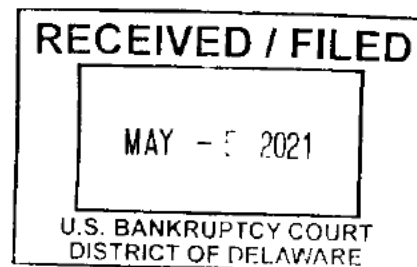


Claim Number SA [REDACTED]

April 30th 2021

Justice Lauri Selber Silverstein,



Regarding claim number SA - [REDACTED] and my abuse in scouts, I'd like to inform you and the court of my personal experience of being abused by my Scoutmaster at the age of 11 years old, I am 55 now. This is an age at which I was barely starting to even consider my sexuality and having my first sexual encounter this way has done damage that has persisted over the years and affected every part of my life. At the root is trust of my own family members, my parents and siblings who were unable to protect me from my abuser and who I've never shared this with because of the shame and guilt initially and then later because of anger and the resentment of feeling unsupported. It tainted my view of the BSA organization and the values they espouse. I dropped out of school, moved away from my home town and was living on the fringes of society for a time, dabbling in illegal substances when I could have been finishing my education and finding direction for my life. Further complications arose later when visiting back home now at age 20. I encountered a friend that was in BSA leadership at the time in Michigan that had put together that I may have been in the troop of the Scoutmaster that was then reapplying to become a Scoutmaster again. He already had serious doubts about him. I told him of my abuse and that no way should this be allowed. He was able to stop it without using my name. Shortly after I learned that my ex-Scoutmaster committed suicide. Am I in part responsible for his death? Should I feel remorse or sorrow? Could I have done more to speak out about what happened? Would that have made a difference? How many others did he abuse? What about the other leaders associated with him?

From the extent of the abuse apparent in the current case and the actions of BSA over the years to keep it concealed, along with BSA's current indirect, weak approach to obtaining a meaningful resolution for victims and preventing further cases of abuse, I don't think BSA should continue to exist. To those that are writing letters to you extolling the virtues of BSA and their experience, I'd ask, how many past and future abuses are your experiences worth? My preferred outcome would be to see the organization dissolved and all assets divided in some manner to the victims. New organizations would likely fill the void and would hopefully benefit from a fresh organizational start and live up to the values that the BSA forfeited if they ever truly embraced them. Hopefully they would also address ensuring that underprivileged troops like the one I was in, have the same opportunities and oversight as others. This is another area BSA has failed in.

If this outcome can't happen, and the organization continues, I hope that you can guide the process and outcomes so that victims at least have some meaningful compensation as a percentage of total exposure of BSA. Don't let them get away with a backroom deal that will ultimately be a spit in the face of victims and their families.

Thank you for hearing my story,

[REDACTED]

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JUSTICE LAURI SELBER SILVERSTEIN

BSA BANKRUPTCY CASE

824 MARKET STREET

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WILMINGTON, DE 19801

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