

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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# PRESTON HOLLOW PEOPLE

## ESD Trial, Day 9 UPDATED

Although Father Stephen Swann has been examined and cross-examined, it's my understanding he'll take the stand once again for the plaintiffs' rebuttal. This is where the Former Student, who may testify as well today, could come into play.

Obviously, there's still a lot of speculation as to what will or will not happen with regard to questions about that whole situation. I can tell you that the Former Student has her own legal representation.

Side notes: A commenter asked where the trial is being held specifically. It's in courtroom County Law No. 1, located on the fifth floor of 600 Commerce Street (George Allen Building).

After having his Aug. 4 court date rescheduled, J. Nathan Campbell has a criminal hearing on Thursday.

Updates after the jump.

#### **UPDATE 1:40 p.m.**

I've been busy writing the print version of this story for Friday's edition of Preston Hollow People. I have to be back in court in 10 minutes, so there isn't much time for updates, but here's a start.

#### **11:40 a.m.**

Swann takes the stand, clerical collar affixed, and Charla Aldous begins questioning him about ESD's 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

#### **11:50 a.m.**

Aldous asks Swann if there have been any other allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct between an ESD coach that got "swept under the rug."

Swann shakes his head no.

Aldous then asks specifically about a teacher or an employee, Swann continues to say no.

#### **Noon**

Aldous shows an March 2, 2010 email from Erin Mayo to Swann about Jane Doe II's sister, who also graduated from ESD, attending an alumni board meeting. It reads:

"[Jane Doe II's sister] attended this evening's board meeting in her capacity as a class agent. Sara [Campbell] said she didn't say or do anything inappropriate, but I thought you should be aware of her presence.

Poor Sara."

In reponse, Swann says, "I can't speak for Erin, but my feeling was that I was proud [Jane Doe II's sister] was there and participating," Swann says.

The sister mentioned in the email is present in the courtroom today, seated with her parents.

#### **12:05 p.m.**

Aldous asks if it was true that ESD wouldn't even let Jane Doe II back on campus to clean out her locker.

"That was a mistake," Swann says.

Lunch recess until 2 p.m.

**2:25 p.m.**

Bishop James Stanton of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas testifies by video deposition. He says he would have expected a different response regarding the decision to expel Jane Doe II and the manner in which it was carried out. He says the request by John Doe to have a day to decide whether or not to withdraw his daughter was “reasonable.”

“In my pastoral experience, people in crisis situations do not make good judgements,” Stanton says.

**2:40 p.m.**

Aldous asks Stanton what he thinks of the decision to bring money (tuition reimbursement) into the decision-making process of expelling Jane Doe II.

“I find that inexplicable,” he says.

Recess until 3:15 p.m.

**3:15 p.m.**

Chief academic officer Rebecca Royall takes the stand. Aldous asks her if the first time Royall met Jane Doe II was on or after Nov. 30, 2009, when JDII and Campbell were found by the Farmer’s Branch police department in an ESD suburban together. She says yes.

**3:30 p.m.**

Royall won’t call teachers speculating on reasons for Campbell’s exit from the school “gossip.”

“I would say they were talking inappropriately,” she says.

**3:45 p.m.**

Royall says she was the only one present when Campbell gave his letter of resignation on Dec. 1, 2009. He had previously told Royall nothing inappropriate had occurred. She said (in the meeting), “If something happened other than what you told me, slide the envelope to me,” and he did so.

“When he slid that paper over, you knew he had done something very wrong, did you not?” Aldous asks.

“Yes,” Royall says.

**3:50 p.m.**

Royall confirms that before Campbell left campus on Dec. 1, 2009, he told then-CFO Chris Burrow that he had engaged in a sexual relationship with Jane Doe II. Burrow has since been placed on administrative leave.

**4 p.m.**

Regarding rumors, Aldous asks if Jane Doe II should have been questioned about the statements she supposedly made to other students before being expelled.

“That would’ve been one way we could have handled it,” Royall says.

The way you should have handled it? Aldous asks.

“No,” Royall says.

Recess 4:25 to 4:45 p.m.

**4: 45 p.m.**

Aldous asks Royall about separation vs expulsion. Royall says there is a difference because separation from ESD wouldn’t be on a student’s transcript but expulsion would.

“Is it your testimony that you never intended to expel Jane Doe II, even if her father didn’t sign,” Aldous asks.

“If he didn’t sign, I would’ve gone back to Father Swann,” Royall says.

Reading from Royall’s deposition, Aldous shows that the intent was to separate Jane Doe II if her parents did not voluntarily withdraw her. She would not have been expelled, as her father was told.

“We never intended it to go on her record,” Royall says.

“Then why did you tell her father you would expel her?” Aldous asks.

“I’m not sure,” Royall says.

**5 p.m.**

Aldous asks Royall if she knows what the definition of fraud is.

“I think you’re about to tell me,” Royall says as Aldous is thumbing through a dictionary.

After Aldous reads the definition, Royall says she did not think she was committing fraud when she and Mayo told Mr. Doe that his daughter would be expelled if he didn’t withdraw her, which was not true.

“Your intent was for Mr. Doe to believe the claims you made, was it not?”

“Yes,” Royall says.

**5:15 p.m.**

Return to comments Campbell wrote on Jane Doe II’s report card. Royall says she doesn’t like the statement that Jane Doe II “was certainly like a dog with a bone this quarter.” She also says the “late-night email” comment would have been a “red flag” to her if she were the one reviewing the report cards.

