

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND FACTS AND CLAIMS

Plaintiff met Andrew McPherson in 1993 when she was in the 7th grade and he was a teacher at the Pleasant Hill Junior Academy (now called the Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy) owned and run by the Northern California Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists ("NCCSDA").

Starting in about 1994 when Plaintiff was approximately 12 or 13, McPherson began sexually and physically abusing her with explicit sexual comments, grabbing, stroking, fondling, and French kissing Plaintiff on multiple occasions. The abuse culminated in a violent episode in May 1996 in which McPherson became very angry with Plaintiff for refusing his authority, pushed her down into a chair, and throttled her with his hands until he heard someone approach and let her go.

McPherson was transferred to a Seventh-Day Adventist school in Reno, Nevada. He was arrested almost two years later (February 1998) and convicted of crimes related to sexual abuse and other sexually inappropriate conduct with two junior high students at his school in Reno.

Plaintiff now brings legal claims against McPherson and the NCCSDA for the emotional and physical harm she suffered as a result of McPherson's abuse and the failure of the NCCSDA to protect her from sexual harm at the hands of one of its teachers. The Amended Complaint alleges that the NCCSDA is to blame for Plaintiff's injuries because the organization failed to protect and warn Plaintiff and other students about McPherson's risk to children, despite having information that McPherson had a dangerous propensity to sexually and physically abuse the children placed in his care.

Plaintiff's claims include claims for negligence, fraud, intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault, and battery; as well as statutory claims, such as a claim for gender violence under California *Civil Code* section 52.4. She seeks over \$5 million in damages and, in addition, may seek to add punitive damages.