



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

50 BEALE ST., SUITE 7200
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

REGION IX
CALIFORNIA

MAR 08 2016

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(In reply, please refer to case no. 09-16-2128.)

Dear (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 2016, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against the University of Southern California (University). OCR understands your allegations as follows:

- The University discriminated against you on the basis of sex when it failed to provide you a prompt and equitable response to a sexual harassment/assault complaint filed against you and to a sexual harassment/assault complaint you filed against a fellow student; and
- The University subjected you to different treatment on the basis of sex when you were denied counseling for sexual trauma at the Center of Women and Men.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in programs and activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. The University receives funds from the Department and is subject to laws and regulations enforced by OCR.

OCR is now beginning the complaint resolution process.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely or qualified for a waiver of the timeliness requirement, it is opening these allegations for investigation. Please note that opening the allegation(s) for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to their merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegations, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the *Case Processing Manual*.

OCR is committed to resolving complaints as promptly as possible. OCR will contact you or your designated representative soon to discuss the allegations and the complaint

resolution process. Complaint allegations may be resolved in a variety of ways, including through an OCR-facilitated resolution between the Recipient and the complainant ("Early Complaint Resolution" or ECR). Under ECR, if both parties are interested, they may voluntarily resolve the complaint allegations by signing a written agreement. Note that in such a case, OCR does not endorse and monitor the agreement reached between the parties. Please inform OCR if you are interested in resolving this complaint through ECR.

OCR may close this complaint prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or information gathered establishes an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the *Case Processing Manual*.

Federal regulations prohibit the Recipient from retaliating against you or from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or harassing you or anyone else because you filed a complaint with OCR or because you or anyone else take part in the complaint resolution process. Contact OCR if you believe such actions occur.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call our office at 415-486-5555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Love", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles R. Love
Program Manager