

Hi Everyone

As the 3rd anniversary of **Matt's** death draws near, so does the trial in the first case to be prosecuted in California under **Matt's Law**.

The three young men of the of Beta Theta Pi and their attorneys have done their utmost to have their case thrown out of court. They even stooped so low as to coerce those they are accused of hazing into signing a civil settlement for \$1 each, in hopes of a civil compromise. As if hazing them wasn't enough. I believe by pressuring them into signing these documents they are admitting guilt and since hazing is illegal in the state of California they have broken the law, and so, must be prosecuted.

An example needs to be made of these young men, they knew better than anyone what they were doing was wrong. They knew a young man died due to hazing rituals just blocks from them, they knew that a law was passed making it illegal to haze, they knew the school was coming down hard on anyone involved in hazing. Yet with blatant disregard to the law, the rules of the school and the safety of 13 young men, they hazed anyway. It is apparent by their actions they think they are above the law.

Judge Tamara Mosbarger ruled that - such a civil settlement was an improper attempt to circumvent "**Matt's Law**," a criminal anti-hazing statute passed by the California Legislature last summer in memory of **Matthew Carrington**.

She also stated - The deterrent effect of the new law would be "lost ... if the defendants could avoid all prosecution and punishment by paying \$1 to the persons they allegedly hazed." Allowing the former fraternity officers to avoid prosecution by paying only \$1 would undermine "the purpose of the law ... to prohibit all dangerous hazing practices in order to protect the lives of our young people," Mosbarger added. She also said - she viewed **Matt's Law** as a "national response to the tragic circumstances" surrounding Carrington's hazing death.

Judge Mosbarger gets it, she really gets it, thank goodness, and now we have to see that others do as well.

The trial is set to begin in April, some of us from the **Matt** Committee plan to attend in hopes that **Matt's Law** will prevail and lessons will be learned in **Matt's** memory.

A few of us are going up to Chico this Friday, February 1st in order to be there the next morning. We will set up a portion of his memorial in front the frat house at 10:30 Friday night, the time he walked into that house for the very last time. We will finish it up the following morning before coming home Saturday, February 2nd, and setting up his memorial at home, lighting up the neighborhood. Like last year, we will have an open house for those that would like to come by and remember **Matt**.

I hope this finds everyone well and living life to the fullest.

"Hug your children and tell them you love them everyday."

Love,
Debbie, MM