Campbell’s officemate, another male teacher, was Jane Doe II’s advisor and the one who was assigned to read her report cards.

**5:30 p.m.**

Court is in recess until Monday.

  3 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

By [Claire St. Amant](#) Aug. 9, 2011 | 9:13 am | [70 Comments](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

70 comments to "ESD Trial, Day 9 UPDATED"

**Trial Watcher** @ August 9, 2011 at [10:21 am](#)

Who is FS’ lawyer? Is another suit in the wings?

This person’s coming forward is likely due to your good reporting. Keep up the fine work. You may end up being the reporter who breaks the ‘catholic church scandal’ type story at ESD.

**Curious** @ August 9, 2011 at [10:58 am](#)

Claire, will anyone be blogging from J. Nathan Campbell’s criminal trial?

**episcopal parent** @ August 9, 2011 at [11:11 am](#)

**The issue in the case is not what happened when Doe 2 was 16 and 17, the issues is what did the school officials do when it became public.** Aldous is arguing that ESD abandoned and damaged the child in the way she was dismissed from the school. ESD is arguing that, though painful, the separation was in Doe II’s best interest and enabled her to attend her dream school.

It is interesting that ESD dismissed Doe II while she was on a college visit to her dream school, and left the family with the options of home schooling or enrolling at a public school. Doe II was dismissed just weeks after the sexual relationship became public (there was a nearly 4 week Christmas break in between when the relationship became public and she was dismissed). So, ESD really cared nothing about her “dream school” when they dismissed her and gave her father the well documented ultimatum that included “no door number three”. So, if ESD cared not at all about Doe II and her “dream school” aspirations, who did?

The only “good guy” at ESD in the “sad story” was Doe II’s coach who jumped in a saved the “dream school” opportunity for Doe II. ESD had nothing to do with this, and in fact discouraged the coach from reaching out to and helping Doe II after she was cast adrift. If it was not for her coach, Doe II would not be at her dream school, and she would not have been able to play sports her junior and senior years. Where would this case and Doe II be if her coach had not acted so selflessly?

The stuff ESD filed yesterday is fascinating — they effectively acknowledge that “FS” was also preyed upon by an ESD instructor — but claim “no harm, no foul” since it was a long time ago.

Now, every time ESD does something, I hear Antoine Dodson ringing in my ears.

**Trial Watcher Too** @ August 9, 2011 at [11:29 am](#)

Former Student is just an attempt by plaintiff's to ambush ESD and try to prejudice jury. Nothing of any consequence happened to her.

**Atticus** @ August 9, 2011 at [11:50 am](#)

I doubt another suit is in the works. Didn't FS's case happen (I think I read somewhere) in or around 2000? Statute of limitations would have long-since run on any claims against ESD.

**marie anderson** @ August 9, 2011 at [12:13 pm](#)

This trial is a colossal waste of time, energy and money. What should be a simple trial has turned into a three-ring circus, and not because of what Atticus calls ESD's “hubris.” The blame is entirely at the feet of the one who should be running the courtroom and the trial – Judge Benson. From the beginning of this lawsuit, she has proven herself to be incompetent – refusing to make rulings on motions, refusing to make a scheduling order, making incorrect decisions on the law, and unable to control the outbursts of Ms. Aldous. All of these things that are being discussed outside the hearing of the jury should have and could have been resolved before trial. Charla Aldous shares some of the blame as well. She is fishing for information, all of which should have occurred during discovery. As she continues to get nowhere in her lines of questioning, she is throwing more and more junk out there if any of it will stick – the sign of someone desperate.

The real shame in all of this is that the jurors have been away from their lives for two and a half weeks at this point, and they still haven't heard the plaintiffs' story. The judge and Ms. Aldous are being completely disrespectful of their time, and that is the tragedy of how they view the justice system.

**marie anderson** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:27 pm](#)

I find it interesting that Aldous is more interested in dragging up things that may or may not have happened 20 years ago than focusing on what happened to her client. I find it incredible that we are two and a half weeks into this mess, and we still haven't heard from the Does. I think this goes to prove the old adage that if the facts aren't in your favor, smear the other side.

**Trial Watcher** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:54 pm](#)

What has happened today? Let us know if the clerical collar constricts involuntarily when he tells another whopper.

**karen ginsberg** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:56 pm](#)

Where can I go online to read the actual trial transcript?

**parent of 2 teens** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:57 pm](#)

Atticus – see below for the link to trial documents and enter case # cc1003251a to review all motions in the trial.

I don't know the Doe Family and my kids don't attend ESD but do attend another private school. I'm an interested bystander and appreciate your candor about the trial.

Atticus @ August 9, 2011 at 10:58 am

Skeptical, Claire, if copies of the motions and pleadings in question (all of which are available from Judge Benson's clerk) are supplied, I'd be happy to comment on them for you and explain the legal basis.

[http://www.dallascounty.org/public\\_access.php](http://www.dallascounty.org/public_access.php)

**karen ginsberg** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:58 pm](#)

Where can I read the full transcript on line?

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**Atticus** @ August 9, 2011 at [1:59 pm](#)

Ms. Anderson, if you read my prior posts, I said exactly the same thing about matters being resolved before trial, including the IRS detour that had no relevance to anything before the jury. But the right objections weren't made to a lot of what Charla is trying to get in. It is relevance and prejudice versus probative value, not "hearsay."

