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Contact Information:

Chloe Mason
Engel & Martin, LLC
513-445-9600 | chloe.ryan@engelandmartin.com

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**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI BALLET STUDENTS FILE LAWSUIT ALLEGING
SCHOOL WAS DELIBERATELY INDIFFERENT TO INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL
TOUCHING IN PRACTICES**

Engel & Martin, LLC has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of two ballet dancers at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. The two female students allege that the school unlawfully protected a 'star' male ballet dancer at the expense of numerous female ballet dancers. The lawsuit describes how, during practices and performances, the male student touched his partners inappropriately; when faculty and administrators at UC learned of this conduct, the school did the bare minimum and failed to take adequate steps to assure that the victims were protected.

A copy of the lawsuit is available here:

<https://engelandmartin.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Roe-UC-Complaint-FILE D.pdf>

The students allege that the male dancer, who was featured in social media posts by CCM, and had lead roles in productions, inappropriately placed his hand on their breasts while practicing ballet lifts. He also allegedly would "drag" or "slide" women against the front of his body while lowering them from lifts. When informed about his conduct, the school took minimal actions beyond telling the alleged victims that if they ever felt "uncomfortable" they could "just walk out of class without explaining."

The complaint alleges that UC is liable under Title IX, the law requiring equal access to education regardless of gender, because the school was "deliberately indifferent."

Managing Partner Joshua Engel said, "Students in arts programs can be especially vulnerable – they can be deprived of equal and free access to an education when they must choose between going to class or confronting their abusers. UC failed to ensure that these students were cared for so they could continue their studies."

Engel further stated, "Title IX requires college and universities to to protect students from sexual harassment and sexual violence. If faculty or staff are made aware of an incident, the school must take immediate steps to address the issue."

About Engel & Martin, LLC: Engel & Martin, LLC is a boutique law practice offering a combined more than 100 years of legal experience and is a recognized source for assertive legal representation Ohio and nationwide. The attorneys of Engel & Martin, LLC have significant experience handling high profile and difficult criminal, civil rights cases and appellate cases in state and federal courts.

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