

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 4 UPDATED

Even though this is officially Day 4 of the trial, it's more like Day 1. Opening arguments are slated to begin at 9 a.m. I'll be updating hourly, if possible. I moved my dentist appointment, formerly at 10 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., for this explicit purpose, so here's to hoping I can wrangle my cell phone away from the bailiff that often.

Updates start at 10 a.m. after the jump.

Plans to post hourly have been thoroughly thwarted. The haphazardly collected box of cell phones doesn't lend itself to easy access. I'm on a recess for lunch, so here are my notes from the morning proceedings in time-stamped fashion.

9:10 a.m.

Judge Benson, who is hearing other cases, reprimanded Doe family attorneys for setting up. "I'm in the middle of a hearing, and I have many more hearings scheduled."

9:30 a.m.

Caught a glimpse of Father Stephen Swann's photo on a PowerPoint presentation being prepared by the plaintiff. Perhaps he'll be the first witness?

9:50 a.m.

Benson kicked everyone out of the courtroom after chatter over cell phones.

10:45 a.m.

Everyone is allowed back in, and it's a packed house. The jury is all women.

10:50 a.m.

Charla Aldous presents the opening statement for the plaintiff by quoting ESD's mission statement, "All children are made in the image of a loving God." Aldous went on to say that the evidence will show children who are hurt and who hurt the reputation of this "pristine school" are discarded. John and Jane Doe are present.

11 a.m.

Aldous says J. Nathan Campbell, not only a teacher but the dean of the freshman class and the director of the Global Awareness Center, was "an authority figure at the school."

"This child fell prey to what this man intended to do, and that was terrible. But what's horrible is what this school did to this child after they found out."

11:30 a.m.

After describing how the abuse occurred, Aldous explains how the school reacted and perpetuated "secondary victimization."

"They treated this child like she was dirty," she said, adding later, "It was a complete betrayal to this child."

11:31 a.m.

Chrysta Castaneda presents ESD's opening statement without the aid of a PowerPoint presentation that she had clearly produced for this purpose. No one can figure out how to properly display it on the projector. After composing herself, she opens with a Teddy Roosevelt quote about hard decisions and transitions to this regarding the forced withdrawal of Jane Doe II.

"Even though it was painful for her at the time, it was the right thing to do," she said.

11:40 a.m.

Castaneda continues to defend ESD's decision to remove Jane Doe II.

"It was not a punitive thing," she said. "She was not thriving at ESD."

11:50 a.m.

A big welcome to the *Dallas Morning News*, who just made its first appearance at the proceedings.

Castaneda references rumors that Jane Doe II was discussing the relationship with students. Particularly the rumor that she asked other students to see if Campbell's wife, Sarah, was wearing a wedding ring.

11:55 a.m.

Castaneda closes with this:

"ESD very much wanted to be on the same side of the table as the family. They wanted the family to agree that (leaving the school) was in her best interest...ESD had a choice to make. It was a hard choice but it was the right choice."

Lunch recess until 2 p.m.

UPDATE 2:15 p.m.

Judge Benson rules the plaintiff can ask questions regarding the 501(c)(3) status of ESD and its religious affiliation.

She also asks the attorneys to "slow your roll, so to speak" so the court reporter can keep up.

2:20 p.m.

Father Steve Swann takes the stand and states that ESD has never been owned or operated by the Episcopal church.

"The only reason you can use 'Episcopal' in the school's name is because there's no copyright on it, correct?" Aldous asks.

"Yes," Swann says.

2:40 p.m.

During questioning, Swann says he has never given Jane Doe II any pastoral care in regard to the sexual abuse, nor has he even spoken with her about it.

2:55 p.m.

Shonn Brown is a Jack-in-the-box of objections. Benson seems unamused.

3:05 p.m.

Aldous reveals that Campbell didn't have a teaching certificate. Swann says he was unaware of this.

3:15 p.m.

Aldous brings up the fact that Campbell had access to a furnished house as director of the Global Awareness Center. Swann says Campbell's use of the home, his comings and goings, was not monitored. Although Aldous said no sexual abuse occurred in the GAC home, she asks Swann if the fact that a sexual predator had unrestricted access to a home owned by ESD "caused him pause." After several long seconds of hesitation, Swann says "Yes."

