

MEDIA RELEASE

**NEW CHILD SEX ABUSE LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST JESUITS
REGARDING JAMES POOLE, SJ AND JOHN DUFFY, SJ
SUIT CONTENDS POOLE HAD BEEN
EXPELLED FROM ALASKA FOR MISCONDUCT**

For More Information:

Kelly Clark	503-306-0224	kellyc@oandc.com
Kenneth S. Roosa, Esq	1-888-376-2744	ken@bushlawyers.com
John Manly, Esq.	1-949-252-9990	jmanly@manlymcguire.com

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PORTLAND, OREGON - The Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus was the subject of a multi-million dollar lawsuit filed today in Multnomah County Circuit Court by Portland attorney Kelly Clark, Alaska attorney Ken Roosa and Costa Mesa, CA attorney John Manly, on behalf of a 48 year-old woman who was repeatedly molested by Father James Poole, SJ and Father John Duffy, SJ, in the mid 1960's. The lawsuit contends that Poole was transferred to Portland in 1963 or 1964, despite what the suit calls "clear knowledge" that Poole had a "deviant sexual interest in young girls." The abuse arose out of the girl's relationship with both priests, at the time she and her family belonged to St. Cecilia's Parish in Beaverton, and she was a student at St. Mary of the Valley Academy.

"The remarkable thing about this sad case," said Clark, "is the tender age of the girl. She was but 7 or 8 years old when the priests molested her, independently we believe but do not know. Both of them were, to her, family friends, and especially Fr. Poole had a close relationship with her family. These men used the immense trust bestowed on them by the Church, by the Jesuits, and by society, and twisted the trust of a little girl into these horrible ends."

The complaint contends that the Jesuits had repeated complaints about Poole from 1960-1963, while he was assigned in Alaska, and that these complaints made clear he had a “deviant sexual interest in young girls.”

The case was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court, and is not subject to the protections of the bankruptcy case of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, said Clark, since his client has chosen to forgo any claim she might have against the Archdiocese to pursue only the Jesuits. “She believes that it was the Jesuits, not the Archdiocese of Portland, who had all the knowledge about Fr. Poole, and transferred him here anyway, allowing him to prey upon young girls,” said Clark. “Under those circumstances, she is quite comfortable focusing her search for justice on the Jesuits.”

This is not the first lawsuit the Jesuits have faced regarding Poole. An earlier case against Poole filed by Alaska woman Elsie Boudreau, was settled in 2005 for the disclosed sum of \$1,000,000. Boudreau, who is not the plaintiff in the case filed today, is available for comment through Clark.

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