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ASIJ independent investigation - Moyer case

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Mon, Oct 20, 2014 at 3:12 PM

To: Mr. Jim Dowden, Ropes & Gray

Janet Simmons informed me that at her meeting with you in Portland last month, you were unaware of me or the evidence in the Moyer case which I had made available to Ropes and Gray. If the ASIJ board has failed to provide important, relevant documentation to Ropes & Gray, at least the investigators have received it directly from me. This is a copy of the mail to them of 9 August to which Janet Simmons was calling your attention.

The fact that the attached communications directly implicate the current Head of School and certain board members in the cover-up of the Moyer case and in negligence in following up on victims will explain why you may not have received them directly from ASIJ. I would like to summarize some of the facts which they illustrate and some important questions which they raise which I hope Ropes & Gray have already followed up thoroughly.

1. The Head of School was informed no later than December 2011 of Janet Simmons' internet blog containing Jack Moyer's written admissions to sexually abusing many female ASIJ students over a period of decades.
 - a) When did the ASIJ administration first become aware of Janet Simmons' blog?
 - b) Under what authority was my *registered* letter to the board of Dec. 9, 2011 intercepted by Ed Ladd?
 - c) Who, if any, of the then board members were given copies of the letter?
 - d) Did the board in plenum consider my evidence?
 - e) Why did the board never respond directly to my mail?
 - f) If the board or administration became aware of Janet Simmons' internet blog prior to my first letter, what discussions and actions resulted, starting at that time?
2. My December 2011 letter points out that ASIJ faculty were not held strictly accountable and were allowed to be in potentially compromising situations with students. There were deficiencies with chaperoning and lack of safeguards.
 - a) What were the written school policies about faculty-student relationships during Moyer's tenure?
 - b) How do former faculty and students describe how the policies were communicated and enforced?
3. My December 2011 letter points out that there may have been other sexual abuse occurring in the ASIJ milieu.
 - a) What do school records show about this?
 - b) What do former administrators and faculty report about this?

c) Do past minutes record that the board was informed about any such issues, and what actions were taken?

4. My December 2011 letter points out that evidence indicates that the Japanese police were never informed about accusations of criminal behavior by Moyer.

a) Were ASIJ officials in violation of school policies by not reporting this?

b) Which Japanese laws were ASIJ officials in violation of by not reporting this?

c) Were ASIJ officials in violation of Japanese law not to report to the police or other authorities the evidence I presented to them in 2011?

5. The ASIJ board was requested no later than December 2011 to begin a thorough investigation of the Moyer sexual abuse case, to report the results and to search out all possible victims and offer them assistance.

a) What was official school and board policy in effect in 2011 concerning investigation of sexual abuse by teachers?

b) Did the administration and board violate school policy by continuing to cover up the Moyer case until 2014?

6. On Feb. 20, 2012 Ed Ladd responded as Head of School to my December 2011 letter to the board. His letter does not address the above points #2-5 from my letter including the request for an investigation and the request that the school take a proactive approach to finding and helping all victims.

a) Were the board chair and rest of the board aware of the contents of this letter and did they formally approve it?

b) If any of the board were not made aware of my letter and/or the school's response, is this a violation of school policy?

7. On Nov. 13, 2012 I sent a second registered letter to the board chair, pointing out that Mr. Ladd's letter did not address the specific challenges which I had previously given the board. I urged the board to reconsider their apparent cover-up of the Jack Moyer case and act responsibly, reiterating the life-long consequences for Moyer's victims. The board never responded to this letter though an e-mail of Dec. 2 from Mr. Ladd confirms that the letter was received.

a) Did Mr. Ladd intercept this letter as well and under what authority?

b) Did the board chair and the rest of the board receive this letter?

c) Was it the board's direct decision not to answer the letter?

d) Were any board or school policies violated by the way this letter was handled?

