

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, Zip]

[Your Email]

[Your Phone Number]

[Date]

New York State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct

39 Broadway, Suite 720

New York, NY 10006

Re: Complaint Against Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten

Dear Commissioners:

I am filing a formal complaint against Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten regarding his handling of the Cornell University sexual assault investigation involving Chi Phi fraternity members.

District Attorney Van Houten has publicly misrepresented the victim's sworn statement by characterizing the incident as "voluntary, conscious, and consensual." This characterization is directly contradicted by the victim's own words to campus police. According to a transcript obtained by CBS News New York, the victim stated, "I can say with 100% confidence I was raped," and described herself as "completely and totally incapacitated." Van Houten has since admitted he never reviewed the full transcript before declining to prosecute, relying instead on a police summary.

Even the excerpts Van Houten himself released contain caveats inconsistent with consent. The victim stated she could not remember certain details, did not consent to certain activities, and became increasingly intoxicated throughout the night.

When a prosecutor publicly misrepresents what a victim told law enforcement, particularly in a case involving allegations of gang rape and drugging, it undermines public trust in the justice system and potentially re-traumatizes the victim. The victim's attorney has called the failure to investigate "shocking" and stated that Van Houten "seems more interested in protecting his reputation as opposed to seeking justice."

I respectfully request that the Commission investigate District Attorney Van Houten's public statements regarding the victim's sworn statement and his office's handling of the initial investigation, including the failure to review the full police transcript before declining to prosecute.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Printed Name]