My point on the "hubris" front was Father Swann's testimony that he would have done things exactly the same way if he had them to do all over again. It did not come across well.

And how does Judge Benson refusing to rule on pre-trial motions and letting everything come in before the jury surprise anyone who has practiced in the Dallas courts? ESD chose, it appears to me in my outsider's opinion, to assemble a trial team that they thought would have an influence on the judge instead of focusing on lawyers who can influence the jury.

Charla is fishing. But if she can get away with it, and it helps her case, that is her job. County Court at Law No. 1 is the legal equivalent of the People's Court. If you're ESD and you decide to take this case to trial, you should know that, and you should be prepared for it.

I say this with no disrespect intended for any of ESD's current trial team, all of whom are probably very good in different types of practice. They just haven't appeared to be effective in countering Aldous's tactics, at least from my perspective. Who knows, they might pull it off anyway.

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**parent of 2 teens** @ August 9, 2011 at [2:30 pm](#)

Atticus

Is there a way to get the Does names into the motions that is legal by bringing in FS testimony or the 501(c)(3) status of ESD?

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**Atticus** @ August 9, 2011 at [3:41 pm](#)

If you look at the latest filings by ESD, they actually identify the Does by name (the parents, not the daughter). I don't think ESD is trying to get the Does names into the record—at trial, they are using the names of the daughter and the parents in open court. Referring to the student as "Jane Doe" in the pleadings is simply a way to protect the identity of a minor and sexual assault victim from disclosure in the public record.

The 501(c)(3) status is an issue in this case because there is a cap on damages for a charitable institution—meaning that there is a limit to the amount the plaintiffs can recover from ESD in the event they prevail. But that is a legal issue that has no relevance to any issue before the jury, which is why I couldn't understand it being discussed in front of the jury yesterday.

As to the FS testimony, it is an attempt by Charla Aldous to demonstrate that ESD is not the safe environment that it represents because this has happened before to another student. She will also argue that the school should have learned from that episode, and so their subsequent efforts to train and supervise their teachers on the subject of relationships with their students were especially negligent. Normally, this type of testimony about a prior incident is kept from the jury unless it is sufficiently similar and frequent and is probative of a fact at issue, i.e. proper training, safe environment. Charla will argue that Father Swann "opened the door" for this type of testimony by claiming on the stand that this sort of thing has never happened before. Charla baited him into it, so she probably shouldn't get to introduce it (it was too long ago, not sufficiently related, not similar enough, etc.). But I will bet that Judge Benson allows the testimony.

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**JS** @ August 9, 2011 at [5:33 pm](#)

For those of you critical of the Judge's performance, here's all you need to know from the recent Dallas Bar Judiciary poll –

[https://www2.dallasbar.org/judiciary/poll\\_2011.asp](https://www2.dallasbar.org/judiciary/poll_2011.asp)

D'Metria Benson – COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGES

Total Respondents: 379

Is this judge prepared for hearings and trial?

% of Votes

Excellent 9%

Acceptable 13%

Needs Improvement 75%

No Opinion 3%

# of Responses 369

Does this judge issue opinions and orders without unnecessary delay?

% of Votes

Excellent 10%

Acceptable 13%

Needs Improvement 73%

No Opinion 4%

# of Responses 365

Is this judge impartial?

% of Votes

Excellent 10%

Acceptable 12%

Needs Improvement 74%

No Opinion 3%

# of Responses 364

Does this judge demonstrate adequate knowledge of the law?

% of Votes

Excellent 7%

Acceptable 8%

Needs Improvement 83%

No Opinion 1%

# of Responses 362

Does this judge demonstrate a proper judicial temperament and demeanor?

% of Votes

Excellent 8%

Acceptable 15%

Needs Improvement 74%

No Opinion 2%

# of Responses 363

Do you approve of this judge's overall performance?

% of Votes

Excellent 7%

Acceptable 7%

Needs Improvement 84%

No Opinion 1%

# of Responses 365

At best, only 23% of the lawyers responding to the poll thought she was "excellent" or "acceptable" in any way. Between 73–84% of lawyers responding to the poll said she needed improvement in every single category.

**law student** @ August 9, 2011 at [5:39 pm](#)

@Karen Ginsberg – the transcript is not available but many of the pleadings and depositions are available at:

[http://www.dallascounty.org/public\\_access.php](http://www.dallascounty.org/public_access.php) (you need to type in the case number: cc1003251a)

**marie anderson** @ August 9, 2011 at [9:32 pm](#)

To episcopal parent – Contrary to your post, my understanding from the sports community at ESD is that ESD told Doe's coach to do everything in her power to help Doe get into her dream school, which she did. My understanding also is that the REAL reason the Does were so upset about JD11 being separated from the school is because it would disrupt and potentially harm her ability to play sports during that all important junior year.

And thank you, JS, for confirming with data what everyone knows about Judge Benson's inability to manage her courtroom.

**EDS is being framed!** @ August 10, 2011 at [8:59 am](#)

Aldous is a typical plaintiff's attorney supported wholeheartedly by the Democratic party. She has turned this into a 3 ring circus because she wants her 50% take. It is all about the cash. And they are making up lies about my school so that they can get their grubby paws on all that money! Pathetic.

