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Today we were excited and honored to have been invited to join Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval as he signed AB212 into law. This new law extends the statute of limitations for criminal prosecutions of rape in Nevada.

My client Lisa Lotte Lublin and her husband Benjamin asked Nevada Assembly Member, Irene Bustamante Adams, to introduce this bill, AB212, after they became aware that the statute of limitations in Nevada for criminal prosecution of rapists was only four years, and prevented many rape victims from ever having their case criminally prosecuted.

Many women whom I represent allege that Bill Cosby had drugged and sexually assaulted them in Nevada, but it was too late for them to have any recourse or remedy in the criminal justice system there.

For that reason Lise and Ben asked Assembly Member Bustamante Adams to introduce a bill which would eliminate the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution of rape in Nevada. The assembly member did introduce AB212 in Nevada and Lise, her husband and I testified in support of it.

The bill was later amended to extend the statute of limitations from 4 years

to 20 years. That amended bill was signed into law today.

While this bill will not help provide access to the courts for the alleged victims of Bill Cosby, it is an important step forward for rape victims.

While I encourage rape victims to report their assault to law enforcement as soon as possible after the assault, many victims are reluctant to do so. This new law sends a message to sexual predators, that victims may have access to the criminal justice system for the next 20 years after the assault, so predators should understand that they will no longer be protected from criminal prosecution for only a short period of time, and they should understand instead that they are at risk of being criminally prosecuted for their crimes many years later, rather than their enjoying the legal protection that they enjoyed in the past.

AB212 would never have been passed without the persistence and courage of my client Lise Lotte Lublin and her husband, Benjamin.

We also wish to thank Nevada Assembly Member Irene Bustamante Adams. Without her support and willingness to author and shepherd through AB212, we would not have this new bill which was signed into law today and which will in the future help to protect rape victims rather than sexual predators.

Since the Bill Cosby scandal emerged a little more than 6 months ago, this is the first bill in the nation to become law which extends the statute of limitations for

criminal prosecution of rape. We hope that it will not be the last and that rape victims everywhere will become survivors and then fighters for change in their own state so that statutes of limitations for rape are lengthened or eliminated in both criminal and the civil justice systems assuring victims that they will be able to have their day in court and that rapists will no longer be able to rape with legal impunity.

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May 26, 2015