

News Release

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U.S. clergy abuse litigator brings expertise to UK

Joins London-based solicitor to advocate for sexual abuse victims

First case includes Ireland Catholic Diocese as Defendant

(London, England) At a news conference in London today, United States-based clergy abuse lawyer Jeff Anderson announced the formation of a partnership with London solicitor Ann Olivarius to seek justice for sexual abuse victims in England and Wales.

Anderson, who is widely known for his pioneer use of the civil justice system in the United States to litigate on behalf of victims of childhood sexual abuse, referred to the new venture as an extension of his life's calling "to seek justice for survivors, protect children, and hold offenders—and the institutions that enable them—accountable for the harm they are causing children".

Olivarius, who is also a principal in the London-based law firm McAllister Olivarius, said teaming up with Anderson was something she initiated. "If you followed the clergy abuse scandal as it grew in the United States it was clear that, if not for Jeff Anderson, the Catholic Church hierarchy and its clergy might have never been held responsible as they are today. It seemed to me we needed the same kind of pressure for justice and accountability on this side of the Atlantic. I thought about that, and called Jeff Anderson".

The new entity, officially named Jeff Anderson – Ann Olivarius Law, has already established an office in London and will draw heavily on Anderson's experience litigating these cases in the United States and Olivarius' local presence and knowledge.

On Monday, Anderson and Olivarius filed their first joint case and among the defendants named in the lawsuit are Irish priest Father Francis Markey and the Diocese of Clogher in Ireland. Markey, known to have molested children in Ireland and the United States, was once assigned to Our Lady of Victory residential treatment facility in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England.

The case, filed in United States Federal District Court, claims the Diocese of Clogher is guilty of fraud because they sent Markey to the Diocese of New Ulm in the states knowing of his history of molesting children. Markey subsequently abused a child in Minnesota who is now an adult and the plaintiff in the case. Currently, Markey is being extradited to Ireland to stand trial the rape of a 15-year-old boy more than 40 years ago.

Olivarius said what impressed her most about Jeff Anderson was the way he approaches the very emotional experience of childhood sexual abuse. "Jeff understands that representing an individual harmed as a child is much more than a legal mission. As an advocate he first provides a safe, caring

and trusting environment, and for him, every case is a crusade that is more about protecting children than anything else”, she added.

Anderson, who has the status of a Registered Foreign Lawyer in the United Kingdom, said he expects to spend considerable time in London helping to develop a case load, but the firm would be managed day-to-day by Olivarius and that “both of our sister firms will contribute legal and administrative resources to the effort”.

Note: the complaint and other documents pertaining to the Markey case are available at www.aadvocates.com



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