

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

For September 14, 2022

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**Cruciani Survivors Refuse to be Silenced;
The Convictions Should Stand**

On July 29th, a Manhattan jury found former Beth Israel pain management physician/neurologist Richard Cruciani [guilty on 12 counts](#) of predatory sexual assault, sexual abuse, rape and other crimes stemming from crimes committed upon six of his former patients. Then in August, while awaiting sentencing, he was [found dead](#) at the Rikers Island complex due to apparent suicide. The defense now seeks that the jury's decision and his conviction be totally abated due to his death, which is being opposed by his victims. On Wednesday, September 14th at 2:15pm, in what was meant to be Cruciani's sentencing hearing, six survivors of his abuse will give victim impact statements to the Court and request that the conviction remain intact. Following this hearing, testifying survivors and additional survivors, advocates, and supporters will gather at Foley Square, to state unequivocally that they will be heard.

WHO: Survivors of Ricardo Cruciani
Jeffrey P. Fritz, Esquire
Kat Thomas, Esquire

WHAT: Press conference immediately following the hearing in case of *People v. Richard Cruciani*

WHERE: Foley Square, 101 Worth Street, New York, NY (post hearing press conference)
(Address for 2:15pm hearing: Manhattan Criminal Courthouse, 100 Centre Street, Part 41, 11th Floor, New York, NY)

WHEN: Wednesday, September 14, 2022
immediately following hearing (anticipated time 4:00pm)

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One of his victims who testified during the trial, Terrie Phoenix, stated: "Abatement of his conviction would only inflict additional emotional pain on me and all of his victims and erase the sense of justice I feel from the guilty verdict." Another testifying victim from New Jersey, who chooses not to be identified, said: "I simply cannot fathom a world where a motion can completely erase everything that has transpired since I reported these heinous crimes five years ago."

Jeffrey Fritz, Esquire and Kat Thomas, Esquire attorneys for thirty-three Cruciani survivors, added: "Abatement of a conviction upon death is an outdated doctrine. These convictions should stand because eliminating the jury's verdict denies these survivors of fairness, respect and dignity and some sense of closure."

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