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## 29 Additional Strauss Survivors, Including Individual Abused As High Schooler, Sue OSU Over Abuse and Coverup

New plaintiffs include men whose personal lives, careers, and mental health suffered for decades following horrifying and repeated sexual abuse OSU allowed to happen

29 survivors of sexual abuse by Dr. Richard Strauss on The Ohio State University's watch - including an individual abused as both a minor and again as an OSU student - <u>filed suit against OSU today</u> over its facilitation and coverup of Strauss' decades of predation.

Survivors demanding accountability, change, and appropriate compensation in the new <u>Moxley v. OSU</u> suit include Timothy Moxley, who was abused by Strauss multiple times as a minor at a wrestling camp held on OSU's campus before being abused again as a student athlete at OSU. He joins 28 other survivors standing up to OSU today over its failure to accept responsibility for its decades-long coverup, and its refusal to take measures to make the university's current and future students safe from another Strauss. All have suffered immensely in the intervening years. Survivors in today's complaint have had regular flashbacks to Strauss' abuse, have experienced acute fear of seeking medical care, and have suffered severe damage to their personal and professional lives as a result of the trauma Ohio State permitted Strauss to inflict on them.

The survivors in the *Moxley* case are represented by Scott Elliot Smith, LPA; Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP; and Public Justice. This team represents a total of 122 survivors between the *Snyder-Hill* and *Moxley* actions.

"The complaint filed today should serve as a reminder of the scale of the sexual abuse perpetrated by Dr. Strauss, Ohio State's facilitation and concealment of the abuse to protect its own reputation, and the tremendous suffering these men have been experiencing ever since," said Adele Kimmel of Public Justice's Students' Civil Rights Project, an attorney for the plaintiffs in *Moxley* and *Snyder-Hill*. "As Ohio State continues to act dismissively towards the many hundreds of men it has betrayed for decades, we continue to urge survivors to come forward to demand accountability and secure a safer future for Ohio State students."

In 2019, a University-commissioned investigation by law firm Perkins Coie uncovered at least 177 abuse survivors and a repeated failure of Ohio State to take action to investigate or address complaints about Dr. Strauss. A few months later, a report commissioned by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine revealed that Ohio State failed to inform or protect students, even after a State Medical Board investigator told the University in 1996 "that Dr. Strauss ha[d] been performing inappropriate genital exams on male students for years"—and despite the University telling the Medical Board that it was working to identify other students abused by Dr. Strauss. The University also concealed Dr. Strauss' abuse by destroying the health care records of students he examined.

Perkins Coie only interviewed survivors who proactively came forward to share their story, meaning the actual number of survivors reaches into the many hundreds, and possibly even a thousand or more. Ohio State admitted in 2020 that it had received reports of 1,429 sexual assaults and 47 rapes by Dr. Strauss. According to today's complaint, the scale of Strauss' abuse makes this "perhaps the greatest sex abuse scandal in American history. It is without question the greatest scandal in the history of American higher education."