3:25 p.m.

With Brown still leaping out of her seat every few seconds to object, Aldous begins questioning Swann about the training ESD teachers receive on sexual predators, referencing something called an “Outline of Boundaries Talk” that was given in 2004 and 2008. She reveals the talk, which went over how a teacher could know when he or a student was “crossing the line” of appropriate behavior, was not mandatory. Aldous also states that Oliver Butler, the chaplain who led the talks according to documentation, doesn’t remember doing so. Swann does not refute either statement.

3:45 p.m.

Aldous says another teacher has testified in her deposition that after hearing a student had been raped by another teacher, she didn’t tell anyone. Aldous asks Swann if this is unacceptable behavior. He says yes. She then pushes him further, and asks if this unacceptable behavior is evidence that ESD failed to properly train its teachers.

“Regardless of how she was trained, it was her action that was the omission,” Swann says.

Court takes a brief recess.

4:10 p.m.

Court returns to open session. Aldous, still questioning Swann, says that Jane Doe II testified that she had sex with Campbell in an ESD-owned suburban. Swann says he has no knowledge of what Jane Doe II has said in her deposition. Aldous brings up the fact that Campbell used an ESD credit card to reserve a hotel room in which he later had sex with Jane Doe II.

“Don’t you agree that Nathan Campbell had no fear that ESD was monitoring his credit card when he used it to check into a hotel and have sex with a student?” she asks.

“Yes,” Swann says.

4:20 p.m.

Aldous questions Swann about Campbell’s hiring process, asking if his resume and references were checked.

“I’m sure we did,” Swann says.

“How do you know?” Aldous counters.

“Because that’s our policy and our procedure,” Swann says.

(Side note: In opening arguments, Castaneda stated that Campbell’s background check came back clean before he was hired in 2004).

4:25 p.m.

Aldous asks, “Do you believe Jane Doe II is in any way to be blamed for Nathan Campbell’s abuse of her?”

Swann replies, “She was a child...She was assaulted.”

Aldous again asks, “Is she to blame?”

“She is not,” Swann says.

4:35 p.m.

Aldous questions Swann about a french teacher who admitted to asking Jane Doe II, “Are you the reason Nathan Campbell left?” This occurred a few days after Head of the Upper School Erin Mayo sent an email to faculty scolding them for engaging in gossip about Campbell and explicitly instructed them to stop.

“This is another example of a teacher failing to follow procedure, is it not?” Aldous asks.

“Yes,” Swann answers.

4:50 p.m.

Aldous introduces an email written by Mayo to chief academic officer Rebecca Royall concerning Jane Doe II’s expulsion.

“I don’t want the girl haunting the hallways with her said story for the rest of the week,” Mayo says in the email.

Aldous asks Swann if those words shock him.

“That’s simply not the Erin Mayo I know, who is a caring, kind, and loving person.”

Court is adjourned until Monday. Swann will continue his testimony on Tuesday or Wednesday because of a prior obligation to conduct a wedding ceremony out of town.

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By [Claire St. Amant](#) Jul. 28, 2011 | 7:00 am | [49 Comments](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

49 comments to "ESD Trial, Day 4 UPDATED"

Georgia Fisher @ July 28, 2011 at [12:04 pm](#)

We love you, Claire! Let’s hope they’re treating you right over there.

ready for news @ July 28, 2011 at [12:19 pm](#)

I'm ready for an update!! What's happening, hows the testimony? How were opening arguments?

Matthew @ July 28, 2011 at [2:21 pm](#)

Does anyone remember a similar incident ever happening at any other private school in town? Scandals like these seemed to only happen every time you turned on the TV back in the day when I was in high school at DISD.

Matthew @ July 28, 2011 at [2:24 pm](#)

The passion of everyone- here virtually and in the courtroom reminds of the days when John Wiley Price and his Warriors were picketing in front of Townview and other places every day back in the late 1990s.

Not to say that JWP is a saint, because he like many politicians from both parties is NOT!

