

PRESS RELEASE

RE: SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS INVOLVING THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

MARCH 27, 2007

Lawyers Thomas Staack and Chad Swanson of Dutton, Braun, Staack & Hellman, P.L.C. in Waterloo announce the resolution of 9 sexual abuse claims against the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The terms of the settlement were reached through private mediation which occurred on March 22 and 23, 2007 in Dubuque. Archbishop Jerome Hanus and Vicar General James Barta personally participated in the entire mediation process. Archbishop Hanus met with one of the survivors as part of the mediation process to listen to his experiences and to offer words of healing, compassion and support. Others in this group will be meeting personally with Archbishop Hanus in the future.

With respect to these 9 individuals, no lawsuits were publicly filed against the Archdiocese. Rather, these individuals, through their lawyers, approached the Archdiocese with details of abuse. Each individual provided written information to the Archdiocese, underwent questioning under oath, and underwent two psychological evaluations.

Highlights of the settlement are as follows:

1. Non-Economic Issues:

- a. The Archdiocese shall continue to post on its diocesan website the names of all church personnel accused of sexual abuse of minors when such accusations have been proven in a court of law, or found to be true through a criminal investigation,

or ruled by the Review Board to be “sustained” after an outside non-criminal investigation, or admitted by the person in connection with the settlement of a civil lawsuit. All church personnel accused of sexual abuse of minors whose conduct is the basis for a lawsuit against the Archdiocese will also be listed. No person will be listed if the information comes only from medical reports (which are governed by civil law restrictions – HIPAA, etc.) or from the Sacrament of Penance. “Church personnel” is defined in this Memorandum to mean all eleven categories listed in Appendix A of the Archdiocesan Policy for the Protection of Minors.

- b. The Archdiocese shall update its Table of Accused Priests on its website to note that the earliest claimed abuse by John J. Brickley occurred in the 1950s.
- c. The Archdiocese shall update its Table of Accused Priests on its website to note that the earliest claimed abuse by Patrick W. McElliott occurred in the 1940s.
- d. The Archdiocese will publish a minimum of two times per year a statement urging victims of sexual abuse by “church personnel” to come forward and contact law enforcement or the Archdiocese.
- e. The Archdiocese will allow any Claimant represented by Dutton, Braun, Staack & Hellman, P.L.C. who is a victim of sexual abuse the opportunity to speak at their home parish or in the parish where they were abused following a Sunday Mass, provided an appropriate release prepared by the Archdiocese is first executed by such Claimant. A request to address a Parish should be made through the office of the Vicar General.
- f. Archbishop Hanus will send private letters of apology to all Claimants and their families who have not previously received such a letter, and he shall cause a written public apology to be released to the media no later than March 30, 2007, expressing and offering support for all 9 Claimants and their families, and for all other survivors of sexual abuse perpetrated by Archdiocesan “church personnel.”
- g. Each Claimant shall be granted a private interview with Archbishop Hanus at any time in the future should they choose to want such a meeting to occur.
- h. As it relates to each priest accused in this mediation, the Archdiocese will direct that all photographs, names and other depictions of such priests be removed from public display in all Archdiocesan facilities, including but not limited to all parishes within the Archdiocese and the Archdiocesan headquarters. This action will be taken in response to the request of some victims, not at the initiation of The Archdiocese of Dubuque.
- i. The total amount of the settlement shall not be confidential, although the

