

 **JAMES, VERNON & WEEKS, P.A.**
Helping people solve problems®
LEANDER L. JAMES
CRAIG K. VERNON
1626 LINCOLN WAY, COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814
Toll Free Telephone: (888)-667-0683
Office Telephone: (208) 667-0683
ljames@jvwlaw.net
cvernon@jvwlaw.net

TOLMAGE, PESKIN, HARRIS, FALICK
STEPHAN H. PESKIN
20 VESEY STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007
Toll Free Telephone: (877) 298-3201
Office Telephone: (212) 964-1390
peskin@tolmagepeskinlaw.com

 **NOAKER**
LAW FIRM LLC
Driven to Win. Committed to Care.
PATRICK NOAKER
1600 UTICA AVE. S, 9TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416
Telephone: (952) 491-6798
patrick@noakerlaw.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women Seek to File Sexual Abuse Lawsuits Against Priest from Nanuet and Nyack

When: Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Contact: Attorney Patrick Noaker cell (612) 839-1080 | Patrick@NoakerLaw.com

Three women requested the New York County Supreme Court to allow them to withhold their identity and instead use the name “Jane Doe,” in order to file sexual abuse lawsuits against the Archdiocese of New York and Rockland County parishes of St. Anthony and St. Ann, relating to sexual abuse by Fr. Edmund Netter in the 1980’s. These women indicate in court documents that they intend to file lawsuits under the New York Child Victims Act, which provides a one-year period within which to file sexual abuse lawsuits.

According to one of the attorneys representing the women, Minneapolis-based attorney Patrick Noaker, “New York has a long tradition of protecting the identity of victims of sexual assault. The law does not want a situation where a victim of sexual abuse does not report the abuse because they are fearful of public humiliation, therefore allowing a child abuser to go unchecked. This is especially true in this case, where hundreds of children were exposed to Fr. Netter and those children may have also been abused.” According to the Official Catholic Directory for 1985, St. Anthony School served 610 students and St. Ann School had 146 students.

In court documents, Jane Doe MA alleges that Fr. Edmund Netter sexually assaulted her from approximately 1983 through 1987, when the Plaintiff was approximately 7 through 11 years old. These sexual assaults occurred on the premises of St. Anthony’s parish in Nanuet, New York and St. Ann’s parish in Nyack, NY, as well as on trips that she took with Fr. Netter.

Jane Doe MB alleges that Fr. Netter sexually assaulted her from 1983 through 1987, when she was between 8 and 12 years old. The assaults occurred on the premises of St. Anthony’s parish and on trips that Fr. Netter took with her family.

Jane Doe AT alleges that Fr. Netter sexually assaulted her from 1983 through 1989, when she was ages 10 through 14 years old. The assaults occurred on the premises of St. Anthony’s parish in Nanuet and St. Ann’s parish in Nyack. Employees of the Archdiocese actively instructed and

directed Plaintiff to go to Fr. Edmund Netter's living quarters during the school day, and at other times, when there was no reason for the minor Plaintiff to be in Fr. Netter's living quarters except for Fr. Netter to sexually abuse Plaintiff.

According to the website Bishop-Accountability.org, Fr. Edmund Netter has also been alleged to have inappropriately touched minor parishioners by kissing and groping them in the rectory of St. Anthony's Church on a weekly to bi-weekly basis for approximately 6 years in the 1970s.

Fr. Edmund Netter's assignment history is as follows:

- Fr. Netter was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of New York in 1951.
- From 1951 through 1952, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to St. Peter's parish in **Haverstraw, New York**.
- From 1952 through 1954, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to St. Eugene's parish in **Yonkers, New York**.
- From 1954 through 1956, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned in the United States Army.
- From 1956 through 1960, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to Our Savior parish in **New York, New York**.
- From 1960 through 1963, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to Our Lady of Mercy in **Bronx, New York**.
- From 1963 through 1967, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to St. Gregory Barbarigo in **Garnersville, New York**.
- Fr. Edmund W. Netter does not appear in the Official Catholic Directory in 1968.
- From 1969 through 1986, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to Defendant St. Anthony's Church in **Nanuet, New York**.
- From 1986 through 1987, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to Sacred Heart parish in **Suffern, New York**.
- Fr. Edmund W. Netter was made monsignor in 1986.
- From 1987 through 1998, Fr. Edmund W. Netter was assigned to St. Ann's parish in **Nyack, New York**.
- Fr. Edmund W. Netter died April 11, 1998.

NOTE: Jane Doe AT is available for interview with the understanding that all communication will protect her identity from disclosure.

[Patrick Noaker](#) is an attorney licensed to practice law in New York, Minnesota and Missouri, with offices in Minneapolis, New York and Chicago who has represented hundreds of survivors of sexual assault across the country. Patrick is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and has won multiple jury verdicts and settlements exceeding a million dollars.

[Stephan Peskin](#) has been practicing law since 1968. He is licensed to practice law in New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. He practices personal injury law in the Federal and State Courts. He is a [New York personal injury lawyer](#), who has published several books and articles that deal with the practice of civil litigation. He is a sought after lecturer and teacher. Mr. Peskin has been [President of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association](#), and is a Senior Member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Justice. Featured in Who's Who in American Law. Mr. Peskin has produced [multi-million dollars in settlements and verdicts](#) for his clients.

[Craig Vernon](#) is a founding shareholder at James, Vernon & Weeks, P.A., where he takes an active role in managing the firm. He has extensive experience in civil litigation. Over the past decade, Mr. Vernon has focused his practice on helping survivors of childhood sexual abuse achieve justice for past wrongs and in so doing, helping to protect children in the future. Mr. Vernon has proudly represented many hundreds of sexual abuse survivors in Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Arizona, Utah, Washington, Hawaii, New Mexico, Florida and Guam. These cases have mostly involved claims against powerful religious (and other organizations) that failed to protect children from sexual abuse by persons placed in positions of power over them.

###

For more information, please contact:

Attorney Patrick Noaker – (612) 839-1080, Patrick@NoakerLaw.com