



Nadeem Bezar, left, and Emily Marks, right, with Kline & Specter. Courtesy photos

NEWS

Philadelphia Hotels Settle Human Trafficking Claims for \$17.5M

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Litigation



By Riley Brennan

A Pennsylvania law firm has secured a \$17.5 million settlement on behalf of three women who were allegedly trafficked at numerous Philadelphia hotels as minors.

The settlement was reached Thursday, March 13 on behalf of the plaintiffs, T.S., B.S., and D.T., who alleged in three separate suits that they were trafficked at the Motel 6, Days Inn and North American Motor Inn in Philadelphia as minors from May 2015 to January 2017. They alleged the hotels failed to have adequate security in place despite ongoing criminal activity and repeated police visits and phone calls.

The plaintiffs accused the defendants of having "actual knowledge, constructive knowledge, and general awareness of the signs of human trafficking and criminal activity," but failed to defect or stop the exploitation of the plaintiffs.

Kline & Specter attorneys Emily Marks, Nadeem Bezar, and Alex Van Dyke of Kline & Specter represented the plaintiffs.

“Instead of hiring qualified security and adoption and enforcement policies against criminal activity, the hotels did nothing and permitted criminal activity to the detriment of our clients,” Marks said via a press release.

The settlement of the suits comes about a week before jury selection was slated to start in T.S.'s suit. T.S. had sued Eighty Eight, L.P. and Eight, Inc., who owned and managed the Motel 6. The suit also named G6 Hospitality Franchising, G6 Hospitality, and Ramara, Inc., doing business as North American Motor Inns, among others.

B.S. and D.T. filed suit against Eighty Eight, G6 Hospitality Franchising, G6 Hospitality 4200 Roosevelt doing business as Days Inn, 4200 Rose Hospitality, doing business as Days Inn Worldwide, Wyndham Hotel Group, Wyndham Destinations, and Wyndham Hotels & Resorts.

In the respective suits, the defendants disputed the allegations and denied the plaintiffs' claims.

“It’s disturbing, I mean really disturbing that these children are being abused, raped and trafficked at local hotels. Even more upsetting is that these economy or budget hotels continue to fail to properly secure their properties and protect people especially children from being assaulted.” Bezar said via the release.

Brad M. Wanner of Harris Beach Murtha, in New York, represented Ramara Inc D/B/A of North American Motor Inn. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Neither did Conrad J. Benedetto of McCormick & Priore, in Philadelphia, who represented Eighty Eight, Eight Inc., and the Days Inn defendants, nor did Brett M. Feldman of DLA Piper, in Philadelphia, who represented the G6 defendants. Nathan Heller of DLA Piper, in Philadelphia, represented the Wyndham defendants and declined to comment.