



Jennifer Laskin, Attorney at Law
jenniferlaskinesquire@gmail.com
(515)412-4453

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TO: Principal Robert Lowe, Covington Catholic School
RE: Violation of School Policy and DC Law

Principal Lowe:

I am a Maryland/ DC based Attorney who has seen what thousands, even millions of people across the world have viewed, your Students and Teachers taunting, teasing, and mocking a Native American Vietnam Veteran on National Mall in Washington DC. This conscious-shocking event occurred on January 18, 2019 at the end of an Indigenous People's event which drew First Nations people from across the United States. Your students interacted with the drummers and elders as they sang a finishing prayer song.

Witnesses said the following of your adult chaperones: *"They were watching standing off about twenty or thirty feet. They were smirking the whole time. The adult escorts of the Kentucky high school acted so proud of the mob. Abuse was everywhere. All these MAGA hat kids egging each other on. It was a dangerous situation."*

After the incident the Elder man gave a short statement which was posted on Instagram, in the video he is crying.

https://www.instagram.com/p/Bsy9_7WFDQO/?fbclid=IwAR1ns1aQEh8rjgLVZy36r69r5GxDsJP7S2u2VOwAtv30AhsNGWuhISkcp2c

I infer that your students AND the teachers/ adult chaperones be investigated for criminal conduct under DC Code. **The adults should be investigated for Contributing to the delinquency of a minor because they ALLOWED such behavior to occur.**

§ 22-404. **Assault** or threatened assault in a menacing manner; stalking. **(a)(1)**

Whoever unlawfully assaults, or threatens another in a menacing manner, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01 or be imprisoned not more than 180 days, or both.

§ 22–811. **Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.** (a) It is unlawful for an adult, being 4 or more years older than a minor, to invite, solicit, recruit, assist, support, cause, encourage, enable, induce, advise, incite, facilitate, permit, or allow the minor to: (5) Violate any criminal law of the District of Columbia for which the penalty constitutes a misdemeanor, except for acts of civil disobedience;

I also conclude that your students have violated the both the Beliefs of your school and the Disciplinary Code of Conduct, according to your own Parent/ Student 2018-19 Handbook. (See page 3 and 17 respectively). I will paste the relevant sections at the end of this letter.

According to your own policy: ***The act of assault of harassment on or off campus of any kind results in SUSPENSION WITH POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION.*** The Beliefs of your school which these students and staff have clearly never read include, “***...respect for self and others...enriching the human spirit through cultural exposure...and creating awareness in students to differentiate and make moral judgements in an often non-Christian world.***”

In light of current investigations regarding historical abuse within the Church and the undeniable legacy of violence inflicted upon First Nations thru the Native American Boarding Schools and other atrocities, I expect you to immediately investigate the matter and hold all those responsible fully accountable with the appropriate consequences.

As an Attorney and an Educator (with over 15 years teaching in public high schools) I would NEVER allow students to act this way on a trip nor would any teacher or parent I have ever worked with. I suggest you discipline those teachers with termination, effectively immediately.

I do appreciate the time you have taken to read this letter. I look forward to the public response you make regarding this criminal and immoral incident. I hope you do whatever is in your power and privilege to make this a teachable moment and ensure this never ever happens again.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Laskin, Esquire

BELIEFS

We believe in a respect for self and others based upon a Catholic faith that recognizes every individual is of supreme value.

We believe in a curriculum that offers meaningful experiences for students of all academic abilities.

We believe in enriching the human spirit through cultural exposure, through community service, and through school-wide religious atmosphere.

We believe in creating awareness in students to differentiate and to make moral judgments in an often non-Christian world.

We believe that today's youth must be educated to resist the destructive nature of alcohol and drug abuse.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

Students shall comply with the rules and regulations of Covington Catholic High School. **NDA/CCH have a common campus, i.e., CCH students attending functions/activities sponsored by either school on or off school property are subject to the Covington Catholic Code of Conduct.** Also, CCH uses a two block radius as a guideline for its campus and its rules and regulations. The administration reserves the right to discipline students for off-campus conduct when such conduct detrimentally impacts the school or program's reputation. Students engaging in the types of behavior listed below are subject to detention, suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.

SUSPENSION WITH POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION:

1. The act of assault or harassment on or off campus of any kind, including the dissemination of unauthorized information and/or videos pertaining to faculty, staff and/or students.

***Above are excerpts from the Covington Catholic High School 2018-19 Parent/ Student Handbook at: <http://covingtonhigh.stpsb.org/academics/guidance/studenthandbook.pdf>