Another parent @ July 28, 2011 at [2:54 pm](#)

There was an incident at Ursuline in 2007.

ready for news @ July 28, 2011 at [3:02 pm](#)

anymore updates? I'm curious - ready to get more info! is swan testifying?

Leigh @ July 28, 2011 at [3:07 pm](#)

Is it standing room only in the court? A lot of ESD parents?

So, did ESD try to convince the the parents a to withdraw over a long period of time? Was it sudden?

Recently Censored @ July 28, 2011 at [3:13 pm](#)

@Leigh - 2 administrators and Father Swann decided to force the girl out quite suddenly. She was receiving counseling, doing better by all accounts. I believe that there was a meeting that was intended to be an update with the family, and only the father was asked to come - he was presented with a letter that said "we voluntarily withdraw" - and was told that the alternative would be expulsion. Father Swann said this wasn't a "threat" but a "statement of fact" or something like that in his deposition.

I think the incident that ESD referred to today - the victim asking a classmate if the wife of the alleged abuser was still wearing a wedding ring - was the catalyst for the withdrawal.

That's how I remember what I read... your mileage may vary!

ready for news @ July 28, 2011 at [3:22 pm](#)

ooh all the details will come out soon enough. seems like ESD is s.c.r.e.w.e.d.

concerned parent @ July 28, 2011 at [3:29 pm](#)

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/dallas-attorney-charla-aldous-wins-two-of-texas-largest-2010-verdicts-122450448.html>

Why? @ July 28, 2011 at [4:09 pm](#)

@concerned parent - That should tell you enough about her motives....

lifelong episcopalian @ July 28, 2011 at [4:28 pm](#)

as a life-long member of the Episcopal Church, I am disgusted and remain speechless at the fact that Steve Swan remains an ordained Episcopal priest. He

makes a ton of money/year and is such an egotistical train wreck of a man.. Can't wait to see what the bishop is going to do to him canonically.

Leigh @ July 28, 2011 at [5:10 pm](#)

You don't HAVE to be certified to teach at a private school.

If you were there, give us your take! and....thanks Claire for the update!

Uppercase Matt @ July 28, 2011 at [5:11 pm](#)

Wait — Lawyers practice law to make money? The horror! I wonder what motivates a millionaire priest?

Sabrina @ July 28, 2011 at [5:11 pm](#)

@ Why? Ok, get a reality check. Do you think the family would rather have hired an unsuccessful, unproven attorney or an accomplished and successful one like Ms. Aldous who stands a much better chance to make things better for the girl. And sorry to break it to you but a legal profession is in general a for profit profession just like most professions out there including your doctor, banker, accountant, baker and whomever else you can think of. Why do you think you spend a few minutes with your doctor before he delegates you to his assistants. It's because he has to run a business and keep his practice profitable. I'm so sick of this "greedy lawyers" mantra as if other professions are not just as much (if not more) greedy.

Why...NOT @ July 28, 2011 at [5:24 pm](#)

@Why? This sounds personal. Between you posting yesterday that this is a frivolous lawsuit and today claiming that the plaintiff's attorney is motivated by money...What attorney do you know isn't motivated by money? Who would spend that much money on schooling to not be financially compensated in the end?

On another note, most Plaintiff attorneys work on a contingency basis. This means that they don't get paid until their clients do. They can invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to work up 1 case without bringing any money in the door. Then your paycheck is completely decided upon by a jury. They could award nothing and you eat your time and expenses, or they can award millions and you pocket 40%. It's a big gamble regardless and if you are luck enough to get paid in the end, you earned every single penny.

As far as the lawsuit being frivolous...A school victimizing a child after being abused sexually and mentally by one of its teachers...yeah, you are right, it's SOOO frivolous!!

Agree with Why Not @ July 28, 2011 at [5:44 pm](#)

Good point!

Former Student @ July 28, 2011 at [6:14 pm](#)

All women jury? Really???

Former ESD Mother @ July 28, 2011 at [6:19 pm](#)

Blame the attorneys. Brilliant! It makes about as much sense as blaming the 16 year old for engaging in a relationship with her 36 year old teacher. Consensual or not, it's up to the adult to take the lead and say no. Teenagers can come up with some pretty outrageous ideas. They need adults to teach them right from wrong.

