

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**CLERGY SEXUAL ASSAULT CLAIM SETTLED BETWEEN
VICTIM AND DIOCESE OF BUFFALO**

What: Attorney Adam Horowitz of HERMAN, MERMELSTEIN, & HOROWITZ, P.A., a law firm in Miami, Florida, announces the settlement of a claim in which his client alleged that Rev. Secondo Casarotto, a Catholic priest, sexually assaulted her in August 2009 at St. Anthony of Padua, the parish where he assigned by the Diocese of Buffalo to serve as Pastor.

The settlement was reached with the Diocese of Buffalo and the Scalabrinians (the Religious Order to which Casarotto belongs) prior to the filing of a lawsuit in federal court. The specific monetary terms of the settlement are not being disclosed by the victim.

According to the alleged victim (identified as 37-year old Jane Doe), Father Casarotto gave her a tour of the parish where was Pastor. When they arrived at his living quarters, he lunged at her, threw her on the bed, pulled down her shorts, and put his fingers in her vagina. She alleges that he then kissed her breast, exposed his penis, and masturbated to ejaculation.

During their investigation, Herman, Mermelstein & Horowitz, identified another alleged sexual assault victim of Rev. Casarotto who signed an Affidavit stating that she reported a very similar sexual assault by Casarotto to the Diocese of Buffalo in 2008. Casarotto remained at St. Anthony of Padua after the first alleged victim's report until he was removed in December 2011 after the Diocese learned of Jane Doe's threatened lawsuit. Rev. Casarotto's current location is unknown to the Plaintiff.

A written statement by Jane Doe is available upon request to her attorney.

Victim's attorney Adam Horowitz states: "We are pleased to resolve this case on favorable terms. Our client showed tremendous courage to expose this alleged predator. As a result of her claim, Father Casarotto was removed as a priest in Buffalo, which may protect women in the future."

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