

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Ten Former Students Demand Justice for Sex Abuse at Elite American School in Japan; Claim School Knew About Pedophile Teacher

For More Information:

Steve Crew

503-306-0224

stevec@oandc.com

Mickey Morey

503-306-0224

mickeym@oandc.com

Attorneys for the Plaintiffs

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Ten former students submitted a formal demand for justice today to the prestigious American School in Japan (“ASIJ”) where they were sexually abused as children in the 1970s and 80s by Dr. Jack Moyer. He was a renowned instructor in marine biology at the school for nearly 40 years. Moyer admitted to sexually abusing a number of ASIJ students in 2003 shortly before committing suicide. Lawyers for the victims allege that the school had decades of notice and warning about Moyer’s abuse from victims, parents, faculty, and student eyewitnesses. Despite this, ASIJ never removed Moyer from his position or restricted his access to children prior to his retirement in 2000.

ASIJ is an elite, English-language school in Tokyo that, for more than 100 years, has taught the children of U.S. business leaders from [blue-chip corporations](#) like Boeing, ExxonMobil, IBM, Goldman-Sachs, PepsiCo, Nike, and Microsoft. Its students also include children of U.S. government officials and missionaries living in Japan.

The abuse victims are represented by O’Donnell Clark and Crew, LLP, a firm specializing in the these types of cases against large institutions of trust like the Catholic Church or Boy Scouts of America. That firm’s investigation has revealed that Moyer’s abuse of young children began almost immediately after being hired as a middle school science teacher in 1963.

The victim’s demand alleges that ASIJ received more than 20 separate reports of Moyer’s abuse. But, each time, the school allowed the abuser to remain.

“In our firm’s many years litigating sexual abuse suits against institutions of trust, we have never seen an organization with such clear prior notice regarding an abuser,” said the victims’ attorney Steve Crew. “The evidence here of ASIJ’s knowledge and failure to act is shocking.”

This past March, the school [publicly acknowledged](#) Moyer’s abuse for the first time. However, the school has minimized its prior knowledge and fault in communications with alumni. This resulted in a firestorm of alumni criticism, including a 1,000-strong petition demanding that the school submit to a third-party investigation of the claims. In response, the school has purportedly hired a law firm to conduct an investigation, as well as a PR specialist.

ASIJ marks yet another international school embroiled in scandal as the result of the administration knowingly turning a blind eye to the exploits of a pedophile teacher. Much like Moyer, another sexually-abusive international school teacher, [William James Vahey](#), was recently reported to have sexually abused at least 90 victims at a number of worldwide schools with nearly no challenge by school officials. With a criminal investigation underway, Vahey committed suicide on March 22, 2014.

Like the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America before them, it appears that American schools abroad will be forced to answer for a decades-long problem of child sexual abuse committed in their midst.

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