Wm. B. Travis @ July 28, 2011 at [6:19 pm](#)

Tell us more about the jury. Doing a good job!

Leigh @ July 28, 2011 at [6:35 pm](#)

@former student -I thought the same thing about the all-women jury. was that the work of Lisa Blue Baron?

Speaking of Blue - was lady blue there today?

marie anderson @ July 28, 2011 at [7:55 pm](#)

Who cares whether Campbell had a teaching certificate? Most of the teachers at ESD have advanced degrees in their subjects and are not required to have a teaching certificate. Ms. Aldous is throwing as much stuff at the ceiling as she can to see if anything will stick. Likewise, who cares what Father Swann's salary is? It has no relevance to anything that happened in this case.

Former ESD Mother @ July 28, 2011 at [8:56 pm](#)

That's the unfortunate thing about lawsuits: irrelevant but interesting details will come out, on all sides.

Id @ July 28, 2011 at [9:31 pm](#)

Please post the updates on the Park Cities blog. Lots of kids in the PC attend private schools, including ESD. Thanks!

Observer @ July 28, 2011 at [10:00 pm](#)

"I don't want the girl haunting the hallways with her sad story for the rest of the week," Mayo says in the email.

Wow. Those words will be rattling around the juror's heads for the next three days.

Will be difficult for ESD to spin this expulsion as a 'in the best interest of the victim' story...when the woman who made the decision to force the victim out of the school (with Royall and Swann) states in writing that it's essentially an issue about the story spreading that motivated her decision.

Sounds like a bad day for ESD.

Observing @ July 29, 2011 at [10:50 am](#)

Can someone explain why the parents are suing the school because it supposedly didn't protect their daughter from Nathan Campbell AND because the school wouldn't let their daughter remain in the school? So they wanted her to continue going to ESD? Doesn't that mean that they didn't see the school as being unsafe?

@Observing @ July 29, 2011 at [12:15 pm](#)

The parents are suing the School because it was negligent in overseeing Campbell – he was allowed unsupervised use of ESD property (vehicle, house, credit cards, electronics) that assisted him in perpetrating a criminal offense. Not only that, but other teachers observed questionable behavior between the two (over the 8 month period of the affair) that was never dealt with on the administrative level. Regardless how some people feel in these comments about the student's role in the affair (which is crazy to begin with), the student was a minor, and the act was illegal. It's kind of like when someone slips and falls on broken stairs at a business – the injured party can potentially sue for damages because the business was negligent in maintaining safe property. I'm not sure where the plaintiffs will get with the improper dismissal claim, but the negligence claim to me is a no-brainer.

I work at a local private school – any credit card transactions that we submit must be accompanied by a list of those attended the dinner, stayed at the hotel, etc. We have to include itemized receipts for meals and purchases. There's no way this stuff should have flown under the radar for so long. Unfettered use of a vehicle and a house? Please. Father Swann wasn't minding the store, and now they're going to have to pay for it...

Why? @ July 29, 2011 at [12:21 pm](#)

Its a bogus lawsuit. The school is not liable. The family and attorneys are trying to bring an entire school down because their daughter, who engaged in a consensual affair for 6 months+, was expelled from the school. Was it wrong? Absolutely! Should charges be pressed against the teacher? Absolutely! But should the school be liable? Absolutely not. Here is the 100,000 question – why isn't the family suing the teacher? He is the one at fault. Because he has no money. The school is the goose with the golden egg. So, lets try to paint the school as the evil ones here....they have the money. Typical legal shenanigans....

@@Observing @ July 29, 2011 at [12:35 pm](#)

Agreed. I think the improper dismissal is going to work out for the plaintiffs given the representations the school made about how it treats students (nurturing

environment, etc.– see above blog from first day), and with the makeup of the jury – all women. Toss in Erin Mayo’s comments (we dont want that sad story in our halls, or something like that) – and Father Swann essentially agreeing that it was inappropriate – and I don’t see problems for the plaintiffs for the improper dismissal. I guess we will see soon enough.

