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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Civil Lawsuit on Student Victims of Hazing at Maine West High School Endures *Administrative Hearing Reverses DCFS's Previous Decision***

**CHICAGO, IL (March 12, 2015)** – Antonio Romanucci, lead attorney for the victims in the Maine West hazing scandal civil lawsuit, issued the following response on Thursday, March 12, 2015 to the administrative appeal hearing that reversed DCFS' indication of Emilio Rodriguez and Michael DiVincenzo for abuse/neglect in 2013. The individuals named are defendants in the civil suit led by Romanucci's firm, Romanucci & Blandin, LLC. Romanucci's statement is as follows:

"The administrative hearing and its procedures are separate and distinct from the civil litigation and the lawsuit that was filed against the defendants," stated Antonio Romanucci, lead attorney for the victims in the Maine West hazing scandal civil lawsuit. "The law demands two separate burdens of proof and no jury was present in today's administrative hearing to decide the facts. We intend to continue to vigorously prosecute this case and bring justice to these boys who were abused while at school on school grounds at the direction of the coaches and the knowledge of the administration."

"While we respect the Administrative Law Judge's decision, the facts of this case are not in dispute. Students have already testified that they were battered and sexually assaulted. We know that Michael DiVincenzo threatened the children with sexual assault, and members of the varsity team initiated that assault soon after. We know that DiVincenzo was aware and present when initiations were discussed, but he never reported them to anyone. In the civil suit, these facts will be enough for the victims to finally have justice. The evidence presented around the events in question clearly supports DCFS' prior indicated findings and supports the conclusion that sexual and physical assaults did indeed occur under the supervision of both coaches at Maine West High School. We are awaiting receipt of the report to fully understand the DCFS decision."

For more information about the Maine West hazing lawsuit, please visit the website of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, [www.rblaw.net](http://www.rblaw.net). To request comment from Antonio Romanucci, please contact Stefanie Stein at 312-494-0422.

About Romanucci & Blandin, LLC

Romanucci & Blandin has been rated as a leading civil trial practice law firm in Chicago centering in personal injury and police misconduct. The attorneys at the Chicago law firm represent individuals and their families in catastrophic personal injury matters, wrongful death and workers' compensation cases. The cases that are referred to Romanucci & Blandin involve accidents or injuries which occurred due to negligence and carelessness on the part of individuals, governmental bodies and corporations of all sizes. Since its inception more than 16 years ago, Romanucci & Blandin has secured more than \$300 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of their clients. For more information about Romanucci & Blandin, please visit [www.rblaw.net](http://www.rblaw.net) or call (312) 458-1000.

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