

REVIEW OF FEDERAL CASES ON SEX TRAFFICKING IN MINNESOTA

US DISTRICT COURT OF MINNESOTA

(2009-2015)

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Abstract

This report consists of reviews of cases on sex trafficking filed before the US District Court of Minnesota from 2009 to 2015 based court documents including affidavits and indictment papers. This study was supplemented by publications of the cases in the websites of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security and newspaper reports of the cases in Minnesota. This report examines the defendants, co-defendants, the victims and coding for variables such as location, inter-state transport, pimping tactics, drugs and violence, among others to help better understand sex trafficking in Minnesota. This is a review of actual cases, the conclusions in this report are intended to understanding of how sex trafficking crimes are committed in the State of Minnesota.

Keywords: Human Trafficking; Sex Trafficking Cases; Pimps; Victims; Minnesota

About This Report

Floro C. Balato, Jr. was a Fulbright-Humphrey Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota with focus on “Trafficking in Persons, Policy and Prevention” from 2016-2017. He completed his professional affiliation for this program at the University of Minnesota’s Robert J. Jones, Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center (UROC) under the supervision of Dr. Lauren Martin, director of research at UROC. UROC was very pleased to work with Mr. Balato. This report is the culmination of his work with us at UROC as part of the study “Mapping the Demand for Sex in Minnesota” which is part of UROC’s Sex Trading, Trafficking and Community Wellbeing Initiative, <https://uroc.umn.edu/sextrafficking>.

Mr. Balato is a lawyer and anti-trafficking advocate. He was Senior Immigration Officer of Philippine Bureau Immigration and served as chief of all international airports, seaport, and border crossings of the country. He oversaw the implementation of a policy to prevent trafficking of Filipino nationals, a vital factor in the Philippines Tier 1 ranking in the 2016 US Government Trafficking in Persons Report.

Introduction

From the years 2009 to 2015, we identified thirteen (13) cases of sex trafficking against various defendants filed before the US District Court of Minnesota. The offenses were for violations of various felonies as defined in different sections of Title 18 of the United States Code providing punishment against sex trafficking and related offenses.¹ These cases were filed by officers of different law enforcement agencies from city or state police department to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The cases were based on their successful law enforcement investigations and were subsequently prosecuted by federal prosecutors in the State of Minnesota during this period.

Analysis and review of these cases will provide vital information and valuable insights on the pattern and *modus operandi* involved in committing sex trafficking offenses in Minnesota. Since this review is based on actual cases committed, investigated and prosecuted within the jurisdiction of the US District Court of Minnesota, it provides a valid perspective on sex trafficking in the State of Minnesota.

This study examined court documents, specifically court decisions, indictment papers and affidavits of law enforcement officers.² As a supplemental source of information, this report referred to online publications from the websites of the US Department of Justice, Office of the

¹ Sex Trafficking Conspiracy; Aiding and Abetting Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion; Interstate Transportation for Prostitution; Aiding and Abetting Sex Trafficking of a Minor by Force, Fraud and Coercion; Aiding and Abetting Interstate Transportation for Prostitution; Conspiracy to Commit Sex Trafficking of a Child; Sex Trafficking of Child; Sex Trafficking of a Minor; Possession of Child Pornography; Conspiracy to Possess Child Pornography; Conspiracy to Produce Child Pornography; Enticement to Travel to Engage in Prostitution; Aiding and Abetting Transportation with Intent to Engage in Prostitution; Conspiracy to Entice to Travel In Interstate Commerce; Conspiracy to Transport With Intent to Engage In Prostitution; Transportation for Prostitution; Conspiracy to Facilitate Travel In Interstate Commerce to Engage in Prostitution; Knowingly Conspired To Transport An Individual Who Had Not Attained the Age the Age of 18 in Interstate Commerce to Engage in Prostitution; Aiding and Abetting Each Other in the Transport of An Individual Who Has Not Attained 18 to engage in Prostitution.

² Scanned copy of the cases is attached as **Annex A** and Excel File Summary of the Cases as **Annex B** of this report

Attorney General of Minnesota³ and the US Immigration and Customs and Enforcement (ICE)⁴ as further reference. The review also made use of newspaper reports in Minnesota on the subject cases for additional information.⁵ The limited source of information of this report is its inherent limitation. Hence, this study may not capture specific and peculiar details of the sex trafficking situations in Minnesota. The essential limitation notwithstanding, as the report is based on real situations and actual cases duly investigated by law enforcement professionals and established through legal processes, it is projected to provide a significant insight into the sex trafficking operations in the State of Minnesota.

