



<b>PRESS RELEASE</b>
Contact: Amy Rossetti 310-405-7330 <a href="mailto:Amy@berbay.com">Amy@berbay.com</a>

**For Immediate Release  
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**Taylor & Ring Files Lawsuit Against Downey Unified School District and  
Former Teacher Brandon Hitchcock for Sexual Abuse**

**Downey, CA** – [Taylor & Ring](#), a Los Angeles-based trial law firm, filed a lawsuit against Downey Unified School District and former teacher, Brandon Hitchcock, for sexual abuse of a minor. The complaint alleges that the 16-year-old plaintiff (“Jane Doe”) was sexually assaulted by Mr. Hitchcock while attending Downey High School from 2013-2015.

[Read full complaint.](#)

Background

Mr. Hitchcock was Jane’s 11<sup>th</sup> grade American history teacher, as well as the girls’ soccer and lacrosse team at Downey High School. He began giving her special attention, inviting her to “hang out” in his classroom after school. In early 2014, Mr. Hitchcock allowed the plaintiff to skip her sixth period class to sit in on his sophomore history class. He permitted her to sit at his desk as if she was his teaching assistant despite the fact he already had a TA for that class.

“Brandon Hitchcock took advantage of Jane’s fragile mental state during a vulnerable time in her life,” says attorney David Ring. “Mr. Hitchcock realized Jane’s susceptibility to emotional distress due to her age and inexperience, and intentionally coerced her to engage in unlawful sexual acts.”

Over time, Mr. Hitchcock began to seduce Jane, allowing her to complete extra credit assignments to raise her grade and emailing her flirtatious and inappropriate messages. He also began to share personal information and life experiences with her, and frequently invited her to spend time together after school.

Just before spring break, Mr. Hitchcock asked Jane to skip a school assembly and stay alone with him in his classroom. It was at this point Mr. Hitchcock told the plaintiff for the first time that he “liked her” and asked for her number. He continued to take advantage of her by sending flirtatious texts, asking her to come to his house where he gave her flowers and kissed her, telling her he loved her.

In April 2014, Mr. Hitchcock engaged in sexual intercourse with Jane for the first time, and continued this over the next three months in his classroom or at his apartment. He coerced her mentally, physically and emotionally into engaging in sexual activity for the remainder of the school year and throughout the summer.

When Jane returned to begin 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students gossiped about her relationship with Mr. Hitchcock. A fellow student told the plaintiffs’ mother about the rumors and her mother promptly informed the school administration. However, it wasn’t until one month later that the administration questioned Mr. Hitchcock. Once confronted, he sent multiple text messages to the plaintiff telling her she had to lie and “say nothing” if anyone asked her about their relationship. His threats, both expressed and implied, were meant to keep her quiet. The abuse and assaults had a coercive effect on Jane, which resulted in her keeping the relationship from both her parents and law enforcement.

It wasn’t until mid-October 2014, that Jane reported the sexual abuse to her parents and to the Downey Police Department. Mr. Hitchcock was arrested on October 17, 2014 and was charged with unlawful sex with a minor. He is currently awaiting the outcome of his criminal trial.

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*Taylor & Ring, a Los Angeles-based trial law firm, represents plaintiffs across California in personal injury, wrongful death and sexual assault matters.*

Taylor & Ring  
10900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 920  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone: 310-209-4100  
[www.TaylorRing.com](http://www.TaylorRing.com)