**ESD is being framed!** @ August 10, 2011 at [9:00 am](#)

ESD not EDS...

**Avid Reader** @ August 10, 2011 at [10:10 am](#)

@EDS/ESD is being framed!

Don't be silly, they are not being framed. Pretty sure it is well established that an ESD teacher statutorily raped a minor in his care. Also, this is not about politics, save that nonsense for another thread.

**Trial Watcher** @ August 10, 2011 at [10:40 am](#)

Without being too specific to avoid compromising privacy, the ESD "contribution" toward helping this young lady into her dream school is grossly overstated. She apparently transferred to a well-known high school and was nationally ranked by several publications in her chosen sport.

I don't have a dog in this fight at all (REALLY!) But, the callous disregard shown towards this child is shocking. Which portions of the school's treatment of this young woman can supporters point to as appropriate?

**AnotherSchoolMom** @ August 10, 2011 at [11:24 am](#)

ESD should be ashamed about how this entire situation has been handled. There was NO compassion shown for this young lady and there certainly doesn't appear to be any respect for those in the ESD community. If I had a child there, I would look elsewhere for his/her education.

**EagleParent** @ August 10, 2011 at [12:35 pm](#)

@Another School Mom – Wait until ESD has it's turn in court. You might change your thinking. Read the blogs from ESD parents. No one is leaving the school because of the way this girl was treated.

**Questioning** @ August 10, 2011 at [12:41 pm](#)

I have to ask where is the board of trustees on all this? Does the board support how Swann handles this situation?

Seems like ESD is going to need major image rehabilitation after this is over.

Also, I heard the school has had the same board chair for more than a decade. Is that true? If so, how is that good governance?

**AnotherSchoolMom** @ August 10, 2011 at [1:14 pm](#)

I'm certainly not questioning how devoted the ESD parents are that have been posting. My observation is that there appears to be a lack of communion from the school to the entire ESD community and "sweeping this little incident under the rug" mentality by the school's leadership.

**Former ESD Mother** @ August 10, 2011 at [1:35 pm](#)

I can't believe the court is in recess until Monday. At this rate it will be December before the trial is finished. I wonder if the jury knew there would be all of these recesses. And how will they remember the details when they are deliberating. Plus you lose the flow.

I too have heard from those in the judicial/legal community that Judge Benson "needs improvement" to put it nicely. Unfortunately she is the Judge, and I don't know if there is anything that can be done about that. Even more unfortunately she is far from the only Judge that "needs improvement". The election of Judges has lead to some very poor choices. The system needs to be changed, but that is for another blog.

**mrsz1ppy @ August 10, 2011 at [1:38 pm](#)**

It seems the reason for the separation of Jane Doe II from ESD stems from an inability on the school's part to stop her from being bullied. It is a good thing that this is the topic the administration is choosing to focus on for the upcoming school year. I have knowledge of another student who was physically assaulted by fellow students, and the administration told the bullies to not discuss the matter with the child, who was punched in the stomach, or his parents. Fortunately, the parents overrode the administration and talked the matter out, apologies given and received, but that was accomplished despite the administration.

**sickofthis @ August 10, 2011 at [3:18 pm](#)**

Okay, I can't take it any longer! This trial is NOT about that fact that Campbell and Jane Doe had an inappropriate relationship. They did - that fact is not being disputed. This trial is about how ESD separated her from the school and supposedly didn't keep her safe. My primary comment to this whole mess is:

1. WHERE WERE HER PARENTS?
2. Why were they not aware that she was spending her free time with Campbell and keep her SAFE from him? (even though apparently their older daughter had evidence that something was going on)
3. Why did they choose to not immediately take her out of school once the whole thing came to light? She was clearly hurting, she was being made fun of, and she was doing some bullying/intimidation of her own.
4. Do we value an athletic scholarship more than our daughter's well-being?
5. As parents, do we not understand that bad stuff happens and how we react to it helps our kids get through it?

Why a parent would not act immediately is fascinating. They left her there because they thought it would be okay - really? and then when the school said this situation is too disruptive to the rest of the upper school - it suddenly becomes a bad place, and one that requires a \$10 million lawsuit. Did ESD handle every single thing perfectly - clearly not, and I am not trying to defend ESD. This is a case of parents who had no idea what their daughter was up to...they want someone to blame, and evidently they want a wad of cash to make themselves feel better.

**trial watcher 2 @ August 10, 2011 at [3:29 pm](#)**

there's A LOT of history to ESD. 1) Father Swann was the chaplain at the St Michael school and he started adding grades and then it became ESD - some were mad about how he handled that. They think he took it from St. Michaels or something(I wonder what Bishop Stanton thought of that) 2)Rebecca Royall was a teacher and moved up through the ranks to be right-hand woman 3) the chairman of the board is a very nice man and well-known in the community AND a very good friend of Father Swann - I seriously doubt that he would EVER ask Father Swann to step down4) Erin Mayo has an education background and comes from the East Coast - was she a victim of group think? who knows?

There was no one to step in and say, "guys, come on! Let's think through this." It just looks so bad when you have to blame anti-anxiety medicine on your "memory loss" and botched policy.

**Another Trial Watcher @ August 10, 2011 at [3:31 pm](#)**

In regards to a previous post, and with all due respect, I truly am waiting to hear the EDS side of the story. I have read the motions and pleadings online and sure did not see it there.

