



Fremont Place II, Suite 302 • 1650 NW Naito Parkway • Portland, OR 97209-2534

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday, November 16, 2009

**OREGON MAN FILES CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE LAWSUIT
AGAINST MORMON CHURCH**

For More Information:

Kelly Clark, Esq.
Attorney for plaintiff

(503) 407-7381
kellyc@oandc.com

Rebecca Tweed
Media Relations

(503) 860-6033
rebecca@tweedandassociates.com

PORTLAND, ORE—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormon Church), was the subject of a new childhood sexual abuse lawsuit filed on Monday, November 16, according to attorney Kelly Clark. The case was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland, on behalf of an Oregon man who was abused as a child by a Mormon Church youth leader and music teacher. Clark, who frequently handles child sexual abuse litigation on behalf of adults who were abused as children, in cases against churches, the Boy Scouts, schools, and other youth organizations, said the abuse occurred on “dozens” of occasions in 1974-77 at the LDS Ward in Woodburn.

The suit contends that the abuse was severe and sustained, was reported to the LDS Bishop a few years later, but that no one from the Church reported the matter to law enforcement. It is not known whether the perpetrator had a prior history of child abuse, but “clearly he was in a leadership position over this boy,” said Clark, “which, along with the failure to report the abuse to law enforcement authorities, makes the Church both legally and morally responsible the abuse.”

The victim, now 46 years old, is a part time piano teacher. He identifies himself as gay and suffers from AIDS, said Clark, and he has had decades of struggles with drug and alcohol abuse. “Remarkably, though he is no longer a practicing Mormon, he has a high regard for the Church in many ways, and still considers himself to be spiritually connected with the Church. He is a courageous man who has struggled to overcome the impacts of this abuse for a long time, and has now decided he must try to protect other children from what happened to him. He is hopeful that a civil lawsuit can help prevent future child abuse.”

This case is part of a handful of abuse cases Clark filed on Monday up and down the West Coast (San Francisco, Portland, Seattle), all against the Mormon Church, four of which also name the Boy Scouts as defendants.

###