

BROWN GOLDSTEIN LEVY

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For more information, please contact:
Kobie Flowers, Abigail Graber
202-742-5969, 410-962-1030

Recent Catholic University of America Graduate Files Suit Alleging University Mishandled Rape

On October 7, 2016, Erin Cavalier, a 2016 graduate of the Catholic University of America (CUA), sued her alma mater alleging that CUA badly mishandled its investigation into her rape by a fellow student. Ms. Cavalier contends that CUA inexplicably delayed its investigation, failed to interview witnesses or preserve evidence, and overlooked medical documentation that showed that at the time of her rape she was too intoxicated to consent to sex.

Compounding the situation, Ms. Cavalier alleges CUA ignored when her rapist and his friends harassed and intimidated her, in violation of a no-contact order.

“I trusted CUA to do the right thing, and at every juncture they violated that trust,” said Ms. Cavalier.

After her rape, Ms. Cavalier became an advocate for survivors of sexual assault on college campuses. But, as she states in her Complaint, CUA interfered with her advocacy efforts in retaliation for asserting her rights.

Ms. Cavalier reported CUA’s actions to the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, which enforces Title IX nationwide.

“The problem of college sexual assault is far too common and it has gone on far too long,” says Kobie Flowers, who represents Ms. Cavalier. “In Erin’s case, CUA could have shown real leadership on the issue. Instead, CUA showed Erin indifference, indignity, and injustice. Now, it is time to hold CUA accountable.”

A press conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 14, 2016, at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20045. Ms. Cavalier will present the details of CUA’s lack of a response to her sexual assault.

Ms. Cavalier is represented by Kobie Flowers and Abigail Graber of the law firm of Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP.

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Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP 1750 K Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20006

120 E. Baltimore Street, Suite 1700 Baltimore, MD 21202

www.browngold.com