

Statement of Jeffrey S. Lena Regarding Release of Documents in *Doe v. Holy See*

In *John V. Doe v. Holy See*, a case against the Holy See and a province of the Friar Servants of Mary, the plaintiff states that he was sexually abused in 1965 by Servite priest Andrew Ronan in Portland, Oregon. For years, the plaintiff's lawyers have accused the Holy See of transferring Ronan to Portland with prior knowledge that Ronan posed a danger to minors.

The federal courts have dismissed most of the *Doe* lawsuit. Today, to assist the Oregon federal district court in resolving the sole remaining jurisdictional issue in the case, the Holy See is releasing all known documents relating to Ronan held by the Roman Curia.

Like other documents previously produced by the Servite Order and the Portland Archdiocese, these newly-released documents show that the plaintiff's lawyers' long-standing accusations against the Holy See are false. The Holy See was not involved in Ronan's transfers, including the transfer to Portland, and had no prior knowledge that Ronan posed a danger to minors. Instead, the documents confirm that the Servite Order first informed the Holy See of Ronan's misconduct when Ronan petitioned for laicization in February 1966 – *after* the plaintiff's abuse – and that the Holy See granted the petition for laicization just weeks later.

The plaintiff's lawyers never had support for their calumnious accusations against the Holy See. They have nonetheless chosen to misuse the legal system as a vehicle to pursue a broader agenda – a decision that has misled the public and wasted considerable resources.

Notwithstanding the plaintiff's lawyers' regrettable conduct, it is important to remember that any abuse suffered by this plaintiff, or any other victim of sexual abuse, is deplorable.

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