

Mark Winner: **You are a rapist.**

And I am but **one** of your **multiple victims** who has struggled to find normalcy and peace since you so heartlessly and ruthlessly took advantage of me.

Before I met you, I had just moved to Chicago to embark upon a promising career and felt full of joy and confidence. I had also just moved into a new apartment, and was eager to establish professional roots and make friends here. But then I had the misfortune of crossing paths with you.

During the early hours of August 21, 2015, you raped me. I will never forget your complete lack of humanity and depraved indifference to my repeated and tearful pleas for you to stop. And though the vaginal trauma, bites to my breast and other physical wounds have since healed, the mental and emotional wounds you inflicted have hardened into deep dark scars that pervade and mar my very existence. I will forever be a changed woman unable to trust and unable to take for granted the goodness of those around me.

After you raped me, I left my job and moved away from Illinois in an effort to place as much distance between you and me, because distance seemed the only safe option. However, distance would not repair the damage you had done. In the last three years, I've had many failed friendships and relationships because I cannot trust others. I've been unable to keep a job for very long because I lack the confidence that I once had and because at times I suffer from horrible anxiety and cannot engage with the world. I find it difficult—sometimes impossible—to go through the cycles of each day. I wish more than anything that I could regain my lost confidence and my ability to trust people. I wish I could look at the world as I did before you raped me.

And while I wish above all else that I had not been raped, I take some small comfort knowing that because I pressed charges the resulting investigation into your past gave other victims the courage to step up and also seek and obtain justice for what you did to them.

I hope you someday realize you stole from many wonderful women a certain innocence and confidence that can never be restored. Perhaps God then can forgive you and offer you salvation.

Lastly, I want to thank the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, especially Assistant State's Attorneys Mikki Miller, Anne McCord and Mary Boland, for their empathy and their dedicated efforts in helping me and other women obtain closure (at least from a legal standpoint) for what you did to us all.