



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION IX  
CALIFORNIA

50 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
MAIL BOX 1200; ROOM 1545  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MAR 24 2017

John L. Hennessy  
President  
Stanford University  
Office of the President  
Building 10  
Stanford, California 94305-2061

(In reply, please refer to case no. 09-15-2404)

Dear President Hennessy:

On July 23, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), notified Stanford University (University) of the above-referenced complaint. The complaint alleged that the University discriminated against a student<sup>1</sup> based on sex when it failed to provide her with a prompt and equitable resolution of her sexual assault complaint. For the reasons explained below, OCR is administratively closing the complaint.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in programs and activities receiving financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities operated by recipients of financial assistance from the Department. The University receives funds from the Department and is therefore subject to Title IX and its implementing regulation.

Pursuant to OCR Case Processing Manual section 110(l)<sup>2</sup>, OCR may close the complaint allegations when the complainant withdraws the complaint after OCR has opened it for investigation. On March 14, 2017, OCR learned that the student requested to withdraw her complaint because she resolved her dispute with the University. OCR determined that the criteria for closure under section 110(l) have been met. Accordingly, OCR is closing the complaint as of the date of this letter. This concludes OCR's consideration of this complaint.

Federal regulations prohibit the University from retaliating against the student or from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or harassing the student or anyone else because she filed a

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<sup>1</sup> OCR previously notified the University of the student's identity. We are withholding her name from this letter in order to protect her privacy.

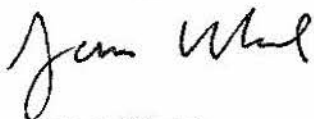
<sup>2</sup> The Case Processing Manual is available on line at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

complaint with OCR or because she or anyone else takes part in the complaint resolution process.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call Attorneys Gemini McCasland at (415) 486-5536 or Dana Isaac Quinn at (415) 486-5596.

Sincerely,



James Wood  
Team Leader

cc:

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