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Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Christopher R. Kloman and the Potomac School

Today Christopher R. Kloman was sentenced. Mr. Kloman had been a teacher at the elite private school, Potomac, in McLean Virginia for almost 30 years.

During that time he used his position of trust and power to sexually molest girls. In at least one case he even raped a girl. These girls were all students at Potomac. His victims were girls who were between the ages of 12 and 14 years old. He took advantage of their innocence, vulnerability and trust in him to victimize and shame them. His manipulation of them and his sexual abuse and exploitation of them has left many of them with long lasting and deep emotional scars.

To make matters worse, at a certain point, the Potomac School which employed him was put on notice by outraged parents of some of the victims that Mr. Kloman, who taught 7th grade geography and math at Potomac, was engaging in sexually inappropriate conduct with students.

Over and over again, Kloman admitted that he was sexually inappropriate with girls, but what was Potomac's response to the parent's complaints and Kloman's admissions? Potomac simply sent him to counseling.

The school protected him, kept him employed as a teacher and promoted him to the position of Head of the Upper School, providing him with full and unfettered access to young girls there whom he could continue to target and victimize.

Kloman would invite the girls to his home and take them on skiing trips. He would take them into his swimming pool and would grind up against them while he forcibly held them down.

He used force to rape at least one of the girls when she was only 14 years old.

When Potomac, despite the complaints of parents, kept him employed at the school, it left girls there feeling scared and believing that there was not a safe place from Mr. Kloman. Other victims never knew that Kloman had admitted to sexually inappropriate conduct and that there was a sexual predator in their midst.

In other words, Potomac allowed this sexual predator to prey on young girls in its school, and it appeared to give him license to use his position of power and authority with impunity to sexually victimize the children who had been entrusted to his care.

The only good news in all of this is that today, the first moment of justice has finally arrived; but it came about not because of the Potomac School, which had failed to protect its students, but instead because of the courage of many of Kloman's victims.

One of these girls, now a woman, recently discovered that Kloman was substitute teaching at The Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda. Anne Sullivan feared that he might hurt another generation of girls and contacted authorities.

Police brought Kloman in for questioning and Kloman freely admitted that he had been sexually inappropriate with many young girls at Potomac.

Many of the victims, who were little girls when they were victimized, and are now women, were found and came forward. A number of them are with me today. They are very happy that Kloman has been convicted and sentenced for his reprehensible and damaging criminal conduct.

This moment of justice would never have happened if they had not had the courage to come forward and discuss the humiliating and disgusting sexual abuse that this predator inflicted upon them.

They have done the right thing which was not easy after 40 years of suffering with the impact of the crimes inflicted on them when they were children.

But what about the Potomac School? Potomac is an educational institution which has touted itself as the best and has encouraged our nation's elite to send its children there to be molded and formed with character and integrity.

What has Potomac stated so far about this sexual predator that it allowed to roam freely for so many years on its school grounds?

Potomac has stated very little. We hope to hear more. We urge the school to take a bold leadership stand. We believe that they need to investigate and explain to the public why, after parents complained, and after Kloman admitted to his sexually inappropriate conduct, that the school did not take swift action to protect the girls. Why was Kloman sent to counseling and not forced to resign and face the consequences of his criminal acts.

Potomac School must now act with the leadership and integrity which it has so often stressed as its core mission to ensure that this scandal and these types of crimes against children are never permitted to happen again.

The Potomac School owes that to these women standing with me and to all of the little girls that they speak for and to all of their parents and alumni.

We are very proud of our clients and how brave they have been. We look forward to Potomac's response.

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Representing a number of victims of Christopher R. Kroman
and the Potomac School
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