What in The Hollow Are You Doing This Weekend? | Preston Hollow People @ July 29, 2011 at 1:27 pm

[...] plans for the next 48 or so hours include little else besides emerging from a trial-induced coma of information overload. You can find me by the pool with a stiff drink. But the rest of you have no excuse for not making [...]

Avid Reader @ July 29, 2011 at 1:56 pm

Its a legit lawsuit. The school is liable. The family and attorneys are trying to hold the school accountable for their oversight in monitoring and failure to act in a reasonable manner because a minor, who was taken advantage of and assaulted in a statutory rape affiar for 6 months+, was kicked out of school. Was it wrong? Absolutely! Should charges be pressed against the teacher? Absolutely! But should the school be liable? Absolutely! Here is the 100,000 question–how is the school that hired, employed, and looked the other way instead of following procedures..not liable? They, along with the actual teacher, are at fault. The school is the important party on this side as it is in a position to let this happen again to another child or make changes. So, lets try to paint the school as the responsible ones here...they have the responsibility. Typical legal issues...

been there.. @ July 29, 2011 at 3:46 pm

Reminder: It is not the girl’s fault. Some girls seek attention from teachers / priests etc because they are looking for love. It does not matter if she was naked and going to school, it was not her fault. It does not matter if others say she was a flirt, it is not her fault.

Teachers,Priests and other adults who come in contact with girls know that children often look to them for love. Some girls think sex is love. Some girls will take sex in place of love. No matter what the girl brings....there is a reason for her behavior. It is never the girl’s fault.

In my experience, the child should be removed from the school / church because very often (as in my case) the others students and/ or parents who were fond of the offender teacher will blame the girl. Teachers who were fond of the teacher may blame the girl. It is horrible. Even today, people are still putting the blame on this girl.

It is not her fault.

The school fired the perp teacher. They did their job.

@@Observing @ July 29, 2011 at 7:15 pm

@been there – Agree with most of what you wrote, but disagree on the removal part.

The girl was seeing a therapist and obviously her parents and she chose to remain at the school. Since she attended since K or Pre-K, her whole social and educational life was wrapped up in that place. I believe that every situaton and everyone is different and that the victim and family with assistance from school administrators and therapists are the ones who should make the decision as how best to minimize trauma and help the victim.

The school should make it clear to all parents, students and teachers that any gossip, slander, bullying, etc – will be dealt with severely. Those who choose to blame the victim need to be educated and/or disciplined – they shouldn’t be allowed to further victimize the girl...

[In this case, one teacher made a very insensitive and accusatory comment to the victim. She received a letter in her file.]

mom4 @ July 29, 2011 at 8:43 pm

Really a silly lawsuit. Campbell was wrong, he is being prosecuted criminally. Very sad that parents are just seeking a payday instead of trying to help their daughter move on with her life. Bottom line – we are responsible for our children’s safety and welfare. I am constantly amazed that parents don’t have any idea what their kids are doing or where they are at. Why didn’t they know where their daughter was when she was seeing him? Itsn’t it their responsibility to know where their child is, what she was doing, who she was with? When you let your children come and go as they please, don’t show an interest in what they are doing or even go to their games, know who they are with, what they are doing and who their friends are then bad things are likely to happen. Trying to get even more wealth from suing ESD doesn’t absolve them from not having a clue about their daughter’s life.

Avid Reader @ July 30, 2011 at [12:16 am](#)

@mom4, Your entire statement is sad. No matter how many times anyone tries to wish away this lawsuit because it is “about the money” as you and others would say in not so many words....Campbell is/was a 35 year old man. A man. A 35 year old man that took serious advantage of his trusted advisor/teacher position to move in on, and statutorily rape a 16 year old child. A child that was under his care and according to the law in every state...not able to make decisions of this magnitude. Regardless of how many times the pro-ESD anti-MinorVictim side wants to say it, she was 16 and he is a grown-a#@ man. mom4 wants to turn this on her parents and not Campbell; which many people half involved in cases like this often do, along with blaming the victim themselves. Do her parents have blame in not keeping tabs on their daughter? Absolutely. This does not absolve the statutory rapist teacher from any of his failures as a person and criminal acts as a teacher who took advantage of a minor sexually. I will repeat since lots of posters seem to be taking this route...She was a Minor. Minors are Minors for a reason...because they are incapable of making adult level decisions about anything. That is why we don't give them the power to pretty much do anything but drive until they are 18...because they are kids..and for the most part, dumb kids.