8. In an e-mail to Mr. Ladd on Dec. 1, 2012, I raised four issues that the school should address and for which it should take necessary remedial action. The first was "Has the school fulfilled its obligations toward the victims and their families?"

a) Was the board provided copies of these four points?

b) As a consequence, did the administration and the board give serious attention as to whether they were meeting their obligations to the victims and their families?

c) What concrete actions resulted?

9. The second issue raised in the Dec. 1 e-mail was "Has the school fulfilled its obligations toward the police authorities?"

a) In response to this challenge, did the administration and the board give serious attention as to whether they were meeting their obligations toward the police authorities?

b) What concrete actions resulted?

10. The third issue raised in the Dec. 1 e-mail was "Has the school fulfilled its obligations to report to its accrediting bodies and to implement their recommendations?" ASIJ is accredited today by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

a) In response to this challenge, did the administration and the board give serious attention as to whether all obligations have been met towards accrediting bodies?

b) What concrete actions resulted?

c) If an accredited WASC school becomes aware of sexual abuse of students by a faculty member, how is it required to report this to the WASC?

d) Since the time that Moyer's sexual abuse was first reported to the ASIJ administration, what has been reported to the WASC and any other relevant accrediting bodies?

e) What particular actions have the accrediting bodies required or recommended for the school as a result of this reporting?

f) What has the school done to implement these actions.

g) Has the school been in violation of its responsibilities towards its accrediting bodies in connection with sexual abuse issues?

11. The final issue raised in the Dec. 1 e-mail was "Has the school fulfilled its obligations to inform its stakeholders?"

a) In response to this challenge, did the administration and the board give serious attention as to whether it had been fulfilling its obligations to inform all stakeholders?

b) What concrete actions resulted and when?

12. On Nov. 3, 2013, I sent an e-mail to Mr. Ladd requesting contact information for the ASIJ board and the current board chair. I also asked for confirmation that the board had received my registered letters in 2011 and 2012. Mr. Ladd never answered.

a) Did Mr. Ladd inform the board and the board chair that I was trying to reach them?

b) Did Mr. Ladd have authorization from anyone on the board to ignore my request?

13. Has the school provided you with a complete set of copies of the correspondence which I have had with them about the Moyer case?

a) If not, who, if any, has failed in their responsibility?

Here are some further questions for which I would like responses from Ropes & Gray:

1. Did the school provide Ropes & Gray with the Japan Times articles in 2014 which provide much relevant information for your investigation?

a) What initiatives did Ropes & Gray take to contact the Japan Times journalists or the persons quoted in the articles in order to further the investigation?

2. What initiatives did Ropes & Gray take to follow up my request in my telephone interview to investigate whether the reasons for Jack and Mary Moyer's divorce had any connection to his relationships to female students?

3. Has Ropes and Gray investigated Jack Moyer's personal relationships to the Japanese imperial family (both adults and children)?

a) How did ASIJ warn the imperial family about Jack Moyer's history of sexual abuse?

Two things still astonish me.

- How few questions the lawyers from Ropes & Gray asked me about the ASIJ correspondence, considering the wealth of questions listed above. I had the distinct impression that they weren't doing a thorough job. Also, after Janet Simmons gave you a heads-up about my correspondence, I would have thought you might have had more questions for me.
- I'm also astonished that Mr. Ed Ladd still has the confidence of the ASIJ board when my correspondence alone is sufficient to prove his involvement in a cover-up. It appears to be relevant for you to investigate whether they are covering up for each other, if it doesn't create a conflict with your mandate.

Best regards,

David R. Bruns

ASIJ Class of 1968

Stavanger, Norway

[Quoted text hidden]

8 attachments



20111209 Letter to ASIJ Board.pdf
974K



20120220 ASIJ reply re Jack Moyer.pdf
533K



20121113 Letter to ASIJ Board .pdf
401K



20121201 email to E. Ladd - ASIJ and Jack Moyer case.pdf
47K



20121202 email from E. Ladd re ASIJ and Jack Moyer case.pdf
35K



20131103 E-mail to Ed Ladd, ASIJ.pdf
47K



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