For better understanding, this report examined the *defendants* and the *victims* in the source cases. It analyzed the *location*- the place, city or state where the victims were transported for the purpose of subjecting them to engage in sex trafficking or where the specific act of commercial sexual activity occurred. Location also includes the place where the act of recruitment of the trafficked victims was committed. The report also studied if there was *inter-state transportation* of the victim from one state to another state. It also probed the presence of other factors and variables like *physical violence* in the commission of the sex trafficking activity, whether the defendant, the pimp or persons assisting them to commit sex trafficking employed physical or other forms of violence on the victims. The report also explored the influence or presence of *drugs* in the cases in line with the common narrative that sex trafficking is usually committed with drugs or the victims are usually given prohibited drugs during the sex trafficking activity. This report likewise sought information on the *sex buyers* and also examined the existence of *pimps networks* in Minnesota. Moreover, the report scrutinized *the role of women in sex trafficking*, and how they cooperate with or assist the primary defendant's in the

³ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/six-day-trial-results-guilty-verdict-blaine-man-trafficking-18-year-old-victim>

⁴ <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/minnesota-man-sentenced-23%BD-years-sex-trafficking-across-state-lines>

⁵ <http://www.twincities.com/2015/11/26/blaine-man-sentenced-for-sex-trafficking-in-duluth-case/>

commission of sex trafficking. Finally, this report took into account the operational method of sex traffickers in Minnesota

Analysis and Discussion

I. Defendants

In the thirteen (13) federal cases reviewed, a total of seventeen (17) defendants were indicted. They committed the offenses either acting alone or in conspiracy with other persons charged as co-defendants. Of the thirteen (13) cases, ten (10) were committed by single defendants acting alone and by themselves; two (2) were committed with the aid of co-defendants⁶ and one (1) was committed with three defendants acting in concert to commit sex trafficking.⁷ Out of seventeen (17) defendants, twelve (12) were males while five (5) were females. As can be gleaned from those who were convicted in these sex trafficking cases, data suggests that sex traffickers may be either male or female.

A review of the affidavits, indictment sheets and other court records, as well as the newspaper reports did not establish other information on the defendant such as their race, ethnicity, age or their place of origin.

II. Victims

Due to the strict privacy afforded to victims by sex trafficking laws, there was limited information on the victims found in the source documents. In the thirteen (13) cases reviewed, a total of twenty-five (25) female victims were identified. None of the victims were males. All victims were recruited, transported, advertised online and sold for commercial sexual

⁶ *USA vs Bramer, et al, (with Andre James Hertzog)*, Criminal Docket for Case No. 0-13-cr-00049-DWF-TNL-All, US District Court Minnesota (DMN) and *USA vs Lloyd, et al (with Raquel Mone Belcher)*, Criminal Docket for Case No. 0-15-cr-00142-JRT-SER All, US District Court Minnesota (DMN)

⁷ *USA vs. Gilmore, et al (with Dominique Alexandra McKee and Angela Marie Carter)*, Criminal Docket for Case No. 13-cr-00213-JNE-SER-All, US District Court Minnesota (DMN)

exploitation by the defendants. Out of this number, twenty-one (21) were minors and four (4) were eighteen (18) years old and above, showing that most of the victims in the sex trafficking cases reviewed were minors. Some of these minor victims were recruited through social media sites like Facebook⁸ and Tagged⁹ and through SMS text messaging.¹⁰ One victim was reported by her grandparent to have been missing prior to victimization.¹¹ The large number of minor victims highlight the vulnerability of this age group to sex trafficking. From the actual cases reviewed, it appears that sex traffickers in Minnesota are likely to recruit minor women to their sex trafficking operations.

It is important to stress however that not all victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota are only minors and females. A comprehensive study on sex trafficking confirmed that males and adult females may be victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota (Martin & Pierce, 2014)¹². The large number of minor victims in this report is due to the fact that this is a case review and study of sex trafficking, transportation and prostitution of minor females.

III. Location

Location for the purpose of this report is the place, city or state where the victims were transported for the purpose of subjecting them to engage in sex trafficking, or where the specific act of commercial sexual activity occurred. Location also includes the place where the act of recruitment of the trafficked victims were committed. Location includes both the places in the state of Minnesota and nearby states.

