

Girl's family astonished by judge's compassion

In four pages, Superior Court Judge Dennis J. Curran gave a young girl the vindication she deserved.

The seasoned jurist awarded her family \$250,000 for an assault she



FULL COURT PRESS

Bob McGOVERN

sustained at the hands of Torrey Beique, a 37-year-old man who admitted — as part of a plea deal — that he had touched the girl inappropriately back in 2013, when she was just 12. As part of the plea, there was no guilty finding.

He was given a continuance without a finding and handed one year of probation.

But the girl's mother told me she wanted justice. Probation wasn't enough, so she went to civil court seeking damages.

That's when Curran laid down some powerful prose and awarded the six-figure judgment.

"Before they know better, children trust. Before they



STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK WHITTEMORE

SUPPORT: Superior Court Judge Dennis J. Curran offered a stirring defense of a young girl who had been sexually assaulted.

know better, children play. Before they know better, children laugh freely, love openly, and forgive readily," Curran wrote. "They do not know perversion until they are exposed to it. They do

not know evil until they experience it. And they do not know fear, anxiety, or trauma until it is forced upon them.

"This is what the defendant Beique has knowingly inflicted."

The young girl's mom read Curran's decision last week — now more than two years after this ordeal started — and felt the emotion in his words.

"His empathy was just amazing, especially for my daughter," she said. "Just knowing that everyone believed her was really important. She was so afraid that

no one believed her."

And it's clear Curran believed her story.

Beique represented himself, but he had no true defense for the admissions he made on the record.

"This defendant pierced her open heart, displacing trust with fear, curiosity with anxiety, and joy with trauma. She may physically survive, persevere, and grow beyond the defendant's selfish and predatory acts, but those acts can never be undone," Curran wrote. "Childhood innocence is priceless. Can any amount of money ever compensate for such a loss?"

For this family, Curran's decision was its own form of compensation. The girl's mom has the decision in a folder, socked away for a time when her daughter may want to sit down and read what this judge said to the man who abused her.

"To have someone write that passionately about it was just amazing," her mother said. "It took me aback, and it's worth more than any amount of money for us to have that for her."

— bob.mcGovern@bostonherald.com

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