This lawsuit is about ESD and their lack of oversight, negligence, and the awful scenario of them kicking out a sex crime victim from their fold because she might cause issues for them...not the money. About making them aware of the fact that through their obvious negligence they allowed a serious crime to take place and then fumbled, fumbled, and fumbled again the handling of the aftermath. Trying to make sure that ESD takes responsibility for their poor actions and that this situation does not happen again to another child is about as much absolution this family is expecting from their statement making lawsuit. Would anyone take notice if they were suing for their “tuition”? No, ESD would pay them off and include a gag order to avoid the bad publicity that they (according to the publicly filed documents of the case and the courtroom actions show) deserve.

@lawyer @ July 30, 2011 at [1:29 am](#)

@why and mom4:

If it were your child, you'd do the same. And if it weren't for Ms. Aldous, ESD would have gotten away with it.

A school is a place where a child should be protected, especially a church affiliated school. They should look more into the teachers before they hire them so this doesn't happen. This teacher took advantage of a young girl for his own sexual desires and you want to blame Ms. Aldous? Ms. Aldous is motivated by a desire to help those in need and the oppressed. So what if money comes along as a result. Lawyers get paid according to their work, just like any other profession. To say Ms. Aldous is motivated by money is absurd. She is an angel and one that many people need and could use in cases such as this. So sit back, think about what you say before you speak.

FED UP! @ July 30, 2011 at [8:57 am](#)

@lawyer - Ms. Aldous is in it for the money. Period. As is Lisa Blue Baron. Look at both their histories. Dig a little deeper. They are typical trial lawyers. This is all about a huge payday - which by the way she'll take 40% of...thank you very much.

sounds familiar..... @ July 30, 2011 at [9:11 am](#)

@been there - agree with you 100%

I don't care if this girl was lifting her skirt and showing him her thong everyday. He was 35 freaking years old. He was the adult, the teacher - in a position of power.

I don't care if she was the school slut - she is the victim here.

FED UP! @ July 30, 2011 at [9:34 am](#)

Let me rephrase my thoughts - I lashed out a bit in frustration just now and I apologize. I just hate to see a fine school be criminalized by the act of one teacher. Our priorities are not in the right place right now. This is a teacher's fault, but I don't see how the school is liable. They dismissed a problem in Jane Doe because she was causing issues in the hallways on campus. It is every private school's right to do so. I feel like the plaintiffs and their attorneys are going after the money - which really irks me. It doesn't feel like justice - it feels like trying to cash in.

@FedUp @ July 30, 2011 at [9:47 am](#)

Shocking, isn't it? That lawyers work and... gasp.. get paid! They, like physicians and teachers.. work hard and then get a paycheck.

It's funny that you have a problem with a professional (someone paid to render services) getting paid for their services, but have nothing to say about a “Man

of God” who lives in a nearly-million-dollar-home, who drives a new Porsche every year, and who has worked hard to keep his salary a secret in this case. A “Man of God” who has bronze statues of himself, full-length oil paintings of himself, buildings named after.. himself...

But hey, it’s all about those greedy lawyers. Greed is terrible, isn’t it?

Money Changes Everything @ July 30, 2011 at [1:14 pm](#)

I find this discussion quite interesting – Catholic Diocese’s all over the U S are still paying debts to victims of abuse by their ‘employees’. Yet, those victims were canonized as brave trail blazers lifting the veil of secrecy.

This horrific behavior happens everywhere – not just in the Catholic Church – and ESD should be just as liable whether or not they are affiliated with the Episcopal church or not. Sadly money is what gets the attention of corporate structures. You cannot volunteer on the field or in the classroom, let alone teach, in a Catholic diocesan school without Safe Environment training ANNUALLY and a criminal background check every three years. Punitive damages do serve a person beyond rewarding victims and their lawyers.

Former ESD Mother @ July 30, 2011 at [8:41 pm](#)

@Money Changes Everything: Well said!