⁸ USA vs McHenry

⁹ USA vs Gilmore

¹⁰ USA vs Paul

¹¹ USA vs McHenry

¹² Martin, L. & Pierce, A., et al. (2014). *Mapping the Market for Sex with Trafficked Minor Girls in Minneapolis; Structures, Functions and Pattern*. Available from uroc.umn.edu/sextrafficking.

Based on the federal court records of the sex trafficking cases reviewed for this report, victims were *transported for commercial sexual acts* to the following places in the State of Minnesota, to wit;

1. ***Twin Cities, Minnesota***- where victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity¹³; also location in *USA vs Geddes*; in *USA vs Lloyd, et al*; in *USA vs McHenry*; in *USA vs Paul*; in *USA vs Reed*; and *USA vs Warren*
2. ***Duluth, Minnesota***- where victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity¹⁴, also location in *USA vs Geddes*
3. ***Bloomington, Minnesota***- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity¹⁵, also location in *USA vs Gilmore*
4. ***Roseville, Minnesota***- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity in a motel room (Motel 6) maintained by the defendant¹⁶, also mentioned in *USA vs Paul*
5. ***St Cloud, Minnesota*** –where victim was transported to engage in commercial sex act in a hotel.¹⁷
6. ***Minnetonka, Minnesota***- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity¹⁸
7. ***Maplewood, Minnesota***- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity¹⁹
8. ***Carlos, Minnesota***- where one victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity in the house of the sex buyer²⁰
9. ***Maple Grove, Minnesota***- where one victim was located by police in a hotel and reported as victim of human trafficking²¹
10. ***Fridley, Minnesota***-where defendant based his sex trafficking operations²²

¹³ USA vs Canty

¹⁴ USA vs Canty

¹⁵ USA vs Chappel

¹⁶ USA vs Mc Henry

¹⁷ USA vs Bramer, et al.

¹⁸ USA vs Latham

¹⁹ USA vs McHenry

²⁰ USA vs Paul

²¹ USA vs Paul

²² USA vs Long

From the same case records, the following places in Minnesota were mentioned as the places were *recruitment* of the victims happened.

1. **Alexandria, Minnesota**- where one victim was recruited to engage in sex trafficking activity²³
2. **Kasson, Minnesota**- where one victim was recruited to engage in sex trafficking activity²⁴
3. **Plymouth, Minnesota**- where the victim was recruited to engage in commercial sexual activity elsewhere²⁵

Likewise, from the same case review, victims were *transported for commercial sexual activity* outside of the State of Minnesota to the following places, namely:

1. **Chicago, Illinois** –where victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity.²⁶, also location in *USA vs McHenry*
2. **Valparaiso, Indiana**- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity²⁷
3. **Des Moines, Iowa**- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sexual acts²⁸
4. **River Falls, Wisconsin**-where victim was transported to engage in commercial sexual activity²⁹
5. **Colorado Springs, Colorado**- where the victim was transported to engage in commercial sex activity³⁰

The following places outside of Minnesota were also listed where victims were *recruited*.

1. **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**- where victim was recruited to engage in commercial sexual activity in Minnesota³¹

²³ USA vs Paul

²⁴ USA vs Paul

²⁵ USA vs Childs

²⁶ USA vs Bramer, et al

²⁷ USA vs Canty

²⁸ USA vs Childs

²⁹ USA vs Warren

³⁰ USA vs Long

2. *Eau Claire, Wisconsin*- where the victim was recruited to engage in sexual activity in Minnesota and was returned after the victimization³²

From the examination of the places where the location of sex trafficking activity was committed, it can be concluded that sex trafficking did not only occur in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, but in any part of Minnesota. This finding is in conformity with the results of a study that sex trafficking and prostitution occurs not just in the urban areas but also in other parts of the state of Minnesota.³³

IV. Inter-State Sex Trafficking

The above list of locations also confirms that the operations of the sex traffickers often transcends inter-state boundaries. From the case review, it was established that the defendants transported victims to other cities in the nearby states of Minnesota to engage in commercial sexual activity. It was similarly illustrated that they recruited victims from nearby states to engage in commercial sexual activity in Minnesota and vice versa.

