

Columbia University Senior Uses Thesis to Employer Rape Victims

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On the first day of her sophomore year at Columbia University, Emma Sulkowicz was the victim of a sexual assault in her own dorm room. Now, two years later, [she intends to carry her mattress with her everywhere](#) until her rapist agrees to finally, once and for all, leave the school.

Emma is turning her own tragedy into her senior thesis. She's calling it, "Mattress Performance" in an attempt to shed light on a topic that, until recently, has gone largely ignored across numerous college campuses across the country.

From Tragedy to Triumph

Since the rape, Emma feels like she has carried the weight of the incident everywhere she goes. By carrying her mattress with her, she hopes to show other victims that they're not alone and that they shouldn't be ashamed of what happened to them. Rather, it is the rapist who should feel an enormous burden of guilt, and rightfully so.

"I'm hoping that not only do I get better at carrying the mattress, but... I'm very interested in seeing where this piece goes and what sort of life it takes on," Emma explained.

Consequences for Rape in Arizona

[Sexual assault](#) is a felony punished by lengthy prison sentences, harsh penalties, sex offender registration for the rest of a person's life, and a permanent criminal record.

Sexual assault occurs if both parties do not give consent, regardless of whether or not drugs were involved to subdue the victim. Sexual Assault may also be referred to as rape, date rape, acquaintance rape, and drug-facilitated rape, but no matter the circumstances, the consequences are warranted.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.

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