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Statement of Elizabeth Wilson, Former Student at UNCSA

My name is Elizabeth Wilson. I attended UNCSA from 1985-1988. I had come from a small town studio, full of excitement to have been accepted into the modern dance program. I believed that attending NCSA was the most amazing opportunity to receive elite level dance training and to pursue a professional dance career.

When I entered the program at the age of 14, I was immersed in an environment of sexual abuse and related intimidation and control. I was sexually abused by my teachers on a daily basis. My instructors regularly touched me in sexually provocative ways (under the guise of correcting my technique). The overall atmosphere of sexual abuse and related shame and humiliation was pervasive. I believed, as did my peers, that this treatment was normal, since we all witnessed it (as did our other instructors) and no one ever questioned or challenged the way we were treated.

The sexual abuse I endured and witnessed, caused decades of pain. I struggled with depression, lack of self-worth because of the abuse. Within two years of leaving UNCSA, I suffered with trauma related chronic illness spanning three decades. Eventually my health issues became so severe that I could no longer drive a car or even work part time jobs. I take antidepressant medication to this day and have been unable to maintain consistent work. I am easily triggered and find myself overwhelmed by the years of abuse I endured at NCSA.

The administration ignored their duty to protect students and instead condoned and contributed to a culture of systematic abuse that caused trauma to

countless young people. I am coming forward today for myself, my peers and for generations of UNCSA students who were abused and deserve justice.

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Represented by Allred, Maroko & Goldberg and Lanier Law Group

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