

## Sexual Abuse & Hazing

Suffering sexual abuse or hazing is an especially painful experience, one many victims find is complicated by privacy issues on top of their physical and emotional injuries. Our legal team understands the delicate nuances of these cases and are experts at using discretion and care while fighting for justice.

### Related Practices

Boy Scouts  
Clergy Abuse  
Hazing, Bullying & Intimidation  
Minor Child Abuse  
School & Institutional Abuse  
Sex Trafficking

### Related Professionals

Stephan D. Blandin  
Gina Arquilla DeBoni  
Ian P. Fallon  
Jason J. Friedl  
Martin D. Gould  
Bryce T. Hensley  
Bruno R. Marasso  
Bhavani K. Raveendran  
Antonio M. Romanucci

## SEXUAL ABUSE & HAZING LAWYERS | ROMANUCCI & BLANDIN

Every 73 seconds someone in America is the victim of a sexual assault, leaving victims with significant and real psychological, physical and emotional injuries.

### Sexual assault and sexual abuse are real

Sexual abuse is a criminal offense that can be punished by imprisonment, but a victim of such abuse can also file a civil lawsuit to recover compensation. Romanucci & Blandin has significant experience with sexual abuse lawsuits and we are very familiar with the challenges and compassion that these cases require. We understand how to listen to people who have suffered sexual assault and sexual abuse, and our sexual abuse attorneys know how to bring some measure of justice to your life.

Many times, the victim is hesitant to speak out due to fear or embarrassment. Sometimes they are told to stay quiet by friends, family or loved ones, or there may be fear of retribution by the abuser.

Sexual abuse cases become even more sensitive when the victim is a child. These cases often involve an abuser who is in a position of authority or is trusted by the child or family. Our team is also familiar with cases stemming from contact on the internet by an adult preying on a young person.

### High school hazing activities can cause a lifetime of harm

Hazing can happen in many places, and hazing rituals in K-12 school districts can include sexual activities, sexual violence, physical and emotional injuries. The trauma from hazing activities can last a lifetime. Hazing can happen in high school settings such as with student athletes on sports

teams. Our hazing attorneys are very familiar with these types of cases and, as an example, we have represented young high school students who were members of a football team, sexually assaulted with a broomstick in a locker room by members of the varsity team as a rite of passage.

## Hazing rituals at college can have tragic results

Hazing activities are, unfortunately, common on college campuses, as well. Fraternities, sororities and sports teams often have hazing rituals and rites of passage that put college students and student athletes in danger, exposing them to sexual hazing, physical and emotional injury and even causing hazing death. These activities capitalize on college students wanting to be new members of campus organizations or student groups, and see the darkside of toxic masculinity and peer pressure.

## Your sexual abuse or hazing claim

With headquarters in Chicago, the sexual abuse and hazing attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin know the damage caused by these situations can also include missed work and loss of income, medical bills for treatment, therapy or counselling and more. The attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin know how to navigate these sensitive cases and bringing justice to victims - even if the abuse took place years ago - and often settle these types of cases without going to trial.

At Romanucci & Blandin, we approach a sexual abuse case or hazing claim as a way to provide monetary compensation and hold an individual or institution financially accountable and responsible for the economic, physical and emotional damages that have occurred.

Our law firm has a team of attorneys and staff who have years of experience with sexual abuse and hazing litigation. Our sexual abuse legal team includes partners who guide the process and share their deep knowledge of these types of lawsuits. Each client and each situation is different, and your claim is treated with great care and respect as the team investigates what happened and determines the best path to justice for you.

We know exactly what to do to litigate your sexual abuse or hazing case. We will obtain all necessary background information on the abuser and, if appropriate, any institution such as a school district, church or scouting organization that was involved. We find the records, interview witnesses, utilize experts and prepare thoroughly and meticulously for your case. Ultimately, our aim is to obtain the maximum compensation possible so that you can move on with your life.

At Romanucci & Blandin, our sexual abuse and hazing attorneys research the most up-to-date sexual misconduct laws and hire trained and experienced sexual assault and hazing experts to work as expert witnesses and consultants on your cases. We will evaluate your injury, claim and research the relevant statute of limitations applicable to your case. We work to locate and utilize the best experts across the country who are experienced in all the relevant state laws.

## Delivering justice for sexual abuse and hazing victims

The results we have achieved in many sexual abuse and hazing cases are a testament to our team's fierce dedication to clients. For example, we are proud to have secured justice for a wide range of people: those abused by clergy or scout leaders, victims of sex trafficking, those who suffered intimate partner abuse or forced into a sexual assault as a hazing ritual.

Our results speak for themselves. While every case is different, we have secured verdicts and settlements that are hundreds of thousands of dollars or more than a million dollars for victims of this type of abuse.

