



4.2.19

Update on the Diocese of Erie's Independent Survivors' Reparation Program

When the Diocese of Erie announced it was opening its Independent Survivors' Reparation Program on Feb. 15, 2019, Bishop Lawrence Persico noted two unique features: First, that claimants would be given the option of using a lawyer on a *pro bono* basis to apply to the fund, and second, that claimants would be able to request access to files pertinent to their cases. Today, the diocese provides updates on both of those features.

While clients remain free to hire their own attorney, the diocese asked its lawyers at the K&L Gates law firm to arrange for attorneys outside of its firm willing to serve in this capacity on a *pro bono* basis. For all involved, the goal remains to give each victim the opportunity to seek compensation in the way he or she feels most comfortable.

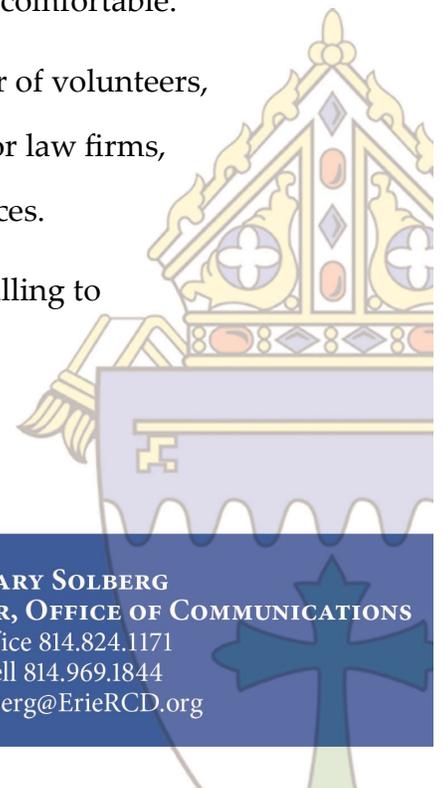
Bishop Persico is pleased to report that an impressive roster of volunteers, working for a range of organizations from local nonprofits to major law firms, have stepped forward in response to the request for *pro bono* services.

The following law firms have agreed to provide lawyers willing to serve in this capacity:

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Northwestern Legal Services, Erie, Pa.
Children's Advocacy Clinic, Carlisle, Pa.

And three firms with offices nationwide:

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Washington, DC
White & Case LLP, New York, NY
Wilmer Hale LLP, Washington, DC.

Victims participating in the program interested in selecting a lawyer to accompany them, free of charge, may request a list of lawyers volunteering to do so by emailing ErieRCD@klgates.com. Every effort will be made to match lawyers who are geographically near the survivor and/or the area where the abuse occurred.

In addition, the Diocese of Erie has indicated that any survivor who wishes to view the diocese's files concerning his or her case will be welcome to do so. Several victims using the fund already have taken advantage of this opportunity. A request for the relevant files should be made directly to the diocese's law firm at ErieRCD@KLgates.com.

Since the Diocese of Erie first published its April 2018 Public Disclosure List, with the names of people credibly accused of actions that, in the diocese's judgment, disqualify them from working with children, it has updated the information four times. A fifth update is expected within the week.

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