

USD Report on the Clergy Sexual Abuse Task Force Investigation
Compiled by Thomas Skinner, General Counsel and Advisor to the President

As requested, I have updated the research for my report on the Clergy Sexual Abuse Task Force investigation. I have also addressed the questions you asked regarding research and methodology. Finally, I asked outside legal counsel to review a preliminary draft for thoroughness, and have incorporated their suggestions.

List of Credibly Accused Clergy

To begin, I used the Jeff Anderson & Associates reports (the “Anderson Reports”) because, based on my research, they attempted to provide a comprehensive report of all credibly accused clergy (“credibly accused clergy”) in Southern California.¹ They issued reports for the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino (which included Riverside), Santa Barbara and Orange. They have not created a separate report for San Diego County, but did list 45 credibly accused clergy for San Diego on their website. I checked on all credibly accused clergy for connections to USD.

In addition, I conducted further research to other possible credibly accused clergy. I found four other sources that identified credibly accused clergy that were not already in the Anderson Reports:

1. In January 2020, the Zalkin Law Firm, P.C., filed lawsuits against the Catholic Diocese of San Diego and local parishes alleging abuse by five former clergy. All but one of these individuals were included in the Anderson Reports. I have added the additional name to my list.
2. I reviewed a list of credibly accused clergy on the Zalkin Law Firm’s website, which listed 54 individuals. Almost all of the listed individuals were already on my list, but I found two additional names, which I have added to the list.
3. I searched for articles in local publications and news outlets (e.g., San Diego Union Tribune, Los Angeles Times, 10 News, NBC San Diego) that identified any accused clergy. Based on my review of these news reports, I found several additional names of accused clergy, which I vetted for credibility, and then added the confirmed names to my list.
4. I found and reviewed Patch.com, which is affiliated with the journalism site ProPublica. This site also compiled a list of credibly accused clergy, which I compared to the list I had compiled. I found several additional names, which I added.
5. I reviewed a list of credibly accused clergy published by the Diocese of San Diego. This list also included several names not found on the other lists. I added all of these.

In total, I have compiled a list of 439 names of credibly accused clergy in Southern California. The result, I believe, is the most complete, current list from any source.²

¹ There is no uniform definition of “credibly accused.” I have chosen to adopt the more expansive interpretation used by our primary source for the information (a law firm that specializes in pursuing such claims on behalf of victims). That firm notes: “While lawsuits were filed involving many of these alleged perpetrators, the vast majority of the claims against these individuals have been settled or have not been fully evaluated in a civil or criminal court. Accordingly, the allegations should be considered just allegations and should not be considered proved or substantiated in a court of law.”

² It is possible, of course, that new claims may emerge over time.

Process For Identifying Which Credibly Accused Clergy In Southern California Have Any Known Connection To USD

A primary resource for identifying any connection to USD was USD personnel records. USD's personnel records are primarily saved electronically, though we also have some hard copy (i.e., paper) files. I believe our electronic records, which were first created in 1989, include the hire/termination dates for all employees for whom we have paper records (because our paper records are generally purged seven years after an employee is separated from USD).

As for electronic records, from 1989 until 2001 USD kept some personnel information on a VAX computer system. From 2001 to present, personnel information has been stored on Oracle. We have searched both systems for all of the names compiled on our list of accused clergy in Southern California.

Another source of information about the accused individuals was the various reports identifying the credibly accused clergy. For example, the Anderson Reports and the various media accounts included some limited information.

Finally, I also interviewed the following individuals to determine whether they recalled any of the listed credibly accused clergy having any affiliation with USD:

Karen Briggs, Chief Human Resources Officer. Karen has been employed at USD since February 2006.

Ky Snyder, Vice President of Operations. Ky was employed at USD from 1990 to 1996. He then rejoined USD in February 2004.

Kelly Douglas, former General Counsel. Kelly worked at USD from 2005 until 2019. Additionally, she previously represented USD for several years prior to that date.

Dr. Florence Gillman, USD Professor in Theology and Religious Studies since 1986 and member of the USD Task Force. Dr. Gillman is the longest serving member of the Theology and Religious Studies Department.

Fr. Michael White, University Chaplain since 1999.

Sr. Virginia Rodee, was the Assistant Vice President for Mission and Ministry at USD.

Dr. Ron Pachence, was a member of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies faculty from 1981-2016.

Dr. Emily Reimer-Barry, has been a member of the Theology and Religious Studies faculty since 2008. I requested that Dr. Reimer-Barry review department records.

Credibly Accused Clergy In Southern California With Any Known Connection To USD

Based on all of the information I received from the research noted above, I identified a total of 14 individuals identified as "credibly accused clergy" with any known connection to USD. For ease of reference, I have created an updated chart summarizing information about each individual.

Four additional notes:

First, sources sometimes were inconsistent with each other. Specifically, several individuals were identified as having some connection to USD in one source, but not in another. I have listed all identified connections to USD, even if the report was not consistent. Thus, the information listed should not be considered as verified, but only as having been reported in at least one source.

Second, some of the individuals who were listed as “credibly accused” by the law firms are more accurately defined simply as “accused” due to the lack of information to support the allegation (specifically, Msr. Brent Eagan and Dr. Nicolas Reveles).

Third, based on the information gathered, no incidents existed in which USD employed or was affiliated with any clergy known to be credibly accused. The allegations appear to have all been made after each of the individuals was affiliated with USD (as is evident from the attached chart).