

Press Release from Scott Tompsett and Scott Palumbo on Behalf of Josh Pastner

I and Scott Palumbo represent Josh Pastner.

Mr. Pastner has ended the civil defamation lawsuit he brought against Ron Bell and Jennifer Pendley in January 2018. No money was exchanged, all parties agreed to execute full releases, and all parties are responsible for their own costs and attorney's fees.

Mr. Pastner brought the suit to clear and exonerate his name and reputation from the false and malicious lies Bell and Pendley were making against him in an effort to extort money from Mr. Pastner. This has been accomplished. Here are the facts:

- Law enforcement has charged Bell and Pendley with at least fifteen crimes between the two of them, which include providing false information to law enforcement, solicitation of a fraud scheme practice, attempted tampering with a witness, along with a dozen other charges (see attached).
- Georgia Tech's independent investigator Scott Schneider conducted a full investigation and concluded that **none** of Pendley's allegations of sexual misconduct are credible, and that it is highly likely that the allegations were concocted by Bell, made in bad faith, and asserted only after various other attempts to damage and/or extort Mr. Pastner failed.
- Pendley's only so-called witness testified under oath, and while represented by his own attorney, that he never witnessed any assault, that Bell and Pendley asked him to lie about witnessing Mr. Pastner assault Pendley, and that they offered to share the anticipated settlement proceeds with him.
- The shirt Pendley claimed would contain forensic evidence tested negative for the presence of semen and saliva, and Mr. Pastner's DNA was not on the shirt.
- The NCAA thoroughly investigated Bell's and Pendley's allegations that Mr. Pastner violated NCAA rules and has found that Bell committed violations, but the NCAA has not charged Mr. Pastner with any violations.
- Pendley's first attorneys withdrew in June 2018 telling the court they could not ethically remain in the case because they believed Bell and Pendley had greatly exaggerated, if not fabricated, allegations against Mr. Pastner. Pendley's second attorney withdrew from representing her in May 2019, and Pendley has been without trial counsel since that time.
- The jail house calls and videos released in July 2018 revealed, in Bell's and Pendley's own words, that their allegations against Mr. Pastner were maliciously fabricated.

While Mr. Palumbo and I are supremely confident in obtaining a large jury verdict against Bell and Pendley, trying this case would be expensive for Mr. Pastner, and because we understand Bell and Pendley have virtually no assets to satisfy a judgment, the cost to try the case far outweighs any benefit to Mr. Pastner.