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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred

Yesterday, Stephen Shipps who was formerly a faculty member at UNCSA was sentenced in federal court after he pled guilty to one count of sex trafficking a minor. Three of our clients in our lawsuit against UNCSA spoke to law enforcement in this criminal case and one provided a victim impact statement to the Court. Those clients allege in our lawsuit that they were victims of sexual abuse by Mr. Shipps.

In 1995 UNCSA conducted an investigation of Mr. Shipps. Reportedly there had been 8 complaints against him.

In a statement made to the Charlotte Observer by a UNCSA spokesperson, Kathryn Johnson, wrote “the accounts described by our alumni are disturbing and run counter to the institutional values we hold”.

I ask what are the values that UNCSA holds? Words alone are not enough. UNCSA needs to be accountable to those who can prove that they were sexually victimized when they were students at UNCSA. It is long overdue that the University should acknowledge what they could have done and should have done to prevent and remedy the life changing damage done to victims by UNCSA faculty members when the victims were students at the University.

To date, however, UNCSA has done nothing to step up and take full responsibility on this matter.

We will continue our fight for justice for victims, and I can assure UNCSA that we will not stop until we win justice in our case.

Attorney Gloria Allred
April 15, 2022