

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUTH COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER REPEATED BULLYING AT AT VALLEJO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL

Vallejo, CA – When a life is cut short before it could really bloom it is profoundly tragic to their family and those that knew them. When that life is taken by their own hand because of the cruel acts of others the tragedy ripples more deeply in the community and touches all of us. A young life was sadly lost due to the harsh words and callous acts of her peers. Words and deeds that were overlooked by those that are entrusted to educate and guide our most precious resource.

Eleven-year-old Maria Therese Caguin ended her life because of the taunts and attacks of her classmates. The signs of those deeds ignored by her teachers and staff at Vallejo's Hogan Middle school allowed the stress to build within Therese until it swept away all reason and made death seem to be the only choice.

Nothing will allow Therese's potential to shine in the world again. After the grieving one can only ask what we can do for the other children caught up within a hostile net of bullies? How can we prevent another parent from finding their child after they have been taken away so horrifically full of hopelessness and despair? How can we treat this malaise before we grieve for another lost child?

Those are some of the questions that the family's attorney, Bryan Harrison of Harrison | Kristopher, LLP will be asking. Mr. Harrison, a native of Vallejo and the son of Michael Harrison, a teacher who retired from Vallejo City Unified School District's Jesse Bethel High School had this to say about this case *"I have a unique perspective and insight into the trust that parents put in their child's educators and what can be done to help those children flourish. My hometown needs answers in this case. Why did Therese feel driven to take her own life? Why did the school staff not see the signs of her distress or the actions of her peers? My team and I will be working tirelessly to discover those answers while seeking both the truth and justice for the Therese's family who only have her memory now."*

Ms. Edi Kristopher, a partner at Harrison | Kristopher, LLP, co-counsel on this case, and a mom who knows firsthand the significant challenges children face in the public school system. She says *"There are simply not enough resources to deal with this everyday problem of bullying in our school systems. Staff must know how to react and to help these children that are getting crushed by the weight of these physical and mental attacks"*.

Mr. Harrison would be open to interviews to answer what facts he and the family currently have. Please contact Raquel Jurado at the Harrison | Kristopher, LLP at 866-988-4924 to coordinate an interview.

Harrison | Kristopher, LLP is a law firm that specializes in Personal injury, Medical Malpractice, Employment Law and Elder Abuse. The attorneys at Harrison | Kristopher, Bryan Harrison and Edi Patience Kristopher are seasoned trial lawyers who have the resources and skills needed to face big business and big government to help their clients obtain the justice they seek. With their California offices located in Concord and Pasadena, they are able to meet the needs of their clients throughout California and Texas.

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