



# PRESS RELEASE

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**LARRY NASSAR VICTIM RACHAEL DENHOLLANDER AND HER ATTORNEY JOHN MANLY  
RESPOND TO STATEMENTS BY LARRY NASSAR'S CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER SHANNON  
SMITH**

**Irvine, California** - Rachael Denhollander and her attorney John Manly responded to statements attributed to Larry Nassar's defense attorney, Shannon Smith, by CBS that a "huge part" of her does not believe all the women and girls who have come forward were abused by Nassar.

The article also quotes Smith as saying, "There were girls who had perfectly normal lives that never questioned the medical treatment done by Larry Nassar — and there is a legitimate medical treatment that involves touching sensitive areas and even penetrations. Some of those girls, to be quite frank, they didn't even know what to think because they never felt victimized. He was never inappropriate to them. And because of everything they've seen, they just feel like they must have been victimized. And I think that's really unfortunate."

[CLICK HERE FOR CBS ARTICLE](#)

"The level of willful ignorance displayed by Shannon Smith, ignorance of medical procedure, ignorance of the dynamics of sexual assault, and ignorance of her own client, is beyond the pale. It was clear during court appearances, as she was taking photos and posing for the press, that sexual assault was nothing more than an opportunity for a photo op and self-promotion. She proves that again today. Fortunately, nothing Ms. Smith says is capable of changing the truth, and the truth is readily apparent for anyone who wishes to know," said Rachael Denhollander.

Ms. Denhollander is the woman who reported Larry Nassar's abuse to the Michigan State University Police Department in 2016 which resulted in Nassar's arrest and subsequent prosecution.

"Shannon Smith clearly has no decency and empathy for more than 250 women who have gone to court and poured out their souls describing Larry Nassar's horrendous abuse. Smith's callous comments re-victimized these brave women and disparaged the judicial process under which Nassar pled guilty to his crimes. Her statements are a clear message to sexual assault victims that when they stand up to their accuser and report his crimes, they will be attacked and

disbelieved. Smith's comments are deplorable and calculated to discourage additional Nassar victims from coming forward. The brave actions of Rachael Denhollander, and her sister survivors, have proven Shannon Smith to be wrong," said victim's attorney John Manly.

Mr. Manly represents Ms. Denhollander and more than 120 other women who have filed civil suits against Larry Nassar, Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics.

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[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.