want an appeal but guess what. The appeal is coming. All these made up stories about this being some kind of national news are a joke. Can someone point me to a link to this national story? Like I said, people across town aren't even talking about this. Hey and when they are talking they aren't talking about the school they are talking about the Does and about Jane and her affair with Campbell. Just FYI.

Avid Reader @ September 22, 2011 at [4:42 pm](#)

I literally can not go anywhere in town without over hearing conversations about this trial and the verdict. Haven't overheard or talked to a single person that views ESD as anything other than arrogant and inept.

primi timpano @ September 22, 2011 at [4:54 pm](#)

I have no dog in this hunt. I find it incredible so many posters wish to place blame on the rape victim and her parents. For those expecting some kind of redemption from the appeals, you are fooling yourselves. The best you can expect is a retrial. ESD got off easy in that they were not held responsible for Campbell's raping the victim. If there is a new trial it is likely Campbell will have already been convicted of the rape crimes and he will no longer have 5th amendment protections. In a new trial he will take likely take the stand and there is absolutely nothing he can say helpful to ESD. ESD runs the risk his testimony may cause the new jury to revisit ESD's responsibility for his actions. Does anyone know what their policy limits are? I would be concerned about burning

through the policy proceeds with further legal action, leaving few funds available to pay the ultimate judgment.

kinkaidparent @ September 22, 2011 at 5:00 pm

Nancy,

Lot's of people are talking about this. If ESD can't overhaul their administration and board, expect a movement to made to remove ESD from SPC, ISAS and NAIS.

mainzer @ September 22, 2011 at 5:13 pm

@Nancy,

It just seems to you that no one is talking about this trial because they are not talking to you. When a friend or acquaintance goes completely nuts about a topic and rabidly defends an indefensible position, I try to steer clear of that topic in conversation. I suspect that you have let yourself fall into that category.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at 5:21 pm

Really kinkaidparent@? Who? Names please.

I have to disagree that the school can be hurt anymore by this. In fact, the more people know the better the school looks. The jury didn't find the school responsible for Campbell's and Jane's affair.

Avid reader@ I don't know what kind of lawyer circles you run in but you know what people are talking about? They are talking about the towel, the wedding ring, the girl friend. You know what question comes up the most? Where were the parents? How does this talk hurt anyone but the Does? BTW, everyone knows the name isn't Doe.

Reading D Mag in Ohio @ September 22, 2011 at 5:57 pm

@Nancy,

I am in Ohio. I have no connection to your school. Saw the D Magazine story in my newsfeed. (Thanks to the internet, a story does not have to be on national news to get national coverage.) I was aghast that a school could handle this so horribly on every level. Then I followed the link to this story and comment area to see just how vile the comments are. Sounds like the characters from the old "Dallas" TV show are alive and well in Big D.

Reading D Mag in Ohio @ September 22, 2011 at 6:02 pm

@Nancy

A Google search result that you might want to check out.....

[http://news.google.com/news/story?
pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&hl=en&q=episcopal+school+of+dallas&ncl=do0G_pOeuBscdjMtav3_zaOF2ZjvM&cf=all&scoring=d](http://news.google.com/news/story?pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&hl=en&q=episcopal+school+of+dallas&ncl=do0G_pOeuBscdjMtav3_zaOF2ZjvM&cf=all&scoring=d)

wow @ September 22, 2011 at 6:17 pm

<http://www.zimbio.com/J.+Nathan+Campbell/articles/6z3ALcmJiyg/J+Nathan+Campbell+Episcopal+School+Dallas>

wow @ September 22, 2011 at 6:30 pm

http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/ethics/episcopal_school_of_dallas_fou_1.html

<http://www.chron.com/news/article/Teen-who-had-affair-with-teacher-to-get-9-2-2183428.php>

http://lufkindailynews.com/news/state/article_6e1ed479-3c64-5d63-bd14-6a0707f8a31d.html

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Aldous-Law-Firm-Wins-93-prnews-1202004651.html?x=0&v=1>

it is all over the place,,,,,nancy

wow @ September 22, 2011 at [6:37 pm](#)

here are some more.

