

**Contact: Gloria Allred**  
**Phone: 323-653-6530**  
**Email: [gallred@amglaw.com](mailto:gallred@amglaw.com)**

## **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Today, seven current and former students at the University of Connecticut filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights claiming that their rights under Title IX have been violated by the University. They are requesting an investigation and that action be taken. They are simply tired of seeing women being raped and sexually assaulted at the University while the administration shows deliberate indifference and they have joined the ranks of women at many Universities across the country that have chosen to fight back.

The Title IX complaint sets forth details of rapes, sexual assaults, and sexual batteries that have occurred at UConn and details the manner in which UConn has failed to abide by the federal law which guarantees students the right to an education free from the violation of their human and civil rights.

I am proud to stand here today in support of these brave young women who have come forward to stand up for themselves and countless other women who have been sexually assaulted while trying to get an education. The young women here today, like the many others on college campuses that have come before them and filed complaints with the Office of Civil Rights, feel that they have been betrayed by UConn which has failed to keep them safe and betrayed them once they reported what happened to them to College administrators.

For example, Ms. Angel, who is here today is a former student at UConn who alleges that she was raped by a classmate in her on-campus dorm provided to her by her summer job at UConn. She reported the rape to the administration and after a hearing Ms. Angel was told that the perpetrator had been found guilty of sexual misconduct, possession of drugs, providing alcohol to a minor and breaking and entering. Ms. Kylie was told that the perpetrator was going to be expelled immediately.

Several weeks later, Ms. Angel was in the dining hall on campus - - she looked up. Her perpetrator was sitting right next to her - Ms. Angel ran to the

bathroom and called her therapist who she had been seeing since two months after the rape. She was advised to go to the UConn police. She went in person to the UConn Police along with two friends. The Chief of Police brought her back into a room with a female police officer. Ms. Angel told them what happened. The female officer said that if women stopped spreading their legs like peanut butter that rapes would stop happening.

After considerable effort she was able to arrange a meeting with the VP of Student Affairs, John Saddlemire and Cathy Cox, Director of Community Standards. They said that someone should have contacted her to let her know that as a result of an appeal by the perpetrator that the sanctions had been lifted even though the findings remained the same. Ms. Angel had not even been made aware of the fact that an appeal had been filed. Nor was she given any opportunity to address the issues involved.

Carolyn Luby is a current student at UConn.

On April 24, 2013, Carolyn Luby wrote an open letter to President Susan Herbst, which was published on an academic website called The Feminist Wire. This open letter was written to draw attention to the way the administration at the University of Connecticut had been deliberately indifferent to issues of sexual violence and had contributed to an environment where sexual assault and violence was minimized, trivialized, and even condoned.

A website called Barstool Sports picked up the letter, cited her first and last name, posted pictures of what she looked like, and dedicated three separate pages to hate speech and threats directed towards her and her letter. Almost immediately thereafter, Ms. Luby began receiving threats on campus by students ranging from "That's that bitch who wants to get raped" to students approaching her saying "You sure are pretty enough to rape."

One anonymous email stated. "I hope you get raped by a husky." A number of UConn students on campus in a car taunted her saying "here kitty kitty" and barking and growling like huskies while threatening to rape her." The Administration was well aware of the fact that Ms. Luby was being targeted and that she was not safe on campus, but failed to take action to protect Ms. Luby. Indeed, the Feminist Wire generated a petition to the University's administration urging them to intervene, which went unanswered despite garnering 1,200 signatures. Three Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies professors for the

University of Connecticut published an article imploring the administration to respond, to which no response was given.

Instead, Ms. Luby was further attacked by the very administration that should have been protecting her. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 President Herbst described Luby's act of publishing an open letter as "inappropriate". President Herbst said she would make no statement to the community about the backlash against Luby in order to "protect the status of an open investigation". As of today, Ms. Luby has still heard nothing from UConn about her case that was opened in April in response to the backlash, threats and sexual harassment that she was subjected to following her open letter.

We believe that Ms. Herbst's action was inappropriate and that the University's actions have been inappropriate insofar as these women who are here today publicly and the other women named in the Title IX complaint and the many other women who have not yet felt safe enough to come forward.

We are hopeful that as a result of the investigation that we are asking for that the University will be forced to comply with federal law and create a safe environment for students to study and learn and achieve their objectives in attending College.

October 21, 2013