I pray it will not be some politely worded variant of " she was asking for it", "she knew what she was doing", "SHE pursued HIM", "she was mature beyond her years", " she deserved it because of the way she was acting", or the like. If anyone has any inkling of what the ESD "side" might be we would love to hear it.

I have know idea whether Judge Benson is a good judge or not. Apparently, many Dallas Bar members do not think she is. However, for the life of me, I cannot fathom what this has to do with the school, among other things:

1. Apparently prevaricating about whether or not it is affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

2. Showing more concern for an admitted sexual deviant than a 16 year-old sexual assault victim.
3. Admittedly forcing the parents, in what even the Bishop said was an inappropriate way, to get the girl out of the school with no notice.
4. Employing administrators who could be so cold-hearted as not to see the wrongness of such things as the "sad little face in my halls" comment Ms St. Amant has so diligently reported.

I would have to speculate there is some provisions in the school's liability insurance policy which requires them to cooperate with the legal defense or risk losing coverage. I get that, and understand that could explain why the school just can't come out now during the trial admit how badly they messed things up. However, this does not explain or justify the things it did and the attitudes it had and the things it said as all of the underlying situation was unfolding.

**trial watcher 2** @ August 10, 2011 at [4:02 pm](#)

@all the teenagers posting - I am sorry some of you lack the ability to feel empathy. Some time in your life, your mom or dad, sister or brother, aunt, uncle, YOU, or your kids will suffer from emotional problems or depression. They will take a drug, drink too much, have a relationship with the wrong person, divorce, or do something to embarrass the family. Maybe then you will understand this sad story!

**eagle-eyed** @ August 10, 2011 at [4:48 pm](#)

I'd like to hear a logical response to this question:

What makes you think ESD tried to cover up the sex scandal via Jane Doe II's departure?

By forcing her to withdraw, they actually made it even more obvious that she was the one responsible. Forcing her to withdraw or not, either way, there would have been no difference in the amount of gossip and spreading of this news.

It was in her best interest to leave. The environment was not good for her anymore and she was causing problems with her inappropriate behavior toward other students (and Sara Campbell.)

**Skeptical** @ August 10, 2011 at [4:49 pm](#)

I wonder if there is any record of whether Cambell groomed the parents as well. I read some testimony about abuse by priests. The families thought the priests were good guys and allowed them lenient access to the victims, thinking the victims were safe with "the responsible adult".

**parent of 2 teens** @ August 10, 2011 at [5:30 pm](#)

trial watcher 2

Great post! I hope some of the teenagers will take your advice. Hopefully they will also seek help in the language/communication department as well.

**Wondering** @ August 10, 2011 at [6:21 pm](#)

Claire,  
Why is the CFO on administrative leave? Is he culpable in any way?

**amanda** @ August 10, 2011 at [6:32 pm](#)

I'm horrified by the comments of those claiming to be ESD supporters and/or students. If true, it makes the school, administration, and ESD families appear to be a cesspool of some seriously cold-hearted people. I know that isn't everyone at ESD, but is certainly a vocal majority on this blog.

I'm also stunned to see the parents blamed...as a mom? I think my husband and I would have been shocked and really not sure "what to do." They may have been weighing all of the options. I'm sure that after having what, 3 or 4 siblings graduate from ESD, they couldn't imagine the school not acting to support/help them or their daughter. I don't think the parents are to blame for the girl's actions...the school employed a PREDATOR. I'm sure the parents are living with a deep sense of regret and have been shaken to their very core over this. If anything, I feel that they were at least trying to wade through a quagmire of emotions to preserve their daughter's athletic hopes in the future. To me, that shows they had her best interest at heart. If ESD is a Christian school, part of that should be forgiveness, and the ability to love a sinner but not the sin.

**holland** @ August 10, 2011 at [6:45 pm](#)

There are 16 year old girls and 23 year old trollops posing as 16 year old girls. This "victim" falls into the latter category. No doubt this will come out when ESD's attorneys get to rip into this person just as the plaintiffs attorneys have had their way with father Swann.

**Questioning** @ August 10, 2011 at [7:31 pm](#)

Has anyone checked with ESD's accrediting body ,the Independent School Association of the Southwest, to see if the school is in compliance with ISAS standards with regard to board governance? I cannot believe the board chair does not have term limits.

**marie anderson** @ August 10, 2011 at [10:19 pm](#)

@Sickof this: Your point # 5 is spot on! One can choose to be a victim or choose to be a creator – it is all in how one reacts to the bad things that happen in one's life. Nathan Campbell was certainly wrong in carrying on this relationship with his student – don't get me wrong on that. But the parents share at least half the blame for ignoring what was going on. It seems like the Doe parents would rather wallow in their victimhood rather than learn something from the situation, accept one's responsibility for what happened (WHERE WERE THE PARENTS INDEED?), accept the consequences, forgive and move forward. Bad things happen in life and you are not entitled to ten million dollars because they do.

**Concerned Citizen** @ August 11, 2011 at [12:50 am](#)

Charla Aldous to the rescue! Isn't it great to know we have such a great attorney, woman and fellow mother to step up and do what is right for this young lady (and the other young lady) WHEN OBVIOUSLY ESD DID NOT?!

I think it is wonderful. Ms. Aldous, you are a Godsend!

Now sic 'em!

