

MEDIA RELEASE

ANNOUNCING THE SETTLEMENT OF

JOHN M. DOE v. THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD, ET AL

and

MICHAEL J. LONG v. THE NORWICH ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIOCESE, ET AL

Largest Settlement Paid by Norwich Diocese

The Reardon Law Firm has recently settled two lawsuits on behalf of Connecticut men who alleged that they had been molested by Catholic priests while teenagers for a combined total of nearly \$2 million.

The case of John M. Doe v. The Archdiocese of Hartford was settled for \$850,000 after a mediation conducted by Judge Frederick Freedman in Connecticut Superior Court. John M. Doe, a local business person, who chose to remain anonymous for family reasons, brought a lawsuit in 2002 alleging that Father Stephen Foley molested him on multiple occasions while he was age 15 in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and a member of the St. Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church. Father Stephen Foley now resides at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, Connecticut. At the time of the molestations, he was the Assistant Pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church, and Mr. Doe was an altar boy. Father Stephen Foley was well known in the State as the State Police

Chaplain and Chaplain to the State Fire Chiefs' Association in the 1970s and 1980s. He drove a Ford Crown Victoria with a medallion on the front and rear bumpers identifying him as the Connecticut State Police Chaplain. He would frequently respond to accident scenes and fires, often accompanied by a young boy. Mr. Doe alleged his molestations occurred when Father Foley took him away to Cape Cod for the weekend.

“My client was very relieved that this matter could be resolved by private mediation without the disclosure of his name since he is raising a family and is a businessman in Connecticut. He is relieved that he can close the book on this chapter of his life and move on.”

In addition, The Reardon Law Firm has also just resolved another lawsuit against the Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut, involving molestations by a priest entitled Michael J. Long v. Diocese of Norwich. This lawsuit was brought by Michael J. Long against the Norwich Roman Catholic Diocese and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church of New London in 2002 and was just settled on the first day of jury selection in Hartford Superior Court for the sum of \$1.1 million. Mr. Long of Waterford, CT, sued the Norwich Diocese and St. Mary's Church in 2002 for the damages he suffered when molested at age 15 in 1978 by Father Bruno Primavera, then Associate Pastor at St. Mary's. After four years of litigation, including depositions of Bishop Daniel Reilly, Bruno Primavera, Monsignor Thomas Bride, Mr. Long and his mother, as well as his doctors and the experts retained by Mr. Long's attorneys to render their opinions, the case settled at the

commencement of the trial for the largest settlement ever paid by the Norwich Diocese in a priest molestation case. Mr. Long was represented by Robert I. Reardon, Jr., of The Reardon Law Firm in New London. Reardon stated, “The litigation has been a long and difficult process for Michael Long to go through. It included the depositions of the experts our firm retained, Richard Sipe in San Diego, California, a former priest and expert on the psychological impact of childhood molestations by priests, and Father Thomas Doyle in Washington, D.C., an expert on canon law who has been involved in dealing with this crisis since the early 1980s when he served as Secretary-Canonist to the Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C., and as an advisor to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Although Long filed his lawsuit as John L. Doe, the Diocese of Norwich filed a motion requiring him to disclose his name at the outset of trial. Appreciating that it was important to all of the victims of molestation by priests that his case go forward, Michael agree to do so. Shortly after he agreed in open court to allow his name to be used, the case settled. As a condition of settlement, Long insisted that his mother personally receive a letter of apology signed by Bishop Cote since she has always been a devout Catholic who has committed countless volunteer hours to St. Mary’s Church during her lifetime. Michael’s older brother, a Catholic priest, was prepared to testify on his behalf during the trial.”

Reardon praised the courage of his client. “Michael and his family have been incredibly brave as they proceeded through the ordeal of this lawsuit. He is relieved that this case is over so that he can finally begin the healing process.

Michael has been proud of his family for standing with him and supporting him through this painful experience.”

For more information, please contact:

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A copy of the lawsuit complaint and the letter of apology are available upon request.