

"For the past year, St. Lawrence has failed to issue an investigative "finding" about what Morales did but continues to employ Morales and he is slated to teach a full course load in the fall of 2023, according to the lawsuit. The university was not immediately responsive to a request for a statement from the firm says.

St. Lawrence University officials say the matters are being taken seriously.

"Last night, the University was named in a lawsuit related to the alleged sexual assault. We trust that members of our community will understand the importance of due process for all parties involved as the case proceeds through the legal process. Such matters take months and sometimes years to resolve, and you should not anticipate hearing more from me about this matter because by practice we limit what we share regarding pending or active litigation. The University will respond to the complaint in court," an email sent by SLU President Kathryn Morris said.

Kim Asch, a communications director at St. Lawrence University said SLU "has a process for investigating misconduct allegations and retained an experienced independent investigator."

"The University respects the right of all parties to receive due process and provided support when the faculty member notified us of the allegations."

Additionally Asch said "the accused employee is not on campus nor teaching courses at St. Lawrence. Within hours of receiving the complaint, the University quickly acted and issued an immediate no contact order, and within days the University removed the accused employee from campus. He was ultimately placed on administrative leave. He will not be teaching classes this fall."

"The University believes there are substantial defenses to this complaint and will respond in court," she concluded.

The legal document includes a photo of a social media post from a woman who also alleges she was sexually harassed by Morales in 2005 while she was attending high-school.

The complaint says St. Lawrence University has ignored "the rape culture for years."

It points out that in 2018 members of SLU's faculty and staff called on the administration at SLU to "bring an end to the rape culture on campus."

It also alleges that in 2014 the university failed to take adequate measures to address rape on campus which led SLU students to launch the "NO MORE" campaign to the campus and community.

Seeking relief

The complaint demands a jury trial and seeks several demands for relief.

Including:

- A declaratory judgment that the actions, conduct and practices of Defendants complained of herein violate the laws of the State of New York;
- An order that Defendants engage in injunctive measures aimed at remedying the unlawful conduct described herein so that other women will not be subject to the same unlawful conduct;
- An award of damages against Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial, plus interest, to compensate Plaintiff for all monetary and/or economic damages;
- An award of damages against Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial, plus interest, to compensate for all non-monetary and/or compensatory damages, including, but not limited to, compensation for Plaintiff's emotional distress;
- An award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Prejudgment interest on all amounts due;
- An award of Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

The complaint can be read in full here at <https://www.wigdorlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Complaint-Final-PDF...> (<https://www.wigdorlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Complaint-Final-PDF.pdf>)

Help Available

In an email issued to students, SLU's president offered resources available to students in need.

"I want to state clearly that sexual misconduct is unacceptable, both on our campus and everywhere. Since my arrival at the University, we have taken action to reaffirm our commitment to a safe campus community for our students, faculty, and staff. Last year, we hired our first dedicated Title IX Coordinator/Sexual Wellness Educator, we have expanded the University's educational awareness requirements, and we offer a range of support services to members of our community," an email from the president said.

"Students, if you are in need of support, I encourage you to reach out to the Diana B. Torrey 82 Health and Counseling Center (315-229-5332), our 24/7 Crisis line (315-229-1914), or the Chaplain's office (315) 229-5062."

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Death of woman found on side of Massena road in 2014 now labeled 'suspicious'

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