**Claire St. Amant** @ August 11, 2011 at [8:40 am](#)

@Wondering, That's what administrative leave communicates to me.

Burrow is listed as one of the definite witnesses for the plaintiffs so we should get a better idea of his role when he takes the stand.

**ESD Parent** @ August 11, 2011 at [9:28 am](#)

Obviously the way the administration has handled this episode (and perhaps others) has not been good for the school. I would suggest it is time for the board to step to clean it up.

As a parent community, we certainly have not been kept informed. I for one am chagrined and frustrated to find out all this out by reading a media blog. I am embarrassed by the testimony of Father Swann and Rebecca Royall and Erin Mayo.

I need my board of trustees to do something decisive to restore my confidence in the school. Any other parents feel the way I do?

**Avid Reader** @ August 11, 2011 at [10:07 am](#)

@eagle-eyed,

"What makes you think ESD tried to cover up the sex scandal via Jane Doe II's departure? By forcing her to withdraw, they actually made it even more obvious that she was the one responsible."

Covering it up is a stretch, but they definitely tried to just make it go away by kicking her out and not dealing with the issue head on. Your second line there trying to rationalize that they did not try to cover it up because kicking her out caused more commotion is silly because that supposes that ESD actually thought through what they were doing.

**ESD student** @ August 11, 2011 at [10:14 am](#)

As an actual ESD student, this trial is appalling to me.

You all act like you know everything about ESD when you clearly don't.

This lawsuit isn't doing anybody any good (besides the Does who are clearly just in it for more money). The only thing its doing is hurting me and my classmates education. ESD is an amazing school that is unfortunately is having all of its dirty laundry aired at the same time. I'm sure all schools have secrets like ESD's that they would rather not get out.

To the Does: please don't do this. This isn't fair to all of the students who love ESD and work exceptionally hard to succeed there. Pulling your daughter out was meant to protect me and my peers from other disruptions. Taking my money isn't the way to fix your daughter.

**eagle-eyed** @ August 11, 2011 at [10:25 am](#)

@Wondering: If you read the court documents online, you will find that the CFO, according to the plaintiffs, tried to convince Nathan Campbell to lie under oath in exchange for somehow getting a favorable outcome in his criminal trial. (Nathan taped the conversation.) Well, the school promptly put him on admin leave. By the way, administrative leave at ESD means good-bye. No one on it has ever returned.

**Daniel** @ August 11, 2011 at [10:53 am](#)

@holland

What? She was 23?? What in Hell are you talking about?

As others have pointed out, the sexual assault itself is not in dispute. Maybe ESD has no legal liability here, maybe it does. But it did not behave in good faith or with the pedagogical concern that would behoove their (wannabe-august) institution. Rather, that they care more about their public image than about their students has been laid shamefully bare by this episode.

Kool Aid, my child. It is not healthy for teenagers or other living things.

**Kikko452** @ August 11, 2011 at [12:29 pm](#)

Who are the current trustees?

**marie anderson** @ August 11, 2011 at [1:04 pm](#)

The current board members are all volunteers, dedicated and hardworking men and women serving their community. Many of them spend untold hours working on behalf of the school.

Is Charla now seeking to smear the Board as well? That would be typical of her scorched earth tactics - when the facts aren't on your side, smear and harass everyone around you.

**Another ESD parent** @ August 11, 2011 at [2:39 pm](#)

To ESD parent:

No, I don't feel the way you do. I agree that what Nathan Campbell did was wrong. I agree the school could have handled some things a little better. It is easy to sit on the sidelines and judge decisions after the fact. The school obviously can't issue statements to the parent community because they are mired in a lawsuit. Furthermore, the school's side of the story hasn't even come out yet; all we are hearing is the plaintiff's version of things.

Father Swann is a good man with a passion and vision for ESD. The Apostle Paul teaches us that we have different gifts according to the grace given us. It would be difficult for one person to embody all the gifts, and it is up to each of us to identify our gifts and use them in God's service. Father Swann's gift is his passion for educating young people. He doesn't have to be a great speaker or a great pastor to run a school or to be a good man, and he IS a good man. He surrounds himself with other people who have other gifts to share with the ESD community.

I choose to focus on the thousands of students that ESD has educated, nurtured and prepared for excellent colleges and productive lives over the years. I choose to focus on the hundreds of caring faculty members who devote their lives to our children, not only teachers, but administrators and facilities members as well. Name me one organization that has never had a problem - every family, church, school and business has some skeletons in the closet that if brought to light would be embarrassing. The good at ESD vastly outweighs the bad!

Finally, the Board has a fiduciary duty to the school. This means it must act in the overall interest of the school and its students, not in any one student's

interest to the exclusion of others. This can be a tricky balancing act, as we have all seen here. We do not have all the facts, and I trust that those who do are acting appropriately.

ESD will weather this storm.

**Trial Watcher** @ August 11, 2011 at [3:39 pm](#)

But Ms. Anderson,  
who are they?

do they know the evidence that has already come out in the trial?

do they know that the Rev. was apparently caught in such a fabrication he ran out of the courtroom and the next day showed up with his 'collar' on?

**amanda** @ August 11, 2011 at [3:49 pm](#)

Seeing a child described as a "troll" on this blog far outweighs much of the good ESD strives for.

The Apostle Paul also taught that we should protect the weakest in our midst, i.e. the very young and the very old. In this instance, ESD failed the Paul standard.

