

Contact: Gloria Allred
Phone: 323-653-6530
Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Ann Russo

I am Ann Russo an L.C.S.W. I have been a social worker in California, Nevada and Massachusetts. I also hold a M.A. degree in Theology. I have additional training as a rape crisis and violence counselor. I have had the privilege to work with survivors, communities, and law enforcement to help survivors of assault.

I met Summer Zervos around 2010 in California and we became close friends. At this time, she confided in me that after her appearance on The Apprentice she met with Mr. Trump to explore job opportunities. Summer told me that he was **verbally, physically, and sexually aggressive** with her and that she had **rebuffed** his advances. Summer was unsettled by this interaction, but believed, at the time, that Mr. Trump knew he made a mistake. She said that she felt like this was a special circumstance and he understood it was not okay for him to behave that way. In fact, she said that he had given her his private number, complimented her, and made her feel that he wanted to help further her career.

Once while Summer was visiting me at my home, she told me that she had scheduled a phone call with Mr. Trump. Summer was anxiously counting down the minutes before the call. When the call took place, I did not hear the conversation, but immediately afterwards Summer told me that Mr. Trump said that he could not offer Summer a position as he was laying off thousands of employees at that time. Summer did not exhibit any negative response to that news or to what she said was Mr. Trump's inability to help her. When Summer told me about Mr. Trump's sexually inappropriate behavior towards her it was apparent that she was **conflicted** about what Mr. Trump had done to her. She had difficulty reconciling how a man she had so much respect for, as a businessman, could behave in such a **callous** manner. She felt **betrayed**. She continued to support him and viewed his sexual advances as a mistake that he must have regretted. Summer had trouble acknowledging, even to herself, that he could be so successful and giving, and also be a **sexual predator**.

Summer and I remained close friends for about two years. I relocated out of state to where I now live and work as a professional Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I have every confidence in Summer's **integrity**. I believe that she is an **honest** person with very **high moral and ethical standards**. In my professional career, I have worked with many rape and sexual assault survivors since her

account to me. Summer's revelations about Mr. Trump's behavior were made in the context of our friendship. However, as a therapist, I recognize the **conflict** that she was experiencing, a **conflict** many in her position as alleged sexual assault survivors have experienced. Survivors of assault have difficulty trying to reconcile the originally positive image they had to that of a **powerful perpetrator**. They struggle with the fact that someone they admired and held in high regard would hurt them, betray their trust, and take advantage of them sexually.

I believe that I have been able to corroborate Summer's story to the best of my ability about Mr. Trump's alleged behavior. I recognize that the subject of **sexual misconduct and assault** is a much broader issue. How are we at a place in our society where **1 in 4** people experience sexual assault, but only **6 out of every 1000** people will ever experience justice, even though **92%** of claims are discovered to be valid?

Many survivors of sexual assault are **sitting in silence** about what happened to them, and how they were treated. They wonder if it's worth it to speak up. Too often when a sexual assault survivor speaks out they are then torn apart for it - **called names, discredited, and commonly blamed for the assault they experienced**. They are left with additional **trauma** which can include **depression**,

anxiety, and self-blame. They are often ***not believed*** or ***comforted***, while their perpetrators go on living as though nothing happened.

This is why I am here today to stand with Summer Zervos. I believed her 6 years ago and I believe her today.

October 16, 2016