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State high court enters new territory

Hears arguments about rights in college sex misconduct claims

By **Edmund H. Mahony**
Hartford Courant

The state Supreme Court ventured onto new legal ground Monday when it heard arguments from a former Yale University student who wants to press a defamation suit against a fellow

student who accused him of a campus sexual assault for which he later was acquitted by a jury in state criminal court.

The case presents a new issue for the court: Are students — or anyone else — involved in non-governmental disciplinary hearings by private institutions, such as Yale, entitled to the same protections they would have in a government, or judicial hearing, such as the right to confront their accusers?

As a secondary issue, the case raises questions generally about

the new model for discipline in sexual misconduct cases that many schools adopted based on direction by the U.S. Department of Education. In one of several such cases moving through the U.S. courts, UConn settled with a student who denied being involved in sexual misconduct, but was not permitted to defend himself before a school committee, which judged him guilty and suspended him.

Similar complaints have become increasingly common around the country, as schools — in a time

of increased sensitivity to sexual coercion — investigate, arbitrate and impose discipline on claims of sexual misconduct among students. In many cases, those who are accused complain that institutional definitions of misconduct are too broad and the accused are denied opportunities to defend themselves.

The Yale case is one of at least two from that school that reached the courts.

The case argued Monday by Saifullah Khan brings a new

perspective to the more common complaints of bias by those accused of sexual misconduct. He is a citizen of Afghanistan who was born in a Pakistani refugee camp where his family fled from threats by the Taliban. He was admitted to the Yale class of 2016 with financial assistance.

A federal court dismissed his defamation suit against his accuser, concluding that his accuser has complete immunity from such

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“It doesn’t matter how much money you have, how good your upbringing is, how successful you are at your job. Men and women amongst us today, at work and in our communities ... They’re hiding in plain sight.”

— Morgan Ferrarotti, domestic abuse survivor



Morgan Ferrarotti, who is on the board of directors for Hartford’s Interval House, received a standing ovation after she spoke at the Members of Interval House’s Men Make a Difference advocacy group highlighting the issue of domestic violence. **PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT**

Victims and advocates share stories of survival



Mary-Jane Foster, president and CEO of Interval House, straightens Sen. Richard Blumenthal’s purple tie, worn to represent Domestic Violence Awareness Month, during the event at Capital Community College.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month shines light on issue

By **Taylor Hartz**
Hartford Courant

Morgan Ferrarotti, a domestic violence survivor, brought a crowd to their feet on Monday, as state advocates kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Hartford.

Ferrarotti, who said she endured years of emotional, psychological and financial abuse at the hands of her then-partner, joined those

on the front lines of the fight against rising domestic violence rates in recognizing the need for more conversations, connections to resources and empathy toward survivors.

The message across the board at the event at Capital Community College was that everyone, everywhere, knows someone who has been impacted by domestic or intimate partner violence.

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Kamala Harris to visit state

VP will be in roundtable discussion on abortion with Rep. Jahana Hayes

By **Christopher Keating**
Hartford Courant

With five weeks before the election, Vice President Kamala Harris is traveling Wednesday to New Britain — a key city in Connecticut’s closest congressional race.

Harris will participate in a roundtable discussion on abortion with U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes and Alexis McGill Johnson, the national president of Planned Parenthood.

Harris is making the trip to “highlight the Biden-Harris administration’s commitment to protecting women’s reproductive rights,” her office said.

She will appear at Central Connecticut State University in front of a live audience with Hayes and McGill Johnson, who earned a master’s degree in political science from Yale University and has taught at both Yale and Wesleyan University in Middletown. No other events or fundraisers were announced Monday as part of the Harris trip.

Abortion has been a major issue in the battle between Hayes and Republican George Logan, a former state senator who supporters believe is the party’s best candidate in the 5th Congressional District since then-state senator Andrew Roraback in 2012. Democrats have won every election in the district, which stretches from

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M&T Bank laid off more than 300 in its acquisition of People’s United

M&T Bank has laid off 325 employees in Connecticut in its acquisition of People’s United Bank, and another 333 are expected to lose their jobs in the future, the Buffalo-based lender told Connecticut’s attorney general. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Ukraine presses Russia on 2 fronts, earns gains

Kyiv reports clawing back more territory in annexed regions

By **Jon Gambrell**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces scored more gains in their counter-offensive across at least two fronts Monday, advancing in the very areas that Russia is trying to absorb and challenging Moscow’s effort to engage fresh troops and its threats to defend incorporated areas by all means.

In their latest breakthrough, Ukrainian forces penetrated Moscow’s defenses in the strategic

southern Kherson region, one of the four areas in Ukraine that Russia is in the process of annexing.

Kyiv’s troops also consolidated gains in the east and other major battlefields, re-establishing Ukrainian control just as Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to overcome problems with manpower, weapons, troop morale and logistics, along with intensifying domestic and international criticism.

Putin faces disarray and anger domestically about his partial troop mobilization and confusion about the establishment of new Russian borders.

Ukraine’s advances have become

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Ukrainian civilian and military vehicles make their way over a pontoon bridge Monday in the city of Iziurm. **FRANCISCO SECO/AP**