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DECLARATION OF EDGARDO SOLANO

I, Edgardo Solano, hereby declare:

1. I am one of the plaintiffs in this action. I make this declaration based upon my own personal knowledge and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I am thirteen years old, and I am in the eighth grade at Helms Middle School. This is my second year at Helms.

3. I don't have my own English or science book at school. My teachers have a classroom set that we have to leave in the room to share with other classes. I think that I would get much more out of school if I could have my own books to take home with me to read and study. I don't think it is right for us not to get our own books.

4. The books that I do have, math and history, are very old and worn out. I wish that I had new, updated books to use because the ones that I have contain torn pages and have a great deal of writing in them.

5. In most of my classes, I need to supply my own pencils, pens, and paper because the school does not have enough to supply them for us.

6. I avoid using the bathrooms at school because they are too dirty and disgusting. I have seen empty liquor bottles, used condoms, and cigarette butts in the bathrooms on many occasions. There is graffiti all over the walls and stalls, and there is usually no soap or paper. There are never any hand towels in the bathrooms. In addition, most of the stalls do not have doors on them so there is no privacy.

7. The school building looks pretty run down. Throughout the school, the walls are dirty and covered with graffiti. The paint is even chipping off in places.

8. Further, the ceiling is falling down in some places. Outside the library, the tiles are stained and look loose. Some tiles have already fallen off of the ceiling.

9. The roof leaks in some classrooms. For example, the art classroom roof leaks when it rains.

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10. The gym roof leaks sometimes when it rains, as well. When the roof is leaking, the gym floor gets wet so we can't use the gym. On the rainy days, then, we can't play outside or inside during gym class.

11. The boys locker room in the gym is not in good condition either. The wooden benches are battered and heavily chipped. Some of the lockers are beaten up and broken. The locker room as a whole is not very clean, and I am not comfortable using it.

12. In winter, it can get very cold inside the art classrooms. I don't think that the heat works in that part of the school, so the rooms get really cold.

13. The poor conditions at my school upset me. I wish that I could take pride in my school, but Helms is too run down for me to feel proud.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed by me this ____ day of May, 2000 at San Pablo, California.



Edgardo Solano