

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC JUSTICE FILES GENDER DISCRIMINATION CASE AGAINST INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Public Justice, the national public interest law firm, filed a federal lawsuit against the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) late yesterday, charging that a 14- year-old student at Bloomington High School South female athlete has been discriminated on account of her gender.

Logan Young, a freshman at Bloomington South, is an accomplished baseball player who has played – and excelled – at playing baseball for nearly her entire life. The IHSAA, however, has promulgated a rule, enforced by MCCSC, that prohibits Logan from even trying out for her high school’s freshman baseball team solely because she is a girl.

The lawsuit charges that IHSAA and MCCSC have violated Logan’s rights under both the Constitution and Title IX, which is the federal law that prohibits gender discrimination in schools like Bloomington South that receive federal funds. Public Justice concurrently filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the IHSAA and MCCSC from enforcing its rule, which prohibits all high school girls from trying out for baseball as long as the school offers a softball team, so that Logan will be able to try out for her school’s baseball team this March.

<<Insert quote,>> said lead counsel Sharon F. McKee of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin in Philadelphia, PA. <<Insert quote.>>

Public Justice Attorney Victoria Ni said << Insert quote.>>

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, states that “Logan will be irreparably harmed by enforcement of the discriminatory IHSAA rules that unlawfully requires her high school to judge her by her gender, not by her abilities.”

<<Insert quote,>> said Logan/Logan’s Mom. <<Insert quote.>>

In addition to McKey and Ni, Public Justice’s legal team consists of Tae Sture, of Sture Legal Services in Fishers, Indiana, and Public Justice’s Goldberg, Waters & Kraus fellow Amy Radon.

Public Justice has successfully prosecuted more Title IX litigation against federally funded educational institutions than any law firm in the country, including landmark suits against Brown

University and Temple University. Most recently, in October 2008, its threat of a Title IX suit prompted Florida Gulf Coast University to reach a landmark settlement with two coaches who had been retaliated against for raising their concerns that the University was not in compliance with Title IX. At its 25th Anniversary Celebration last fall in Washington, DC, Billie Jean King lauded Public Justice for its extraordinary work and accomplishments advancing equal rights.

For a pdf of the complaint and other materials, please send an email to dmathis@publicjustice.net.

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Public Justice (formerly Trial Lawyers for Public Justice) is America's public interest law firm. Dedicated to using trial lawyers' and other attorneys' skills and resources to advance the public good, Public Justice is supported by – and can call on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation's top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of The Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is www.publicjustice.net.