

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
For Immediate Release

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**Former Head Football Coach at St. Augustine High School accused of leading players in a “racist viral chant video” files a federal lawsuit to clear his name**

Mr. Nathaniel Jones, former Head Football Coach at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, has filed a federal lawsuit against the school for terminating his employment contract as a full-time teacher and Head Football Coach. Additionally, several defendants in the lawsuit have been sued for Defamation of Character and other claims. They include Dr. Kenneth St. Charles, CEO of St. Augustine High School, American Broadcasting Company (ABC News), and a national news journalist, Mr. Roland Martin.

Coach Jones has repeatedly denied any involvement in the controversy and was not even in the locker room during the racist chant that used the “n-word.” Following the alleged incident, he informed the media that as a teacher, mentor, husband, and father of three young daughters, he does not use the “n-word” and had not used profanity since 1997.

**ATTORNEY WILLIE ZANDERS SPEAKS FOR COACH NATHANIEL JONES**

Seven months ago, October 2019, local and national news outlets reported false and malicious statements that Coach Nathaniel Jones led student-athletes in one or more profane and racially charged chants using the “N-word.” Following a 30-minute disciplinary hearing, with no advance notice, administrators at the school terminated Mr. Jones’ contract as a full-time teacher and coach. We call that a “kangaroo court”.

Following the brief hearing, the school’s CEO, Dr. Kenneth St. Charles, issued a defamatory press statement referring to the use of profanity and the “N-word”. The false allegation in the national media destroyed Coach Jones’ good name and reputation. His chances of becoming a college or professional head coach were reduced from 90% to 1 %.

ABC News is owned by the Walt Disney Company and Roland Martin is a nationally known journalist. Each has the experience and financial resources to get their facts straight before they “shoot”. The defendants took “defamatory shots” at an innocent man seven (7) months ago and have not offered an apology. My client and his family are patient. Justice has no deadline!

s/ *Willie Zanders*