

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

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today Bill Cosby was charged in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania with Aggravated Indecent Assault – a felony.

For many of my 29 clients who allege that they are victims of Bill Cosby, seeing him criminally charged and having to face a trial is the best Christmas present they have ever received.

The allegations in the Pennsylvania criminal case against Mr. Cosby relate to conduct that Mr. Cosby is alleged to have inflicted on Andrea Constandt in 2004 and is within the statute of limitations (SOL) for prosecution in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, for most of the women who allege that they are victims of Mr. Cosby, it is too late for their allegations to be the subject of a criminal prosecution or a civil case because of the arbitrary and restrictive time limits set by law.

We are working in many states to eliminate the SOL or to lengthen the time limit for criminal prosecution of rape and sexual assault.

While I do represent 29 alleged victims of Mr. Cosby, I represent only one in a civil lawsuit. My client, Judy Huth, alleges in her lawsuit that she was 15 years old when Mr. Cosby victimized her at the Playboy mansion.

We took Mr. Cosby's deposition in Ms. Huth's case in October 2015.

The Court has ordered a protective order on that deposition. For that reason, we are unable to comment on what Mr. Cosby said in his deposition in this case.

I can say, however, that earlier this month, we filed a motion to compel a second deposition of Mr. Cosby. Our motion was based in part on his refusal to answer certain questions in the October deposition. That motion is filed under seal, and is scheduled to be heard on February 2, 2016 in Department N of the Los

Angeles County Superior Court. We are also scheduled to return to that court on February 26, 2016 for a status conference and the issue of the protective order may be discussed at that time.

Further, our client's deposition will be taken by Mr. Cosby's lawyers on January 29, 2016, and we have scheduled the deposition of another person in the case for February.

It is very significant that the Montgomery County District Attorney felt that the case against Mr. Cosby was strong enough that it could meet the standard of proof in a criminal case. That standard of proof is proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

This is a much higher standard of proof than is required in a civil case. In our civil case on behalf of Ms. Huth, our burden of proof is much lower.

To prevail, we need only prove our case by a preponderance of evidence, or by clear and convincing evidence if we are seeking punitive damages. Both standards of proof are less than are required in a criminal case.

I am very proud of the courage of my client, Judy Huth, and all of my clients who have chosen to speak out in the court of public opinion, and who are seeking to eliminate the statute of limitations or lengthen it in their states. (A bill to eliminate it in California will be introduced in January and I am supporting the bill)

So many women who allege that they are victims of Bill Cosby have cried out for justice for so long.

In Pennsylvania there is now a journey to justice in the felony case filed against Mr. Cosby.

I am very happy that this day has finally come.

Mr. Cosby deserves a fair trial, but so does Andrea Constandt and the people of the state of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Cosby was born in Philadelphia and I was born there as well. He attended Central High School, an all-boys, all academic public high school. I attended Girl's High the all-girls, all academic public high school. He went to Temple in Philadelphia. I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He came to L.A. in the 60's. I also moved to L.A. in the 60's.

Our paths never crossed until his deposition in October in Boston, but I will now be carefully monitoring the progress of his criminal case.

If the prosecutor decides that it is relevant and admissible to call any of my clients as witnesses in the criminal case, I know that many of my clients will be willing to testify.

We look forward to a just result

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
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