The victims were transported for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual activity to other cities outside of Minnesota namely; Chicago, Illinois;³⁴ Des Moines, Iowa;³⁵ Valparaiso, Indiana.³⁶ On the other hand, they recruited victims from Colorado Springs, Colorado,³⁷ Milwaukee,³⁸ River Falls³⁹ and Eau Claire, Wisconsin⁴⁰ to engage in commercial sexual activity

³¹ USA vs Gilmore

³² USA vs Geddes

³³ Martin & Pierce (2014)

³⁴ USA vs Bramer, et al. and USA vs Reed

³⁵ USA vs Childs

³⁶ USA vs Canty

³⁷ USA vs Long

³⁸ USA vs Gilmore

³⁹ USA vs Warren

⁴⁰ USA vs Geddes

in Minnesota. In one case, the defendant even transported the victim from Chicago, Illinois back to Rochester, Minnesota after she escaped from the control of the defendant.⁴¹

This confirms the existence of inter-state operations of sex-trafficking such that traffickers operating in Minnesota transport victims to other states and recruit victims from nearby states to engage in commercial sex activity in Minnesota.

The discussion of inter-state movement of sex traffickers as well as the victims is material as transportation is one element of the crime of sex trafficking. The places where the recruitment and the actual commercial sexual act are committed, let alone the constant movement of the victims and sex traffickers as shown in the cases provide vital insights on the geographical locations where the sex trafficking activities transpire. The facts that sex trafficking transcends inter-state boundaries is a significant finding as it may impact the prosecution of the cases since different States may have different sex trafficking laws and policies for protection of victims.

V. Violence

In this case review, we also examined the use of violence in the commission of sex trafficking activities. Out of the thirteen (13) cases reviewed, five (5) were committed with violence towards the victims. The violence employed by the defendants on the victims ranged from verbal abuse, physical force to rape.

In one case, the defendant subjected the victim to verbal abuse, threatened her with physical violence and physically assaulted her for failure to perform a task to his satisfaction. In the said case, the defendant violently took the victim's cellular phone and employed physical violence on the victim causing her to suffer a black eye⁴². In another case, the defendant

⁴¹ USA vs McHenry

⁴² USA vs Bramer

backhanded the victim twice in the face after the defendant accused the victim of posting her pictures online and again twice after she only got \$20 dollars instead of the agreed amount of \$120 for a 'blow job' on a client⁴³. The worst form of violence from the cases reviewed was when the defendant forced the victim to have 'painful' sex with him and raped her and thereafter threatened to kill the victim and her family if she would tell anyone what he did to her.⁴⁴ Still, in another case, the violence was employed on a third person when the defendant choked a female assistant to the point of her almost passing out and smashed the vehicle windows owned by said assistant in order to instill fear on the victim.⁴⁵

Undoubtedly, from the cases reviewed, the defendant traffickers employed various forms of violence on the victims and on third persons in order to force the victims into submission to follow the orders of the traffickers. Violence was used as a tool for coercing the victims to follow the traffickers and ensure compliance at all times whether the victim was a minor or adult.

VI. Drugs

The case review likewise researched the influence of drugs in the commission of the sex trafficking activities in Minnesota.

From the court documents or affidavits examined in the review of these cases, it was evident that drugs were present in the sex trafficking activities in Minnesota. The presence of alcohol, marijuana and drugs in the cases reviewed was relevant, prevalent and conspicuous.

As proof of the presence of drugs in sex trafficking, in one case, it was alleged that the defendants provided victims with marijuana and alcohol at all times during the sex trafficking activity⁴⁶. The most evident proof that drugs were used in sex trafficking was the presence of

⁴³ USA vs Geddes

⁴⁴ USA vs Paul

⁴⁵ USA vs McHenry

⁴⁶ USA vs Lloyd, et al.

marijuana in the hotel room where prostitution and commercial sex act occurred and the fact that defendants were previously arrested for drugs and weapons charges.⁴⁷ In some cases, the defendant was previously convicted of marijuana use⁴⁸ and for smoking marijuana.⁴⁹ Still in another case, the defendant dealt drugs for guns and was previously convicted for drug running.⁵⁰

Distinctly, from the cases reviewed, the use of drugs in sex trafficking operations in Minnesota has been clearly established.

It is worthy to note that this case review was based solely on affidavits of law enforcement and court documents for sex trafficking cases of minors. The source materials were not for prosecution of drugs cases, hence, the extent and the real intersection of drug trafficking and sex trafficking in the State of Minnesota may not have been fully captured and reflected in this report.

