



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Larry Nassar Survivors' Attorney Calls Firing of Michigan State University President John Engler, "Long Overdue."**

Attorneys representing more than 180 survivors of former Michigan State University and Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar praised the firing of Michigan State University President John Engler by the MSU Board of Trustees calling it long overdue.

Engler, a former Governor of Michigan, was appointed to replace former MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon who resigned a year ago following testimony of 156 Larry Nassar sexual abuse survivors in open court.

Simon is now facing trial for felony and misdemeanor charges of lying to law enforcement.

Engler's tenure as President of MSU has been controversial from the outset, Initially, receiving a vote of no confidence from the University faculty. Engler personally lobbied against changes in Michigan law that would provide Nassar survivors access to the Michigan courts and protect future victims of sexual abuse in Michigan. His public comments since taking office have been antagonistic to Nassar survivors and their attorneys.

While negotiations were underway for a settlement in more than 300 lawsuits filed against the University, Engler drew fire for offering one of the survivors, Kaylee Lorincz, \$250,000 to drop her claim. He did this in a closed-door meeting without her attorney present. Despite widespread calls for his termination the MSU Board of Trustees voted against firing Engler at this time.

Engler has also been accused of attempting to obstruct an investigation by Michigan Special Prosecutor Bill Forsythe which found that MSU attempted to cover-up the Nassar scandal. That report named eleven MSU coaches, trainers and administrators who received complaints of Nassar going back to the late 1990s and failed to report him to authorities. In sworn testimony before a US Senate Subcommittee Engler claimed that he did not make this offer despite evidence to the contrary. In emails to a top aide, Engler accused another prominent survivor, Rachael Denhollander, of receiving kickbacks from her attorney John Manly.

"Mr. Engler's always treated survivors as the enemy. He took actions to obstruct and undermine criminal investigations of the University and its administration by the Michigan Attorney General. His reckless and vile personal attacks upon individual survivors and their legal counsel continued to revictimize them. It is sad that Engler actually had to say publicly that he believed that survivors 'enjoyed

the spotlight' brought about by their abuse for the University to finally remove him as President," said Mr. Manly.

"By finally firing John Engler as President of MSU, the Board of Trustees has placed MSU on the path to reconciliation with survivors and has taken a giant step forward to reclaim its reputation," said survivors' attorney John Manly.

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[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is the nation's leading firm representing athletes in child sexual abuse cases against school districts, Universities and Olympic Governing Bodies. They recently represented 180 alleged victims of former Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar resulting in a \$500 million-dollar settlement against Michigan State University. In 2018 the firm settled cases against the Torrance Unified School District for \$31 million on behalf of alleged victims of former wrestling coach and convicted child molester Thomas Snider, against Los Angeles Unified School district for \$8 million in cases involving former football coach and convicted child molester Jamie Jimenez and for \$14 million in cases involving former Los Angeles Unified District employee Ronnie Lee Roman. The firm has also settled \$30 million in claims against Redlands Unified School District.