

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor**

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## **FORMER ST. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACH SENTENCED TO 18 YEAR STATE PRISON TERM AFTER JURY CONVICTS HIM OF TEN COUNTS OF ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD**

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On June 1, 2010, Bartholomew McInerney, 44, of Spring Lake Heights, N.J., was sentenced to an aggregate State Prison term of 18 years on ten counts of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The sentence follows a three-week trial which took place in Monmouth County Superior Court earlier this year, and which concluded on January 22, 2010, when the jury returned guilty verdicts as to ten counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The trial was presided over by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Mellaci, Jr., who also imposed the sentence.

The sentence consists of three consecutive terms of six years, with five year custodial terms on the remaining seven counts running concurrently to them. As part of the sentence, Judge Mellaci ordered that McInerney, upon his release from State Prison, must comply with the registration and notification requirements of Megan's Law. McInerney was also sentenced to Parole Supervision for Life.

During the trial the victims, now young men, testified that McInerney, at various times beginning in 2001 and continuing through 2007, committed multiple acts of sexual conduct by engaging the boys in sexually explicit conversations during which he encouraged each boy to masturbate. At the time of the crimes the boys McInerney was found guilty of endangering ranged in age from 15 to 18 years of age.

The victims also testified that McInerney provided condoms at various times to some of the boys, and that McInerney instructed some of the boys to send him text messages describing the details relating to their acts of masturbation. In return,

**McInerney offered to pay cash to the boys upon receipt of their text messages confirming completion of the sexual acts, and McInerney actually paid cash to some of the boys on numerous occasions over the course of these crimes, according to the testimony.**

**According to testimony at the trial, McInerney met most of the boys, and had supervisory authority over them, as a result of his capacity as head baseball coach at St. Rose High School in Belmar, N.J. One of the victims did not play baseball at St. Rose, but rather was employed by McInerney at McInerney Custom Lettering, a business which McInerney owned with his brother at the time of the crimes. McInerney and his brother no longer own the business.**

**McInerney was initially arrested on November 29, 2007. McInerney was free on \$200,000 bail at the time of and after his trial. A condition of McInerney's bail required him to refrain from coaching and to not return to the property of St. Rose. After his arrest, McInerney was replaced as baseball coach at St. Rose High School.**

**McInerney was scheduled to be sentenced on May 24, 2010. McInerney failed to appear in Court on that date, and Judge Mellaci revoked McInerney's bail and issued a bench warrant for McInerney's arrest. McInerney was arrested later in the day on May 24, 2010, by the Spring Lake Heights Police Department and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. McInerney was held without bail at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution from that date until he was sentenced.**

**Under New Jersey law, the crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child occurs when a defendant engages in sexual conduct including, but not limited to, sexually explicit conversations with a child which would impair or debauch the morals of the child. Endangering the Welfare of a Child is ordinarily a third degree crime. However, it is elevated to a second degree crime if at the time of the commission of the crime the child is less than 18 years of age and the defendant has a legal duty or has assumed responsibility for the care of the child. In returning its verdict, the jury found that McInerney had a legal duty and/or had assumed responsibility for the care of the ten children who McInerney was convicted of endangering.**

**The investigation into McInerney's activities was initiated in November 2007 when law enforcement officials became aware of rumors circulating at St. Rose High School regarding McInerney's inappropriate conduct with some of the baseball players he supervised. A lengthy investigation was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit in conjunction with the Belmar Police Department. On October 10, 2008, a Monmouth County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging McInerney with 12 charges of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. One of the charges was dismissed by Judge Mellaci during the trial after the boy's testimony was equivocal about whether he was less than 18 years of age when McInerney interacted with him. Later, the jury acquitted McInerney on another Endangering charge which pertained to another boy.**

**Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, “The prosecution of McInerney would not have been possible without the courageous participation of the young men who testified at trial. The testimony of the victims was essential in securing the convictions and 18 year prison term.”**

**The case was prosecuted by Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Peter J. Boser, Director of the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office’s Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit. McInerney was represented by Charles J. Uliano, Esquire, of West Long Branch, N.J.**

**Released: June 1, 2010**