**eagle-eyed** @ August 11, 2011 at [4:20 pm](#)

@Another ESD Parent:

Thank you. Your post is one of the most thoughtful yet.

**Avid Reader** @ August 11, 2011 at [5:35 pm](#)

Agree with eagle-eyed, Another ESD Parent's post was very thoughtful. Father Swann is a good man and does try to surround himself with the best of the best. Unfortunately, it seems that he did not bring those people into the decision making process in dealing with the situation, specifically the school counselor.

**Another ESD parent** @ August 11, 2011 at [5:46 pm](#)

Amanda: You assume that the person who described Jane Doe II as a troll was from ESD, and there is no basis for that. And Jane Doe II is hardly the "very young" - she was 17 during the majority of this affair.

**holland** @ August 11, 2011 at [7:24 pm](#)

@daniel and amanda

the "victim" was 16 going on 23 and is certainly NOT the innocent she and her idiotic parents purport her to be. What Campbell did was stupid and equally idiotic and HE deserves what surely is coming to HIM for his part in this sordid affair.

For any person to risk family, job, prison time and forever to be on a predators list for a romp with an underage strumpet just beggars belief and Campbell will justly get exactly what his actions deserve.

The vast, vast majority of ESD faculty, administrators, coaches and support staff are dedicated professionals who, without a shadow of a doubt, have the very best interests of an incredible student body at heart. For them to be tarred with the same brush as ONE stupid "adult" is just plain nuts.

This is a parental money grab plain and simple. They want their 30 pieces of silver and are willing to sacrifice their own daughter to get same.

With hindsight ESD could have handled this situation better but she had to go.

**Uppercase Matt** @ August 11, 2011 at [9:07 pm](#)

As far as I can tell, the "Episcopal School of Dallas" doesn't make it easy to find its Board of Directors, much like it appears to hide its finances. The 2009 Form 990 on Guidestar for "The Episcopal School of Dallas Permanent Endowment Trust" lists the trustees as Mitch Hart (Chairman), Rick Barry, Ginger Brown, Plack Carr, John Eagle, Mal Gudis, Phil Romano, Carolyn Rathjen, and Daryl Johnston. John Eagle is listed as the "Principal Officer". They list "related tax-exempt organizations" as the school and "WBL Family Investments Inc." — anyone know what that is?

**ESD Parent** @ August 11, 2011 at [9:57 pm](#)

To Another ESD Parent:

What things do you think the school could have handled better? I'd be curious to hear your point of view.

Also, I think the school's side of the story has come out. All of the ESD witnesses (Swann, Royal and Mayo) have been cross examined by the school's own attorneys and have had a chance to give us their side of the story.

Swann said he would do things exactly the same way if he had another chance. Royal said she wasn't even sure why she told the dad his daughter would be expelled if he didn't sign to withdraw her voluntarily while at the same time she was testifying that the school never intended to expel her. Doesn't that sound like manipulative behavior to you?

Also, I suppose you can choose to focus on whatever you want. I certainly understand your desire to defend the school's actions, but I am more interested in knowing the truth. Sorry, but I am not willing to drink the Kool Aid based on what I have learned thus far. Sure Swann built a great school. But at what cost? No amount of good works justifies harming even one child.

Finally, I hope ESD does weather the storm, but it seems painfully obvious that there need to be some major changes in terms of policy and administrative demeanor if that is to happen. I am just praying the board will do what is necessary to right the ship.

**Questioning** @ August 11, 2011 at [10:13 pm](#)

So I just read where Father Swann has a LIFETIME appointment to the ESD board! How can that be good governance! He is supposed to be an employee of the board, not a lifetime appointee. No wonder he gets away with whatever he wants!

I am sure the board was just trying to honor him for his long service, but now I see where this train started to leave the tracks!

**Neal** @ August 11, 2011 at [11:20 pm](#)

I am learning a lot about ESD from these comments, including:

1. ESD clearly isn't a good place for my kids or anyone else's. Between the dishonest and greedy administration and the bratty, cold, provincial and generally repugnant parents and students who have been commenting here for the last couple of weeks, I would never send my children to that crap school and I would hesitate to let them socialize with anyone who did.
2. Erin Mayo sounds like a real b—h. I hope she enjoys her new career as a Denny's waitress or whatever it is she ends up doing after the ESD board sends her packing.

**Appalled** @ August 12, 2011 at [12:03 am](#)

Holland:

The victim was 16 plain and simple. Your opinion of her doesn't matter at all. I guarantee you if she were your child you wouldn't be blaming her. Have some decency for goodness sake!

Also, I seriously doubt this is about money. If it were, then the family would have accepted one of the settlements supposedly offered to them already, rather than risk getting nothing at trial.

