

3rd Stockton U. student alleges she was raped. Says crime has ties to unauthorized frat house

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Another Stockton University student has alleged she was a victim of sexual assault, and says in a detailed lawsuit the ordeal she suffered started at an unauthorized fraternity house off campus.

The student, a female identified only by her initials, has filed a federal lawsuit naming the university, Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and a student named Daniel Novak.

She claims she was drugged during an off-campus frat party in 2014, then raped, possibly by three students. Only Novak is identified by name in the suit.

Novak was not charged criminally in the incident. Attempts to reach him for comment on Monday were unsuccessful.

This is the third suit filed in the last month alleging sex assaults at Stockton or at an off-campus frat house.

In her suit, the woman says she knew Novak as the son of a family friend and both met the summer before their freshman year in 2014.

After becoming friends, Novak invited her to attend a September 2014 party at an off-campus frat -- Pi Kappa Phi -- that he was considering pledging.

During the party, Novak handed her a green-tinted drink, while the beverage in his cup was red. All the girls at the party were drinking green beverages, while the males had red drinks.

The woman described her beverage as watered down fruit juice that "was very salty with an unusual taste." She asked Novak to try her drink, but he refused.



Man accused of 4th student rape at Stockton University

The 4 sexual assaults alleged in two lawsuits happened after the students met the man at an illegal fraternity

When the woman grew uncomfortably hot and thirsty, she said Novak supplied her with another green drink.

She then describes feeling "very weird" before blacking out. She woke up naked in Novak's dorm room with Novak staring at her. She felt "unusually sore all over."

She suffered bleeding and soreness over the next few days and remained confused about what had happened. When she texted Novak to ask if he had sex with her, he replied, "Yes, don't you remember?"

The woman said she never consented to sex. "It would have been impossible for her to consent, considering her incapacitated state," the suit asserts.

Based on police investigation that revealed two of Novak's friends arrived on his dorm floor around the same time he brought her to his room, she believes all three may have assaulted her, according to the suit.

The suit describes how the woman grew increasingly depressed as a result of the incident, her studies suffered and she became suicidal, the suit notes. She has since sought treatment for depression.

She also pursued a Title IX investigation against Novak, but that review concluded in March 2017 with no administrative actions taken against Novak or the fraternity.

The suit charges that Stockton personnel failed to properly investigate her allegations and subjected her to a "hostile educational environment" in violation of federal Title IX protections against sex-based harassment.

This is one of three suits filed by attorney Robert R. Fuggi Jr. alleging assaults against Stockton students.

A pair of lawsuits filed earlier this month alleged that Stockton grad Zachary Madle raped two students.

One of those students claimed she was raped twice at the same off-campus frat house in Egg Harbor City described in this woman's suit. The other suit alleged a victim was raped twice in her dorm room.

All three cases were investigated or are currently under review, Stockton officials confirmed Monday.

"In response to recent litigation concerning allegations of sexual assault, please know that these allegations either have been or are being investigated by Stockton University Campus Police, Galloway Township Police and/or the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office," the school said in a statement.



Video of N.J. college student's rape was posted on SnapChat, lawsuit claims

The freshman believed that the then-23-year-old man had spiked her drink

The state Attorney General's Office is representing the school in all three lawsuits.

In addition to accusing Novak of assaulting her, Stockton of failing in its duties to create a safe educational environment and to properly investigate allegations, the

woman's suit charges the fraternity with conspiring to ply females with spiked drinks "in order to incapacitate women to assault them physically and or sexually."

For its part, Pi Kappa Phi has previously noted that its Stockton chapter was shut down several years ago and students were told they could not use the frat's name.

The suit also describes a university sanctioned program for new students that "openly discusses sexual activity, demonstrates sexual activity and is mandatory for all incoming freshman."

The assembly features "sexually charged topics" and contributes to a systemic problem at Stockton.

"Stockton University has created a dangerous, sexually charged environment for incoming young women as freshman students ..." the suit charges.

On that point, Stockton officials defended these programs, saying the school takes the issue of sexual assault seriously and has resources in place to "support and protect" its students and the community.

"We require incoming students to attend Orientation and Welcome Week programs that specifically address topics such as sexual assault and violence prevention," according to the statement. "The University is proactive in its warnings and we regularly caution our students about the dangers inherent in events involving alcohol and drugs."