VII. Pimp Networks and Operational Methods

The case review also investigated sex trafficking operations and explored the presence of ‘simple pimps’ or ‘pimp networks’ (Martin & Pierce, 2014, pp 70). From the thirteen (13) cases reviewed, all defendants operated as a ‘single pimp’ and no one among the defendants was mentioned to be a member of a ‘pimp network’. While in certain cases they were assisted by their co-defendants or other victims, all cases had the hallmarks of a ‘single pimp operation’. The existence of a ‘simple pimp’ was established as in all cases: the defendants served as facilitator in the recruitment, online advertisement of the victims and the delivery of the victims to the sex buyers. The cases reviewed for this report featured small-time defendants who were operating by

⁴⁷ USA vs Gilmore

⁴⁸ USA vs Long

⁴⁹ USA vs Warren

⁵⁰ USA vs Geddes

themselves and there was no mention in the source documents that they belonged to a large network of sex trafficking syndicates.

In one case, the defendant was the 'single pimp' who advertised victims online for commercial sex acts and used her Minnetonka apartment for the commercial sexual activity.⁵¹

In another case, the defendant recruited, enticed, harbored and transported the victims to engage in sexual acts, benefited financially and received something of value from the act of the victims. He advertised the victims in Craigslist.org and Backpage.com, and booked a hotel room in Bloomington, Minnesota where victims would perform the commercial sex act, maintained the victims in his rented house and drove them to the hotel whenever there is a 'sex buyer'.⁵²

VIII. The Role of Women

The case review also investigated the role of women and their participation in sex trafficking in Minnesota. The women either worked for and or assisted the sex trafficker in the perpetration of the crime. It was found out that in six (6) of the thirteen (13) cases reviewed, there was a woman victim who supervised the other victims and assisted the trafficker in running the sex trafficking operations.

In one case, one of the co-defendants was the 'main girl', who would deal with the other girls, worked for and split the income from the sexual commercial activity with the main defendant on a 60/40 arrangement.⁵³ In another case, the female assisting the defendant advertised the victims for sexual services on Backpage.com, worked with, reported to, and sent money from the sexual acts of the victim to the main trafficker.⁵⁴ Yet in another case, the trafficker who was offering girls for commercial sexual activity was aided by a female victim

⁵¹ USA vs Latham

⁵² USA vs Chappell

⁵³ USA vs Gilmore

⁵⁴ USA vs Bramer, et al

who convinced her own younger sister to engage in a sex trafficking act, as a customer wanted a younger girl.⁵⁵

Plainly, the said cases illustrate complex roles of women in sex trafficking operations. These cases provided proof that women who may be victims of sex trafficking may also be involved in the sex trafficking operations as facilitators, and that some of these victims have been charged as co-defendants. This report has limited information on the participation and role of women in sex trafficking in Minnesota, and further investigation is needed.

IX. Sex Buyers

The case review also attempted to study ‘sex buyers’ - the johns buying sex and engaging in commercial sexual acts with the victims. From a careful reading of the court documents, affidavits and other sources, there was scant or minimal information on the ‘sex buyers’ to be able to make a review, conduct analysis and arrive at a conclusion. The court documents did not provide any information on ‘sex buyers’ since the cases were filed against sex traffickers and not against ‘sex buyers’. At least, it can be implied that ‘sex buyers’ were present in the various locations where the victims were transported for commercial sexual activity.

X. Modus Operandi

From the analysis and scrutiny of the cases, it was established that sex traffickers employed the following modus operandi in committing the specific acts that amounted to sex trafficking.

- A. Recruitment-** Sex traffickers recruited the victims either personally to live with them in their apartments⁵⁶, through the use of social network sites like Facebook⁵⁷,

⁵⁵ USA vs Warren

⁵⁶ USA vs Bramer, et al, USA vs Latham, USA vs Reed

⁵⁷ USA vs McHenry

Tagged⁵⁸ and through text messaging⁵⁹. The recruitment was done by the defendant themselves or by the other victims⁶⁰. The recruitment includes the enticement of victims to earn a lot of money from commercial sexual activity⁶¹, by providing them with nice clothes and lingerie⁶² and providing them with an apartment to live in.⁶³ Due to the limitations of the source documents, this review did not establish specific locations of recruitments like schools, malls or parties (Martin & Pierce, 2014, pp 47) as the same was not mentioned in the affidavits, indictment and other court documents.

