

For Immediate Release
May 8, 2020

Contact: Aidan O'Shea
(410) 294-9956 | aoshea@publicjustice.net

Legal Team for 86 Strauss Survivors Decries OSU Settlement with Some Survivors as Grossly Insufficient

Legal advocates for 86 individuals sexually abused by Dr. Richard Strauss, a former physician at The Ohio State University, expressed dismay and disappointment at the terms of a settlement the university has reached with survivors involved in separate litigation. OSU officials confirmed today that they have reached a financial settlement of \$40.9 million for 162 of the over 300 survivors who have sued OSU over serial sexual abuse by Dr. Strauss. The legal team representing survivors of abuse by Dr. Richard Strauss in the *Snyder-Hill* and *Khalil* cases against Ohio State were excluded from the negotiations that produced the settlement announced today.

The legal team in those two cases noted that, especially in comparison to the compensation offered in the Michigan State and Penn State settlements for similar institutional cover-ups of wide-scale sexual abuse, the financial terms OSU has agreed to – equal to roughly \$250,000 per survivor in the settled cases –are neither a fair nor full conclusion for those abused by Dr. Strauss.

“The details of this secretly negotiated settlement leave much to be desired. In addition to lacking any systemic reforms to ensure OSU does not repeat the mistakes of the past, the settlement also falls far short of justly compensating survivors who have endured decades of trauma,” said Adele Kimmel, Senior Attorney at Public Justice and counsel on the *Snyder-Hill* and *Khalil* cases. “Ohio State first denied what happened, then attempted to cover it up, and now appears to be hoping to avoid further accountability by offering a fraction of the monetary settlement that any true attempt at justice requires.”

Survivors of Dr. Larry Nassar, a Michigan State physician, reached a \$425 million settlement (or, approximately \$1.28 million per survivor) in 2018, with an additional \$75 million set aside for possible future claimants, while survivors of abuse by Jerry Sandusky reportedly settled claims with Penn State University totaling \$93 million (or approximately \$2.9 million per survivor) with an additional payment of \$16 million for an undisclosed number of other survivors. In contrast, Ohio attorney Scott Smith, also counsel on the cases, noted, “The financial terms of today’s settlement are insufficient while any other meaningful terms, such as comprehensive changes to how OSU addresses sexual abuse, are non-existent.”

“This is too little and far too late for survivors who have waited so long for justice, healing, and closure. We will litigate and advocate for our clients as long as it takes, until we get justice for them and complete accountability for Ohio State,” said attorney Ilann Maazel of Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP, who is also counsel in the *Snyder-Hill* and *Khalil* suits.

The survivors in the *Snyder-Hill* and *Khalil* cases are represented by Scott Elliot Smith, LPA; Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP; and Public Justice.