

Press Advisory

On Monday, July 20, the former Franklin County High School varsity girls basketball coach, Amber Parker, filed a Title IX lawsuit in federal district court in Indianapolis on behalf of two of her minor daughters against the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and several school corporations whose girls' basketball teams compete against Franklin County High School's girls' basketball teams. The case was assigned by U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence. Title IX is the 1972 federal statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender by institutions that receive federal money. The suit challenges the scheduling disparity between boys' and girls' basketball, in particular the prime time scheduling of boys' games on Friday and Saturday evening while relegating girls' games to weekday evenings and Saturday afternoon. The suit further alleges that as early as 1997 the IHSAA was put on notice by federal authorities that gender-based scheduling disparity was occurring in Indiana but the IHSAA ignored that warning and instead allowed such discrimination to persist for years.

“I feel strongly that the girls suffer a huge disadvantage by playing mostly week nights. There's the obvious issue of not being able to draw the same size crowd as the boys can having weekend nights, but the biggest injustice comes academically,” Ms. Parker observed. As a mother of three daughters and an avid high school basketball fan all her life, she knew a system that denies the same opportunities for her daughters that her two sons enjoy was unjust. Ms. Parker says she simply wants young women to have

the chance to compete on an equal footing with boys for class rankings and athletic scholarships.

Ms. Parker is represented by attorneys William R. Groth of Indianapolis and Mark Sniderman, whose office is in Carmel. Mr. Groth can be reached by phone at (317) 353-9363 or by e-mail at wgroth@fdgtlaborlaw.com . Mr. Sniderman can be reached by phone at (317) 848-1000 or by email at mark@snidermanlaw.com