<http://shine.yahoo.com/channel/parenting/student-justice-teen-wins-9-million-after-school-mishandles-affair-with-teacher-2563974/>

<http://www.wwltv.com/home/92M-to-teen-asked-to-leave-school-over-affair-130351613.html>

and there are more, but I think I have made my point.

sandra @ September 22, 2011 at [6:38 pm](#)

The new TV show, Good Christian Belles, based on the novel about the Dallas HP set, now has a bevy of new material. They can even fire the writers. Nobody can make up this stuff. Just spotted Nancy and Informed Observer at Patrizios commiserating over their 15th Belini.

sandra @ September 22, 2011 at [6:55 pm](#)

@Claire,

is Nancy one of your nom de plumes? He/she certainly must be fictional.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [6:56 pm](#)

Sorry Miss Ohio, Lame. D is not national news. Please. And yeah, you can do a google search and find anything. Duh! Your link is just news service links to the same local story. A story about sex and money, BTW.

Tired of those who support child rapists @ September 22, 2011 at [7:31 pm](#)

While the two sides will never be on the same page as far as the verdict, I think we can all agree, without reservation, that it's long past time for the state mental hospital to revoke Nancy's internet privileges.

@Nancy - FYI - those of us not currently residing in a padded cell are not babbling like a nutcase about a wedding ring, or defending a sex offender as an anointed saint, like you continue to do for reasons beyond my comprehension. When the situation involves sex between a teacher and student and/or an adult and a person under the legal age of consent, it's not an "affair", it's sexual assault. Just because people don't like her, or because he was well-liked, doesn't make it any less a crime, nor does it mean JDII is any less a victim.

And if ESD's entire appeal hinges on the testimony of a 17 or 18-year old girl, who not only turned on but betrayed her best friend, an acknowledged sexual assault victim, and, based on some of the information I read that was attached to one or more of the court filings, said "former friend" was, and still is seeking treatment from a mental health professional, then you and Mr. Eagle are likely to be extremely disappointed in the outcome. People who betray their best friends are considered by those of us who aren't legally insane to be dishonest and unethical. Fair or not, people often judge those in therapy as "damaged goods". Dishonest, unethical, and potentially unstable people don't usually make the most effective witnesses, especially when it comes to disparaging the character of an acknowledged sexual assault victim.

USA @ September 22, 2011 at [7:34 pm](#)

I think @Nancy is actually employed by the plaintiff attorneys' bar in the hopes that jurors would read her inane comments and attribute them to the "typical ESD mindset." She has done a masterful job of acting like a complete ignoramus throughout this entire trial, showing the type of arrogance that even refuses to consider, for a moment, whether there is a modicum of merit to the other side's position. She HAS to be a paid troll for the plaintiffs' attorneys, or it's a sad commentary on the close-minded dolts who supported ESD's handling of this affair in its entirety.

Interested DAD @ September 22, 2011 at [7:58 pm](#)

Nancy

STFU!

primi timpano @ September 22, 2011 at [8:02 pm](#)

@Nancy. Wake up and get real. ESD's facts are terrible no matter which way you look at them. This was a bet the school case--and I mean the whole school, cash, equipment and land--and the school dodged the bullet and was let off for less than 10 million dollars. You may think this number will go down at a new trial, but so far everything you have thought has been wrong and I certainly wouldn't bet against that trend. See what a jury does when Campbell the rapist tells his story chapter and verse. What if he confided with another ESD who failed to report Campbell? What if it turns out Jane Doe was not his only victim? And Swan and the rest of the administration, Mayo and Royall included, better not be there as ESD employees; I can guarantee you one of the questions at retrial will be "What have you done to punish the wrongdoers and to prevent this from happening since the last trial?"

Just because you wish it doesn't make it so. If you wish to keep your school sit down and settle.

Donatella @ September 22, 2011 at [9:31 pm](#)

@Nancy--I'm not in TX but I found the story and told friends here that were riveted to the recaps of the trial. My nieces and nephew go to an Episcopal school in another southern state-- she was following the case and passed along the php website to the administration at her school. Again a case study in what not to do.

Former ESD Mother @ September 22, 2011 at [10:04 pm](#)

Nancy: In today's world something need only be on the internet for it to be international news. Get in the 21st century. Not sure what you are thinking. Waiting for a spot on GMA or the Today Show or 20/20. Well, I wouldn't be surprised. This story is only now, with the verdict, starting to truly make the rounds. Nothing would surprise me regarding news coverage at this point. People are truly impassioned about this. And you are inspiring the passion.