From abuse by a teacher or in a high school or college hazing ritual, to priest or scout leader abuse, our team knows how the system works, how insurance companies and major institutions operate, and what judges, juries or mediators need to see to understand your claim.

## Justice beyond a verdict or settlement: change in laws

At Romanucci & Blandin, we are committed to justice for our clients both in and out of the courtrooms. We are active in creating legislative change to stem or stop the problems in our community that have impacted our clients. This means engaging with lawmakers, advocacy groups and even testifying in front of legislators to share our clients stories and create change.

One example of this is when our client, who is the mother of a young female sex trafficking victim who was murdered, testified in the U.S. Senate. When legislation was passed, our client and her attorneys were in the White House when the SESTA/FOSTA law was signed, reforming internet solicitation of minors.

## Types of sexual abuse and hazing claims

The following are some of the types of sexual abuse & hazing cases we handle for our clients:

- Boy Scouts
- Clergy abuse
- Hazing, Bullying & Intimidation Hazing Cases
- Minor Child abuse
- School & Institutional abuse
- Sex Trafficking

## Free consultation on your case with a Chicago-based sexual assault and hazing attorney

The sexual abuse and hazing attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin have proven success in these types of cases. **If you or a loved one has suffered injury or wrongful death, please contact our office at [Info@rblaw.net](mailto:Info@rblaw.net), 312-458-1000 or [click here](#) for a free evaluation of your case. There is never a fee until you are compensated for your injuries at the end of the case.**

## Experience

\$700,000 – Sexual Abuse  
June 2021

\$880,000 Settlement – Clergy Abuse  
June 23, 2021

\$500,000 – Sexual Abuse  
June 2021

\$1,200,000 Settlement – Sexual Abuse at Boarding School  
April 29, 2021

\$865,000 Settlement – Sexual Abuse  
September 2020

\$900,000 Settlement – Title IX, Wrongful Death  
May 2020

\$2,100,000 Settlement – Sexual Abuse of Child at Catholic Church Camp  
April 2020

\$1,400,000 Settlement – Clergy Abuse  
August 2018

## In the News

Decatur's South Shores Elementary gets new principal  
*Fox Illinois*, September 30, 2021

WGN Radio Legal Face Off: Fallon on hazing lawsuit  
*WGN Radio Legal Face Off*, September 23, 2021

FOX 32 Chicago: Lawsuit filed over Hazing and Sexual Assault of Plainfield Central Football Players  
*FOX 32 Chicago*, August 23, 2021

Attorney Antonio Romanucci Speaks following Sex Trafficking Guilty Plea in case of Desiree Robinson. Attorney Antonio Romanucci  
*ABC 7 Chicago*, April 3, 2018

## Press Releases

Romanucci & Blandin secures settlement for abuse victim of Jeffrey Epstein  
October 13, 2021

Romanucci & Blandin files childhood sexual abuse lawsuits and claims against Archdiocese of New York, Diocese of Brooklyn, Diocese of Rockville Centre and a Boy Scouts Local Council  
September 21, 2021

Civil Lawsuit Filed Against Plainfield School District 202 and Plainfield Central High School Football Coaches for Hazing and Sexual Assault of Two Players  
August 23, 2021

Romanucci & Blandin Secures \$880,000 Settlement on Behalf of Two Boys Exploited by Priest  
June 23, 2021

Romanucci & Blandin Represents Sexual Abuse Victims of University of Michigan Athletic Doctor Robert E. Anderson  
May 21, 2021

\$1.2 million settlement for sexual abuse case at a boarding school  
April 29, 2021

New Lawsuit Details Sexual Abuse by Leaders of Arizona Boy Scout Troop and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
January 14, 2021

\$865,000 Settlement in Case of 75-year-old Woman Sexually Assaulted on a Bus  
September 30, 2020

Settlement in Case of College Dating Violence Death means Change for Others  
May 22, 2020

Sexual abuse of a child at a Catholic Church camp results in \$2.1 million settlement  
April 20, 2020

Settlement Reached with the Diocese of Joliet for Sexual Abuse of Young Boys  
August 29, 2018

Larry Nassar, USA Gymnastics, World Sport Chicago & International Federation of Gymnastics Sued for Sexual Assault of Gymnast during Chicago Competition in Civil Rights Suit  
August 16, 2018

Backpage.com Named in Civil Case For Reportedly Facilitating and Profiting From Child Sex Trafficking  
May 17, 2017

Romanucci & Blandin Files Lawsuit on Behalf of Parents of Lake Zurich High School Students for Despicable Acts of Bullying and Hazing  
February 1, 2017

Maine West Hazing Lawsuit Reaches Settlement  
November 7, 2016

## Blog Posts

Civil Litigation – Filling the Gaps of our Criminal Justice System by Advocating for Accountability, Compensation, and Healing for Survivors of Sexual Violence

*Romanucci & Blandin Blog*, December 9, 2020