



PRESS RELEASE

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OLYMPIC GOLD AND SILVER MEDALIST MCKAYLA MARONEY FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, IN LARRY NASSAR SEX ABUSE CASE

Attorneys representing the 2012 “Fierce Five” Olympic gold medal gymnast McKayla Maroney announced the filing of a lawsuit in Los Angeles, California. [Click here for complaint.](#)

The suit alleges that Michigan State University and the US Olympic Committee “failed to properly investigate, discipline or remove Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar” who allegedly molested Ms. Maroney while she was member of the USA National Gymnastics Team and the 2012 Olympic Team.

Ms. Maroney described her alleged abuse in a public statement in October. She said, “It started when I was 13 years old, at one of my first National Team training camps, in Texas, and it didn’t end until I left the sport. It seemed whenever and wherever this man could find the chance, I was “treated.” It happened in London before my team and I won the gold medal, and It happened before I won my Silver.”

Nassar, who served as the MSU and US Olympic team doctor for two decades, pleaded guilty to 10 counts of criminal sexual conduct in Michigan state courts and was sentenced to 60 years in prison on federal child pornography charges on December 7.

Larry Nassar has been accused by more than 140 girls and women of molesting them by placing his un-gloved hand in their vaginas under the guise of medical treatment. His alleged victims were as young as 9 years-old. Nassar admitted in his guilty pleas that these “treatments” were in fact criminal sexual abuse.

Nassar’s alleged victims include three members of the 2012 Gold Medal Women’s Gymnastics Olympic Team Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas and McKayla Maroney.

Ms. Maroney called her treatment by Larry Nassar “horrible” and expressed her extreme frustration with Michigan State University, USA Gymnastics and the US Olympic Committee in a letter to the federal judge who sentenced Nassar.

“A simple fact is this. If Michigan State University, USA Gymnastics and the US Olympic Committee had paid attention to any of the red flags in Larry Nassar’s behavior I never would have met him, I never would have been “treated” by him and I never would have been abused by him,” said Ms. Maroney.

The suit also accuses USA Gymnastics of attempting to silence Ms. Maroney with a non-disclosure agreement.

According to the complaint, “...This settlement agreement, negotiated and/or signed by counsel for USAG..., was done so in direct violation of California Law, and for the purpose of silencing a known victim of Nassar.”

The lawsuit further alleges, “...MCKAYLA MARONEY was forced to agree to a non- McKayla’s attorney, John Manly, called the confidentiality agreement “an immoral and illegal attempt to silence a victim of child sexual abuse.” He said, “The US Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics were well aware that the victim of child sexual abuse in California cannot be forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement as a condition of a settlement. Such agreements are illegal for very good reasons, they silence victims and allow perpetrators to continue committing their crimes. That is exactly what happened in this case.”

disparagement clause and confidentiality provision, in the above-mentioned settlement agreement, that brought with it liquidated damages penalties of over \$100,000, should she or other affiliated non-parties speak of her abuse or The Settlement.”

McKayla’s attorney, John Manly, called the confidentiality agreement “an immoral and illegal attempt to silence a victim of child sexual abuse.” He said, “The US Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics were well aware that the victim of child sexual abuse in California cannot be forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement as a condition of a settlement. Such agreements are illegal for very good reasons, they silence victims and allow perpetrators to continue committing their crimes. That is exactly what happened in this case.”

The impacts of the Nassar scandal have been far reaching. Within the last week the top sponsors of USA Gymnastics, including Procter & Gamble, Kellogg’s, Hershey’s and Under Armour have withdrawn sponsorship support from the organization.

[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is California’s leading law firm representing child victims of sexual abuse. The firm has represented more than 150 victims of clergy sexual abuse in California and hundreds of others throughout the United States. The firm also represented plaintiffs in the \$140,000,000 settlement against LAUSD in the Miramonte case, the largest sex abuse settlement against a School District in the US.