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**Bloom-Carroll School District and Administrators Sued for Sexual Abuse by Athletic Director and Basketball Coach**

*Leeseberg Tuttle File Suit on Behalf of Former Bloom-Carroll Basketball Star, Makenzee Mason, who was Sexually Abused by Coach and Athletic Director Chad Little While She Was a Student at Bloom Carroll High School*

**COLUMBUS, OH:** Today, Central Ohio law firm Leeseberg Tuttle filed a ten-count Federal civil rights lawsuit against Bloom-Carroll Local School District, Board of Education, Superintendent Shawn Haughn, former Athletic Director Chad Little, and multiple other administrators at Bloom-Carroll, for the ongoing sexual abuse of Makenzee Mason during her time as a student at Bloom-Carroll High School from 2018-2020. The lawsuit also names the Ohio Department of Education, for its failure to conduct proper investigations into numerous prior complaints about wrongdoing by Chad Little regarding prior inappropriate contact and relationships with students and players at Bloom-Carroll throughout his time as coach and athletic director, which violated Ms. Mason's civil rights as a female student-athlete.

According to the Complaint, filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio earlier today, Chad Little engaged in an ongoing pattern of sexual grooming of Ms. Mason, until his interactions with her became physical and sexual. The abuse continued for over two years, during which Ms. Mason was under the age of 18. Bloom-Carroll administrators had multiple prior notices and complaints about Little's inappropriate behavior and interactions with students. Those specific prior complaints include:

- In 2013, the District received complaints about inappropriate text messaging with student-athletes, resulting in a reprimand of Little and directive that he cease any individual text messaging with students, or he would lose his coaching position.
- In 2013, the District and the Department of Education were made aware of Little's inappropriate relationships and abusive behavior. Local law enforcement was also contacted about these complaints.
- In 2015, the District was notified about inappropriate text messages Little sent to students, including messages in which Little offered to supply alcohol to students; Little was not terminated, nor did he lose his coaching position.

- In 2017, the Board of Education was provided information about Little being out in public, at dinner alone with individual female students, including photographs of inappropriate behavior with the students. This behavior was apparently frequently seen and discussed among the community and District.
- In 2018, the Department of Education was notified that Little had a minor female student living in his private home.
- In 2019, the District was made aware that Little was continuing to engage in private text messaging with students/players; he still did not lose his coaching position or suffer any adverse discipline.
- In 2019, the Department of Education was notified that Little was involved in text messaging a female student, and the text messages indicated a possible physical relationship between the two.
- In 2021, multiple verbal reports were made to the Superintendent Shawn Haughn about Little's inappropriate behavior with students, which Haughn dismissed as "rumors"

Despite these, and other reports and complaints about Little, all of which Superintendent Shawn Haughn was aware, the District took no action to appropriately discipline, supervise, or otherwise report Little's behavior to law enforcement and the Department of Education. On the occasions that Little's behavior was reported directly to the Department of Education, its staff engaged in such an inadequate investigation of Little, that he was permitted to continue in his role, inadequately supervised, thereby allowing him to continue abusing Ms. Mason.

Leeseberg Tuttle is honored to fight on behalf of Makenzee, who found her voice and seeks to put an end to the inappropriate behavior of Chad Little. She also seeks to hold Bloom-Carroll administrators accountable, for covering up or looking the other way regarding Little's wrongdoing and criminal acts for far too long. Makenzee has provided the following statement:

**First and foremost, my heart goes out to the survivors whose voices were silenced by people that held the power. I stand with you, I am in your corner, and the cycle breaks now. I found my voice to bring light to the abuses and hope I can inspire others to do the same. Nothing will ever make up for the time, memories, and experiences I missed out on, but I can only pray that time will start to heal the wounds that people no longer see.**

Makenzee hopes that she can be a catalyst for change and inspire other victims of sexual abuse to also find their voices. It is time to put an end to this abusive behavior at the hands of teachers, coaches, and administrators. If you or someone you know has information relating to the recent claims against Chad Little or the Bloom-Carroll administration, please reach out to attorney Craig Tuttle at 614-221-2223 or [ctuttle@leeseberglaw.com](mailto:ctuttle@leeseberglaw.com). **Your identity can remain private, but the information you**

**have may be extremely important to holding Bloom-Carroll administration accountable for their failures and in obtaining justice for Makenzee and other victims of sexual abuse.**

Leeseberg Tuttle is a Columbus-based law firm advocating for the rights of victims of medical malpractice and the negligence or wrongdoing of others. The firm is responsible for numerous record-setting verdicts throughout Ohio, including a verdict of \$44.5 Million in Franklin County in 2018, the largest in Ohio history for an individual personal injury case. Leeseberg Tuttle also represents 17 families of patients who filed civil claims as a result of their loved ones' lives being terminated by William Husel while he was a physician at Mount Carmel West Hospital.

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