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Statement of Charlotte Laws

I attended USC in the 1980s when obtaining my first Master's Degree. Then I went back to school in the 1990s for a second Master's degree and a Ph.D. I received my doctorate in 2000.

The USC health center was my medical provider while at the school, and Dr. George Tyndall was the school's gynecologist. I saw him, by my recollection, 3 to 6 times in the 1990s. I had no choice but to go to him for wellness exams and other issues because I could not afford to see a doctor outside of campus. USC's semester fee for health care services was reasonable and affordable.

I remember being in the exam room with Dr. Tyndall. I was on the table and fully nude under a scanty robe. I remember seeing him stand to the left of my feet and speaking with me. I remember his casual attitude and that he treated me as if I was his buddy or a close friend. I thought this was odd because I did not know him. But I figured maybe this was his way of relaxing his patients.

I remember that he then complimented me on my looks—behavior which again seemed odd as well as unprofessional. It made me feel uncomfortable. But I was trapped. I needed to have an exam, and he was the only option as far as I knew. Then I remember Dr. Tyndall digitally penetrating me without a glove. I was naïve about protocol and gave him the benefit of the doubt because he was a doctor. I trusted him because he was a doctor. He felt my breasts, saying this was to detect lumps. I figured this was necessary and that he knew what his doing. Again I trusted him because he was a doctor.

I remember leaving his office that day and thinking that he was creepy. This was the word in my mind: creepy. But again I had no choice but see him for annual exams and other gynecological issues while at the school.

After I graduated from USC, I specifically sought out a female doctor because I had a distrust of male gynecologists. Dr. Tyndall had given me a complex. I thought maybe all male doctors were creepy.

Recently, I saw articles in online newspapers about Dr. Tyndall's inappropriate behavior. I was disgusted and realized that my instinct back then had been right. Dr. Tyndall had been acting inappropriately. He was using his status as a doctor to victimize women. And he victimized me.

I also learned that USC had received complaints about Dr. Tyndall years ago and did not act on them. I was surprised because USC is a good school.

I hope USC will make things right for the many victims of Dr. Tyndall.

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