**Appalled** @ August 12, 2011 at [12:43 am](#)

When I googled, "who are the trustees for the Episcopal School of Dallas?" I found this <http://episcopalfoundationdallas.org/bios.php>

The Reverend Stephen B. Swann is the founding Rector and Headmaster of the Episcopal School of Dallas. He has been a member of the school's Board of Directors since its inception in 1974 and will serve throughout his lifetime. A native of Texas, Father Swann received a Master of Divinity degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. He attended the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Father Swann holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from North Eastern State University in Oklahoma. Before becoming the founding Rector and Headmaster of the Episcopal School of Dallas, Father Swann served as chaplain at the St. Michael School and Director of Christian Education Ministries at St. Michael and All Angels Church. Father Swann currently serves on the Endowment Committee of the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas, the Endowment

Committee of the Episcopal School of Dallas and is a member of the Order of St. John. He serves on the SMU Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series Board of Directors, and appointed by Mayor Tom Leppert, Father Swann also serves on a special Dallas committee for education. He has been the Chairman of the Diocesan Ministries Commission, and has served The Boys' and Girls' Club of Dallas, Advisory Council of St. Philip's School and Community Center, Board of Governors of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and the Board of St. Francis Academy in Salina, Kansas. He and his wife, Carolyn Campbell Swann, served as the 2007 chairmen for the annual campaign "Caring for Generations" on behalf of the Baylor Health Care Systems Foundation. Father Swann is the recipient of the 2001 National Jewish Humanitarian Award, the 2000-2001 Oak Cliff Lions Club Humanitarian Award, the 2005 Hope for Humanity Award benefiting the Dallas Holocaust Museum, and in 2007 he received the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence for education and administration. Father and Mrs. Swann have four children and 11 grandchildren.

**law student** @ August 12, 2011 at [8:44 am](#)

@eagle-eyed — which court document (or what is the date) has the details around the CFO? I couldn't easily find that. Thanks.

**Claire St. Amant** @ August 12, 2011 at [8:55 am](#)

@law student, the date is 11/4/10.

**trial watcher 2** @ August 12, 2011 at [10:46 am](#)

@all the questions about the board members....Is the board supposed to question the Head Master? Is that the way it works at other schools? What do all those members have in common?

**eagle-eyed** @ August 12, 2011 at [11:38 am](#)

@Neal: What is up with the hate against ESD? All schools have skeletons in their closets (yes, all schools), and I guarantee that if St. Mark's or Hockaday had a scandal like this, parents wouldn't hesitate to defend their school.

You say you don't want your kids to socialize with ESD kids. Why? Because kids from Parish, Greenhill, St. Marks, Hockaday, Ursuline, Cistercian, Jesuit, and all the other Dallas private schools are angels? Give me a break.

ESD is NOT a "crap school." Let's see if you can do as well as their AP scholars who scored a 5 on all their AP exams.

We've had an unfortunate situation, but please, ESD is still a great place to get an education and learn how to live a good life based on Christian values.

**Peter** @ August 12, 2011 at [11:40 am](#)

To Neal:  
I truly hope you don't make any serious decisions about anything in your life based on any blog and the associated comments. The vast majority of those making negative comments have no personal experience with the school, its students, its alumni, its faculty or its administration. I do. I have children, many nieces and nephews and friends who have attended ESD. Without exception, they have each had a great experience at ESD. Those that have graduated have gone on to fine schools and are successful, happy, well grounded and well educated adults. Don't make the mistake of judging this school or any other person or institution based solely on this kind of information.

**Comments Watcher** @ August 12, 2011 at [12:29 pm](#)

You know what these comments need? More blanket statements, made by anonymous internet folks, about large groups of people of whom they only know a small percentage, at most. Are people really commenting on this board on behalf of all parents or all students/alumni? Wow. Seriously, take a step back, everyone...

And you know why I can comment on this matter? Because I'm an ESD student AND ESD parent... I'm on the board of trustees and have known Father Swann since he was just Brother Cygnet (extra "n" there, just for fun).

In all seriousness, please keep commenting, folks. This comment board is the only way you'll be able to express your feelings about this important issue! Also, they're fun to read.

Thanks Claire for inciting the masses 😊 Keep up the great work!

**sane parent** @ August 12, 2011 at [2:10 pm](#)

All I can say to anyone that wants to defend ESD and his administrators is that they should read the court documents that are linked in the comments above before they go too far out on a limb. The database of court documents contains the pleadings for the plaintiffs and the defendants so it should be a fairly even handed depiction of both sides. The documents don't look good for the ESD administrators. The 11/4 document referenced above is especially damning (CFO caught on tape numerous times trying to convince the teacher molestor to give certain pro-ESD testimony — eek — that might qualify as criminal tampering). ESD is great but based on the legal documents that are filed and the testimony so far (which has included cross examinations by ESD's attorneys) it appears likely that this suit was needed to clean house a bit and spur change to the current governance procedures.

**USA** @ August 12, 2011 at [2:56 pm](#)

@holland,

Anonymity aside, have you considered having your anger toward young women treated-or your anger in general, for that matter? I'm sorry, but to refer to a 16/17-year old high school girl who was having an affair with her 34-year-old teacher as a "trollop" and a "strumpet"—the by-product of "idiotic parents"—is truly sickening.

You are, no doubt, convinced that anyone who files a lawsuit and seeks civil damages is only in it for a big payday. It's a wonder these idiotic parents managed to send three other children through ESD without incident before deciding to cash in on their fourth child. Maybe, just maybe, they feel that ESD needs to be held accountable for casting their daughter out of the school after one of its employees statutorily raped her. Have you given any thought to the other side of the story in this particular case, or did they brand that out of you in "Fish Camp"?

**ESD Trial, Day 19 UPDATED | Preston Hollow People** @ September 1, 2011 at [1:20 pm](#)

[...] asks Royall about her previous testimony in which she said that Campbell's comments on Jane's report card would have been [...]

