Re: Independent Investigation of Allegations against Manouso Manos

Dear IYNAUS Members,

As you know, we have ordered an independent investigation of allegations that Manouso Manos has engaged in sexual misconduct. We believe that a prompt comprehensive investigation is critical to the future of Iyengar Yoga in the U.S. We write to provide additional information.

**First**, we have retained Ms. Bernadette Sargeant of Stinson Leonard Street LLP to conduct the investigation. Yoga Alliance recommended Ms. Sargeant to us. She has a wealth of experience conducting investigations, including on the Ethics Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and in the Office of Professional Responsibility of the U.S. Department of Justice. She has an excellent reputation for fairness and for sensitivity to the interests of the accusers and the accused. Her resume and professional biography are attached. We have determined that Ms. Sargeant has no conflicts of interest, and we are fortunate that she is available to perform this important work for IYNAUS.

**Second,** the independent investigation will not be limited to Ann West's complaint. It will include other allegations covering the time period from January 1, 1992 to the present. In this regard, we want Ms. Sargeant to conduct a thorough investigation and to be able to consider any allegations concerning this period. We thus want to assure that all relevant information is before Ms. Sargeant. In the past two months, many individuals submitted emails to us supporting Mr. Manos and others submitted emails making allegations against him. All these emails will be provided to Ms. Sargeant.

To assure a thorough investigation, we request that anyone else with relevant information come forward at this time. In particular, if anyone else has relevant information to report, we request that it be submitted as soon as possible and **NO LATER** than Friday November 30.

The simplest way to submit this information is to email it directly to Bernadette Sargeant at <a href="mailto:bernadette.sargeant@stinson.com">bernadette.sargeant@stinson.com</a>. If emails are sent directly to her, they must include "IYNAUS" somewhere in the subject line to assure they are properly identified.

However, if any of you would prefer not to email Ms. Sargeant directly, emails may also be sent to <a href="mailto:president@iynaus.org">president@iynaus.org</a> and will then be forwarded to Ms. Sargeant. In any case, please submit any additional relevant information as soon as possible.

**Third,** the independent investigation will be a confidential process that protects the privacy and identity of any individuals who provide information about Mr. Manos. In particular, unless an individual expressly consents, Ms. Sargeant will not voluntarily disclose any information that could identify that individual to Mr. Manos, to any member of the IYNAUS Board of Directors, to any teacher in our community, or to any member of the public.

Yours in yoga,

**IYNAUS** Board of Directors