

PRESS RELEASE

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Lawsuit Charge Colleges' Scheme To Conceal Their Lack Of Accreditation From  
Thousands

The Law Firm Of Peter N. Price, P.A. Charges Florida Colleges With Unlawful  
And Deceptive Activities

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL - MARCH 8, 2004 /Send2Press Newswire/ -- Eleven Florida colleges, with ties to over 55 colleges nationwide, are the subject of a class action suit filed in the Circuit Court of Broward County for failure to disclose their lack of proper accreditation. The Law Firm of Peter N. Price, PA, Hollywood, FL, charged Florida Metropolitan University, Inc. "(FMU)," Rhodes Colleges, Inc., and Corinthian Colleges, Inc., all headquartered at Plantation, FL, with damaging plaintiff Michael Satz, by their unlawful and deceptive activities.

According to Satz, "I was deliberately misled by many FMU staff members as they stated the school was specifically accredited and that my credits would be transferable to other institutions of higher learning." Satz was charged approximately \$11,000.00 for his past year's courses.

Attorney Peter N. Price observed that his firm's class action has the potential to affect thousands of Florida citizens who are enrolled at FMU, Rhodes and Corinthian Colleges. He noted further that FMU operates numerous college campuses throughout Florida including those located in Ft. Lauderdale/Plantation, Brandon, Melbourne, Tampa, North and South Orlando, Jacksonville, Pinellas County, Lakeland, South Pompano, and Orange Park.

Price pointed out that the misrepresentation of accreditation may affect 11,000 students currently enrolled in Florida and he estimated over a hundred thousand national students are potentially involved. "When you translate this into the four years of damages requested for our suit, the number of people affected, is staggering," he said.

The suit is based upon Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Practices Act. It alleges the colleges conspired in a common scheme "to conceal their unlawful, tortious and illegal acts from the public, including Satz, in order to increase profits." Satz, who was assured and shown documentary evidence that FMU was fully accredited as a proper college to attend, enrolled and completed approximately 80 credit hours to pursue a degree in paralegal studies. However, Nova Southeastern University advised that FMU credits would not be transferable as the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) had not issued accreditation to FMU.

Said Price, "FMU, through a pattern and practice of doing business, derives revenue and commissions from the enrollment of students at its Florida campuses, but has failed to disclose and intentionally conceals the fact that FMU is not accredited by SACS, that all credits and degrees obtained from FMU will not be transferable to other institutions for students seeking further education elsewhere, and that the education received by students is of less or no value to students because of FMU's lack of accreditation.

"Indeed, the Plaintiff [Satz] was deliberately misled when he applied for enrollment; he was informed that FMU was specifically accredited and that his credits would be transferable so that he could seek his law degree."

"Further," continued Price, "We believe the defendants have engaged in unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts and practices, and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of their trade" He urged potential class members to contact his firm at (954) 964-6050.

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[ source of news = Law Offices of Peter N. Price, Esq. ]  
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