Nancy @ September 22, 2011 at [10:50 pm](#)

Donatella@ I don't care if you claim to be in Italy and you claim this story has gone half way around the world. I am not buying it. Oh and you guys are starting to look pretty silly claiming to be from all over the place. Do you really think you are fooling anyone? Really? Really? I have been following this story for a while and I get it OK and get what is going on. The plaintiff attorneys want a settlement and the Does want a check. And you guys are pretty much willing to say and do anything to get it. Pretty sad really.

Interested Dad@ Thanks for your encouragement. It keeps me coming back for more. 😊 XXOO

Anna @ September 23, 2011 at [2:35 am](#)

I have been following the entirety of this trial from Scotland. this is the first time i've commented. I've found the reportage informative and the situation is beyond the pale.

@Nancy - this is not just national news. this is international news. This may not make you happy, but this goes way beyond a small community in Dallas. This will forever be a case study of what not to do in the christian/independent education community. I know i'll be using it to train colleagues and staff.

btxps @ September 23, 2011 at [2:36 am](#)

@Nancy,
ESD has demonstrated that parents and leaders can create an insulated self centered school, Of the schools in North Dallas it has clearly demonstrated "Money Talks" is the school motto and parent cry.

FormerDallas @ September 23, 2011 at [3:42 am](#)

I used to live in Dallas and was on the faculty of two independent schools while I was there over a period of many years. I now teach at an independent school in another part of the country. I was certainly aware of ESD's reputation and have known many wonderful families who have sent their children there. ESD is a fine community, and all I can say is that they are better than this. Father Swann and other senior administration involved in the aftermath should resign or be made to resign. Appealing this decision does nothing to substantiate their case or to rebuild their now tarnished reputation.

Throughout my time as a faculty at independent schools, I have been required to attend training many times on sexual misconduct. What I have seen over the years in that training was represented to a tee by the perpetrator at ESD. The firing of the faculty member in an expeditions manner was absolutely the right thing to do. What is so unique in this case is the negligence on the part of ESD's senior administration in the aftermath. That is not something that is ever brought up in the training. Had Swann and others involved in this situation always erred on the side of the welfare of the student rather than attempting to

preserve Swann's ego and his inept decision making skills, none of us would be talking about this today. Sad.

I have to say that I am stunned that any parent would ever defend the actions of ESD's senior officials at any point during this case, including the chairman John Eagle. His letter to parents following the verdict represented how out of touch he is with issues regarding sexual misconduct, and was quite frankly arrogant. Sexual abuse of minors is sexual abuse, period. This student will carry this episode with her for life. No amount of money will ever really correct that. The school should have done everything within its power to help provide a safe place for her to complete her studies. Indeed, sometimes true leadership is not a pretty or easy task, but that was what was required, and it was gravely lacking here. What might begin the process of reconciliation is an apology from ESD officials to the community as a whole. There were a great many people who had nothing to do with this case—students, parents, faculty, and staff. They were victims too—parents who just wanted their children to receive a quality education, students who wanted to get into a great college, and honest, trusting faculty and staff who just wanted to help them. They should not have to pay the price for a few administrators who wanted to preserve their hugely inflated egos.

ESD should stop trying to appeal, but rather work to acknowledge its fault before it will have to cough up further legal fees, thereby jeopardizing the sustainability of the school. Also it needs to move on to a new PR message before shows like 60 Minutes, Dateline, or 20/20 get a hold of this story and begin pumping it out to the rest of the country.

Avid Reader @ September 23, 2011 at [9:33 am](#)

@Interested Dad,

No reason to be vulgar to Nancy.

Our entire office Friday morning meeting was devoted to a 20 minute discussion of the trial/verdict. Two ESD parents included and not a single positive comment about ESD. The two ESD parents were the most outspoken about how poorly ESD handled the situation. One of them even said he was at ESD open house last night and flat out asked them (semi-jokingly) if he was going to get a discount on tuition next go-round due to ESD's hopeful future administrator cutback.

Hunt, Risch to be 2012 Silver Cup Recipients | Park Cities People @ October 6, 2011 at [1:36 pm](#)

[...] came last night at the home of Jennifer and John Eagle (ESD's board chairman, as noted in another story altogether). .nrelate .nr_sponsored{ left:0px !important; } // By Georgia Fisher Oct. 6, 2011 | [...]