- B. *Transportation***- The sex traffickers provided the means of transportation to the victims from their places of recruitment to their places of accommodation or homes and eventually to the place where the commercial sexual activity would occur⁶⁴. The traffickers would usually drive the victims in their cars or the cars of their co-defendants to hotels or apartments where the commercial sexual act would transpire.
- C. *Advertisement***- The traffickers or their cohorts would take pictures of the victims in their underwear or in lingerie and advertise them in online sites like Backpage.com⁶⁵ or Craigslist.org⁶⁶. In the thirteen (13) cases surveyed, the preferred website was Backpage.com as six (6) defendants placed advertisement in the said online platform. The traffickers would usually buy pre-paid credit cards like Vanilla Visa credit cards

⁵⁸ USA vs Gilmore

⁵⁹ USA vs Paul

⁶⁰ USA vs Warren

⁶¹ USA vs Lloyd

⁶² USA vs Canty

⁶³ USA vs. Bramer et al, USA vs Latham, USA vs Reed

⁶⁴ USA vs Bramer, et al

⁶⁵ USA vs Gilmore, USA vs Bramer, et al., USA vs Canty, USA vs Chappel, USA vs Lloyd, et al, USA vs McHenry

⁶⁶ USA vs Chappel

to buy the ads.⁶⁷ To communicate with the prospective sex buyers, the traffickers would also place in the ads the cellular phone or contact numbers of the victims together with revealing and sexy picture with an inviting and catchy phrase like “*I am the Sweet Treat That You Want*”; “*Its Playtime Boys*” and “*Five Star Experience*”.⁶⁸

D. Venue – Based on the thirteen (13) cases reviewed, the venue of the commercial sexual transaction is a hotel room rented by the traffickers either in the name of the traffickers or in the name of the victims,⁶⁹ or an apartment rented or owned by the trafficker⁷⁰. This data on venue supports the findings in a noteworthy study of sex trafficking in Minnesota that sexual transactions were found to occur at hotels, sex buyers’ homes, parties in these locales, in abandoned buildings, and in street corners/alleys where exchange of sexual activity occurred in a car (Martin & Pierce, 2014).⁷¹

Applying the *Market Structure and Business Model* (Martin & Pierce, 2014), the ‘modus operandi’ in the reviewed cases would be categorized as an “escort model”⁷² where the defendant advertised the victims in online networks.

It must be stated for the record nevertheless that sex trafficking operations in Minnesota are not limited to ‘escort model’. It is clear that the ‘modus operandi’ prosecuted in the source cases were all small-time, single pimp, ‘escort model’. It is possible that there are more sophisticated and organized sex trafficking operations in Minnesota which may not have been

⁶⁷ USA vs Lloyd, et al.

⁶⁸ USA vs Canty

⁶⁹ USA vs Gilmore, USA vs McHenry, USA vs Chappel

⁷⁰ USA vs Latham, SA vs Lloyd

⁷¹ Martin & Pierce (2014)

⁷² Ibid

reflected in the source cases as they may have not been or are yet to be investigated and prosecuted.

Summary and Conclusion

From the preceding discussions, despite the existing limitations of the study, significant findings were established and noted in this case review.

On the part of the defendant, who represents a fair description of sex traffickers, this review found that sex traffickers may be either male or female. As to the victims, it was established all the victims are female and that most of them were minors. This shows that sex traffickers in Minnesota have targeted minors for recruitment and highlights the vulnerability of this age group to sex trafficking. This does not conclude however that only females and minors are victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota, as even males and adult females may also be victims.

From the examination of the places where the location of sex trafficking activity was committed, it was found out that sex trafficking does not only occur in the urban areas of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, but in any part of Minnesota. This study also confirmed the existence of inter-state sex-trafficking such that sex traffickers operating in Minnesota transport victims to other states, as well as recruit victims from nearby states to engage in commercial sex activity in Minnesota. There was also significant mention on the role of women in the sex trafficking operations in Minnesota.

Likewise, the study established the significant use of violence by the sex traffickers against the victims as well as the use of drugs in sex trafficking operations in Minnesota.

On the aspect of their operations, the case review showed the existence of a 'single pimp operation' by small-time sex traffickers who were not described to be members of well-

organized and sophisticated sex trafficking syndicates. It was also noted that the cases investigated were descriptive of 'escort model' using the online marketplace.

Finally, there was limited data on sex buyers though the fact of their presence is implied in the identified locations where the victims were made to engage in commercial sexual activity.