

**For Immediate Release
September 22, 2014**

AGNEWBRUSAVICH FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND FORMER HEAD FOOTBALL COACH LANE KIFFIN FOR PERSONAL INJURIES

-- Despite legislation, extensive research and educational campaigns, college football players are being placed at needless risk of preventable injuries while playing football --

LOS ANGELES, CA – [AgnewBrusavich](#), a Torrance-based serious personal injury law firm, filed a lawsuit on behalf of their client Brian Baucham against the University of Southern California (USC) and former head football coach Lane Kiffin alleging negligence resulting in severe personal injuries. Mr. Baucham was forced by Coach Kiffin to play a home game even though Mr. Baucham was very ill and diagnosed by the USC Health Clinic with an influenza-like illness, viral pharyngitis and dehydration. As a result, Mr. Baucham suffered from cardiopulmonary damage, as well as brain injury with neurocognitive deficits, and will never be able to play collegiate level football or pursue a career in the NFL.

"USC and Head Coach Kiffin were clearly negligent and acted with conscious disregard for Brian's welfare and safety by forcing him to play in the California Golden Bears game on September 22, 2012 despite his verified medical history and seriously ill condition," said lead lawyer [Bruce M. Brusavich](#) of AgnewBrusavich. "Defendants further breached their duties by failing to follow USC's own Comprehensive Athletics Head Injury and Concussion Management Plan, which was specifically developed to reduce the likelihood of student-athletes sustaining serious injuries. This situation is outrageous and made all the more tragic as Brian's devastating injuries were completely preventable."

BACKGROUND

In July 2012, Mr. Baucham suffered a concussion and was soon cleared to return to play. On the evening of September 20, 2012, Mr. Baucham became ill suffering from a high fever, chills and abdominal distress. The next morning, he felt even worse and told the coaching staff that

he would not be able to participate in the Friday practice to prepare for the home game the next day against the California Golden Bears (Cal).

The coaching staff instructed Mr. Baucham to report to practice, and when he did, he was sent to the USC Health Clinic. At the clinic, he had a 103 degree fever, chills, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain and was diagnosed with influenza-like illness, viral pharyngitis and dehydration. He was given medications and four liters of intravenous fluids. The medical staff told him that he was in no condition to practice on Friday or play in the game on Saturday.

Mr. Baucham then reported to the football coaching staff and advised them of the Health Clinic's diagnosis, treatment and recommendations. Coach Kiffin instructed Mr. Baucham to report to the team hotel on Friday night and even got Mr. Baucham his own room due to his severe illness and potential contagiousness.

The next morning, Saturday, September 22, 2012, Mr. Baucham told the coaches that he was still very sick and did not think he should play. In response, he was told that he would have to get dressed and be prepared to play. Despite Mr. Baucham's obvious illness and weakened condition, he played throughout the first three quarters of the game with several more liters of fluid given intravenously. Furthermore, even though USC was leading Cal by a score of 17 to 6 at the end of the third quarter, the coaching staff continued to play Mr. Baucham into the fourth quarter until he collapsed on the field. Mr. Baucham was taken by ambulance to the USC Keck Medical Center coughing up blood and fluid. Excessive fluids pumped into Mr. Baucham on Friday and during the game caused an overload of fluid in his lungs requiring a ventilator to breathe for him for several days. Brain imaging by CT scan revealed that Mr. Baucham had sustained a brain injury and had bleeding in the brain.

In addition, Defendant USC also attempted to revoke Mr. Baucham's scholarship and have him attend a community college. However, relenting to his tenacious mother's fury, the administration finally agreed to allow him to continue his studies with the aid of a note taker and he eventually graduated from the University. Left with cardiopulmonary damage, as well as brain injury with neurocognitive deficits, Mr. Baucham will never be able to play collegiate level football again; he will never be able to pursue a career in the NFL; and he is now incapable of competing in the open labor market.

AgnewBrusavich is demanding a jury trial.

MORE ABOUT MR. BAUCHAM

Raised in Los Angeles, Mr. Baucham was a tremendous All-CIF football player at West Torrance High School recruited to play cornerback at USC by then head coach Pete Carroll, who openly communicated that Mr. Baucham had the potential to play in the National Football League (NFL) and by playing at USC, he could prepare a future in the NFL. During his tenure at USC, Mr. Baucham made significant contributions to the USC football team, and Defendants knew that he was likely to follow any directions or instructions he was given by his coaches.

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Founded in 1984, AgnewBrusavich represents those who have suffered serious personal injuries or the families of those who have been wrongfully killed from bicycle and vehicular accidents, medical malpractice, defective products, construction accidents, premises, elder abuse and other acts of negligence.

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