



Re: Independent Investigation of Manouso Manos

Dear IYNAUS Members,

We write to update you on a development in the independent investigation of Manouso Manos. This investigation has been nearly complete for some time. Our independent investigator has interviewed 38 individuals, and she had been trying to schedule an interview with Manouso since December 11.

Last Friday, March 8, Manouso announced he would not sit for an interview and resigned from IYNAUS. To account for his actions, Manouso has accused our independent investigator of stating that she will violate basic rules of fairness. He bases this assertion on a 23-page letter from his lawyers. This letter is inaccurate in many respects.

IYNAUS has made no accusations against Manouso. It is students from his classes who have alleged sexual misconduct by him. Our single goal has been to assure that these allegations are investigated fairly and accurately. That is our legal duty.

We thus hired a lawyer with impeccable credentials to conduct this investigation. Among other things, Ms. Bernadette Sargeant formerly served as an investigator both on the Ethics Committee of U.S House of Representatives and in the Office of Professional Responsibility of the U.S. Department of Justice. She has conducted hundreds of sensitive independent investigations, including dozens of sex abuse investigations. She has an excellent reputation for fairness, thoroughness, and integrity.

In her long career, Ms. Sargeant has strictly adhered to procedures that assure that the accused party is treated fairly and may be fully heard. She has done so here as well.

She offered to interview Manouso in California with his lawyers present. She said she would allow Manouso to take breaks and consult with his lawyers and others before responding to any question. She said that Manouso could supplement his responses after the interview. In an independent investigation, an accused party has no right to "discovery" before an interview, and Ms. Sargent has fully protected Manouso's rights.

The investigation will now be completed. The overriding responsibility of IYNAUS is to assure the safety and welfare of Iyengar Yoga students. It is important that IYNAUS receive the results of Ms. Sargeant's independent investigation. We will then decide what to do with her report and findings.

We respond to the allegations of Manouso and lawyers in more detail on our [website](#).

Yours in yoga,
IYNAUS Board of Directors

IYNAUS
PO Box 184
Canyon, CA 94516

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