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Statement of Christopher Alloways-Ramsey

My name is Christopher Alloways-Ramsey. I attended high school at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, 1984-86.

My mentor and abuser began grooming me at 16 years old, both in the classroom and privately. When my peers were dating, planning for universities, or learning to drive, I was being sexually abused by my teacher. In addition to the trauma caused by the abuse, I was also robbed of these normal life experiences that I watched my peers enjoy. Instead, my life experiences was trauma and distress as I rationalized the coerced sex, convinced I had caused it, and began blaming myself which went on for years.

The daily atmosphere at the school was one of emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse from some faculty and administrators in the various departments at UNCSA. The sexualization within the dance classes was so pervasive that we, the students, didn't question that anything was wrong. Likewise, we didn't dare question the mentors that we idolized and were convinced that they, and only they, could give us the ability to have professional careers.

When, during the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, teachers would say to us, during class, "You must get laid to become real artists," we believed them. But, unfortunately, many of our classmates died before the age of 30 of HIV/AIDS, some much younger. So when teachers would hit us, fondle us, grope us, or insert fingers in our private parts during class, we wrongly believed these were legitimate tactile corrections.

My ability to compartmentalize difficult things has been a way of coping over the years, and I struggle still to face down the demons of the level of abuse I suffered. The emotional stress of ignoring the sexual abuse from a mentor at UNCSA has had profound repercussions throughout my life.

The psychological damage and trauma caused by many faculty and administrators at UNCSA are insidious. I watched it happen to many of my fellow students. The harm has been lifelong. Over the years, I have been on anti-depressants since the early 90s, a litany of sleep medications since I was 17, long-term self-destructive behavior, an inability to trust or have long-lasting intimate relationships, disordered eating, lack of trust in authority figures, and paralyzing self-doubt. All of these issues have had consequences on my career, my self-worth, and my relationships.

Through the sexual and psychological abuse that I suffered at UNCSA, I am broken and have been for decades.

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Former Student at UNCSA

Represented by Allred, Maroko & Goldberg and Lanier Law Group

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