Although I am waiting for you to be crucified with “This is different”.

@lawyer @ July 30, 2011 at [10:56 pm](#)

FED UP:

Again, Ms. Aldous is an angel. Her heart and priorities are in the right place, unlike the Episcopal School and its teachers. It takes a person like Ms. Aldous to make a difference in the world in which we live. We need more individuals like Ms. Aldous. God Bless Ms. Aldous (and Lisa Blue Baron).

FED UP, is Lisa Blue Baron even involved in the trial of this case? I haven’t seen her name mentioned. OR are you just after the great attorneys in Dallas that have and continue to make a difference in the lives of others by helping the little man? That statement by you sounds very personal.

FED UP, in case you didn’t know, most attorneys work for money. And most attorneys work on a contingency basis. Whether it’s 33.3 or 40% doesn’t matter... they are helping someone. Thus, I hope they get all they deserve by helping this young girl and her family.

Oh and FED UP, since you believe “this is a teacher’s fault but you don’t see how the school is liable”, go look up the term “Respondeat Superior”. (Since you have plenty of time on your hands.”

Another parent @ July 31, 2011 at [4:06 pm](#)

Ms. Aldous is a plaintiff’s attorney. She, as is her job, will do everything in her power to make ESD and it’s employees look horrible. Her priority, like all plaintiff’s attorneys, is to win her case, the largest amount of money for her client’s and herself as she can, and then to tout it to the sky in the press to attract additional litigants. To ascribe some type of holy motivation is worse than laughable. This is business for goodness sake.

Former ESD Mother @ July 31, 2011 at [7:51 pm](#)

Ms. Chrysta Castaneda is an attorney for defendants. She, as is her job, will do everything possible to make Jane Doe and her family look horrible. Her priority, like all attorneys, is to win her case, be paid a huge hourly fee in so doing, and then tout it to all who will listen to attract additional clients, as most attorneys do. This is business for goodness sake, and I am not sure why we are attacking attorneys for simply doing their job. Get a grip, attorney’s work for the best interest of their clients and expect to be paid for it.

Concerned @ July 31, 2011 at [9:34 pm](#)

This is an article about a former teacher at ESD. Left ESD in the 1990’s and is now a registered sex offender. Interesting

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-08-02/news/0108020211_1_stewart-girl-fbi-agent

@lawyer @ July 31, 2011 at [10:16 pm](#)

Another parent:

To those of us who personally know Ms. Aldous and have for years, in and out of the courtroom, she is an angel. Let me know when you know what you are talking about.

@lawyer @ July 31, 2011 at [10:18 pm](#)

I think we all need to remember the attorneys didn't cause the problem. The teacher and ESD did.

been there... @ August 1, 2011 at [10:17 am](#)

Yes, every case is different. She should have been able to decide what was best for her...to stay or move elsewhere.

I am biased based on my experiences with mom's who I cared about and respected saying it was my fault. In my case, I was 16 working at a Houston church. A priest I loved and cherished molested me and raped me for years until I left for college.

I did not get forward until I was 19 because I felt like it was all my fault. I had low self esteem and was being abused by another family member. I had gone to the church to get away from abuse at home. It wasn't until years later in therapy that I realized it was not my fault. I was confused about love. I thought all love turned sexual. Now I know about love.

The abuse was bad but the part that has stayed with me the longest is the church's reaction saying it was not true even though the youth minister walked in on him twice abusing me. They moved him to Oregon.

when I think that and cry now, it is not about the abuse anymore, it is the parents of my friends' who said it was my fault and I brought down a good priest. It was awful.

I'm 47 now and it still bothers me.

I feel awful for this child. I hope she can move on. Press is brutal. I went to the Houston Chronicle myself and suffered the additional blows and trauma of that as a choice only because I did not want him returned to the priesthood in Sugarland. That choice sucked years off of my life. This victim is probably reading all of the comments just like I read all of the backlash about me on the Chronicle site. It was awful. I'll never forget all of the catty remarks about me. And, I was the most pitiful kid back then at 16. Words are like knives. Be careful knowing she is probably reading this.

To her: it is not your fault.