

Words like integrity and honorable are thrown around loosely these days, but it is indeed rare to meet a true embodiment of such ideals. Phil has my absolute respect as a lawyer, and my trust and devotion as a friend.

I will begin with some background. I grew up in a large suburban Indiana family and dreamed in high school of serving my country as a Navy SEAL. After narrowly missing acceptance to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, I decided to join the NROTC unit at Purdue University under a full ride scholarship - I could still achieve my dream this way, as the outcome going this route was much the same. This dream became short lived, however, near the end of my first year there. An ex-girlfriend from my same unit went to our Naval officers and reported false allegations, including sexual allegations, that held no merit or proof. My Navy officers reported what they heard to the university, who then launched an investigation focused on the sexual allegations using malicious and disingenuous tactics. I was presumed guilty from the start and was treated as such, and was thrown out on suspension after a charade of an investigation in which they blatantly lied about me many times over. The suspension not only cost me my scholarship, but my Naval career, my friends and relationships, my mental and physical wellbeing, and ultimately my dream. I was permanently stigmatized from any federal or military position and spent the better part of the next 8 years just getting back on my feet. If it had not been for Phil and my family, I'm not sure that I would have ever recovered at all.

For more reasons than can be reasonably put here, I can easily and confidently say that Phil Byler is one of the few great lawyers alive today. Without the rare caliber of this man, I would have never made it as far as I have. He has firmly guided me in this fight against Purdue University against ALL odds. The first judge throwing my case away turned out to be a blessing in disguise, for the appeals process was assigned to then circuit judge (now Supreme Court Justice) Amy Coney Barrett, and 2 other women judges. After seeing how unjustly I was treated at Purdue, they unanimously sided with me and allowed my 2 claims to proceed. This ruling transformed Doe v Purdue into national precedent for Title IX and university due process proceedings, and was cited as a key point in then Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' reformed Title IX guidelines. It is statistically the most cited Title IX case in the entire nation and the most influential

legal case of its kind. The work and results of Philip A. Byler were essential to making this possible, and I give him full credit.

Unfortunately, due to the political nature my case took on as a result of its ruling at the 7th Circuit, the legal process has been corrupted and the justice system subverted by bad actors in the latter half of this fight. In spite of this, Phil has maintained a fantastic level of work output and integrity, and has NOT ONCE faltered in his duties as my legal counsel in all of 8 years. Regardless of my case's outcome, there is no one I would rather have representing me through this than Phil. He is not only my lawyer, but my friend. To say that he has exceeded the requirements of his capacity as my counsel would be a severe understatement. This man will stop at NOTHING to ensure that you receive the best possible chances of winning; without hesitation he left his law firm of 20 years with no backup plan after partners at the firm tried to strong-arm my case from me. I truly believe the flames of fearlessness within this man are stoked by God himself.

I further witnessed the extent of his commitment firsthand when he flew in to my city for an in-person pre-trial hearing on extremely short notice with near impossible deadlines imposed by a judge corrupted to the highest level, and this man stood before me with his physical health and wellbeing severely compromised - before finally conceding at the behest of his doctors that the litigation schedule would have to be moved. He is back on track now and I don't think his astute wife will ever let what happened happen again.

I fully support Phil's intention to continue his legal practice for another 10 years, if not more. The lengths this man will go to just to ensure that proper legal representation of the highest standards are met, is unmatched. His extensive Title IX and due process expertise wins cases, and his devotion for justice is unmatched by all other lawyers as far as I'm concerned. I am thankful to God and my parents for helping me find this warrior when I was just an innocent young man in need, and I would never have made it this far without him. Thank you Phil.