

# PUBLIC JUSTICE

RIGHTING WRONGS

As reports of vicious -- and sometimes, tragic -- school bullying reach epidemic proportions, victims and their parents are beginning to turn to the courts for relief. Public Justice is with them.

We have just joined an Illinois case involving a 14-year-old boy who, upon earning a spot on the Maine West High School boys' varsity soccer team, endured a heinous hazing ritual that involved him being tackled to the ground, held there, and beaten and repeatedly sodomized with fingers, sticks and other foreign objects. The team's coaches were not only aware of the hazing; they allegedly ordered and watched it happen.



Last week, we filed an [amended complaint](#) in *Jane and John Doe v. Maine Township High School District 207*, adding three more plaintiffs to the suit, all with similar horror stories to tell. There may be more to come.

With Public Justice Foundation Board Member Tony Romanucci and Executive Committee Member Ted Leopold as lead counsel, we are suing the school board, the high school principal and the coaches for their failure to prevent the atrocities and respond to them appropriately. (Tony is pictured, above left, with the mother of a Maine West soccer player who was bullied and assaulted.)

In addition to damages for our clients, we are seeking a change in behavior and attitudes, from top to bottom -- the district hierarchy, principals, teachers, students and the bullies themselves. Thus, education and training are a large part of the remedy we are asking the court to grant.

The case represents a troubling trend across the country. We grieve for the young people who have taken measures as drastic as suicide in order to escape their tormentors. It is terrible enough that bullying happens. It is a disgrace when authorities abdicate their responsibilities to protect children from traumatic experiences on their watch. It is unforgiveable when those same authorities are involved in the atrocities or don't take measures to stop them from happening again.

We thank Tony and Ted for bringing us in on this important, groundbreaking case, with Public Justice Managing Attorney Adele Kimmel as co-counsel and with assistance from Goldberg-Robb Attorney Adrian Alvarez.

And we appreciate your continuing support, which allows us to pursue cutting-edge litigation like this in our mission to right wrongs.

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