

# Our Consultant

## James G. Faluszcak

James G. Faluszcak, 50, who is not a member of the bar, is a nationally known, internationally quoted Catholic Church whistleblower. A former 18-year parish priest, as a teenager Faluszcak was sexually assaulted for three consecutive years by his parish priest. He consults with Phillips & Paolicelli, LLP, helping the attorneys in our firm and clients who are adult survivors of child sexual abuse as they seek justice in New York and New Jersey.

Raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, and living two blocks from the church whose priest abused him, Faluszcak graduated from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, New York. He was called to the priesthood in spite of the abuse he suffered. As a priest, Faluszcak encountered his first iconoclastic experience with church hierarchy when he disclosed his abuse as a teenager to then Bishop of Erie in 2010 and again later to his successor in 2014. Neither took any action. Later, Faluszcak learned that the priest had already been restricted from the ministry during the time he abused Faluszcak.

After ordination, Faluszcak spent his years as a priest in the Diocese of Erie, before quitting in 2014 to become the frequently interviewed and quoted whistleblower he is today.

## Childhood Victim Himself

Like many victims of childhood sexual assault, in adulthood Faluszcak self-medicated, as he suffered from tremors, panic attacks and, as he described it, "debilitating anxiety." All around him he was revolted by the "secret lifestyles of diocesan priests and the culture in which the are formed," he said. "The church enables sub-cultural behaviors," he added.

"For 20 some years I suffered with this alone," he told WBEN television news in Buffalo, New York. His alcohol abuse is now well under control, he said, adding that he suspects that "most dioceses have a problem of this same nature." Once sober, he told this station in another interview, "I found it nearly impossible to function with all these constant reminders [of my abuse]."

## Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report

In Pennsylvania, Faluszcak testified before a special grand jury that, in August 2018, ended a two-year-investigation naming more than 300 Catholic priests in six Keystone State dioceses who sexually abused children over more than six decades, and how their actions were covered up.

Today, Faluszcak continues to speak out and demonstrate against church abusers and the church culture. In his law firm affiliation with Phillips & Paolicelli, LLP, he helps coordinate intake and contact with clients who are adult survivors of child sex assault, and maintains contact with Catholics and attorneys in the Erie, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York areas.

## Call Phillips & Paolicelli 1-877-8-ABUSED (877-822-8733)

Survivors of child sex assault can call Phillips & Paolicelli, LLP's dedicated toll-free number at 1-877-8-Abused (822-8733) between 8 AM and midnight on weekdays to speak confidentially with a firm lawyer (not an operator). Depending upon case needs, a client could at some point speak with or meet with Faluszcak at one of our law offices.

## Contact Us

Call Phillips & Paolicelli between 8 am and midnight at 1-877-8-Abused (822-8733). Speak with one of our attorneys, not a phone operator, who will help to explain your options. If you prefer, use this quick contact form below and we will contact you.

### Name \*

First

Last

### Email \*

### Phone \*

### Comment or Message \*