



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2017

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Whistleblower Gymnasts Call for Removal of USA Gymnastics Chairman Paul Parilla and Change of Leadership.

Rachael Denhollander and Jamie Dantzscher demand new leadership at USAG in the wake of the Larry Nassar alleged sex abuse scandal.

Anaheim, California - On the day of the 2017 USAG/Proctor & Gamble National Gymnastics Championships, the two courageous women that broke the news of the Larry Nassar Scandal are calling for the removal of Paul Parilla as Chairman of the USA Gymnastics and a change of the organization's senior leadership including Vice Chairman Jay Binder and Treasurer Bitsy Kelley.

One year-ago Rachel Denhollander and Jamie Dantzscher uncovered the 20-year history of alleged sexual abuse by former USAG and Olympic doctor Larry Nassar. More than 125 women and girls have since stepped forward to accuse Dr. Nassar of sexual abuse. Dr. Nassar has been charged criminally in both State and Federal Courts for his alleged sexual abuse. He pled guilty to federal child pornography charges and is currently in federal prison awaiting sentencing.

"For every victim of sexual assault, this status quo is unacceptable. For every predator watching this unfold and hoping to still remain in power, sending the message USAG is sending is inexcusable. For every innocent child whose safety is in the hands of any authority figure, this response is unjustifiable. It is time for a complete Board change at USAG. It is time to send the message that sexual assault matters, creating a culture of abuse matters, and it won't be tolerated any longer," said former Michigan gymnast Rachael Denhollander.

When the United States Olympic Committee demanded the resignation of USA Gymnastics President Steve Penny in March, USAG Chairman Paul Parilla, Vice Chairman Jay Binder, Treasurer Bitsy Kelley and Former Board Member Mary Lou Retton released a statement which said, "Steve Penny is among the strongest advocates for our athletes and has reported suspected instances of abuse to law enforcement himself..."

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, the organization gave Penny a million-dollar severance package.

“USAG Chairman Paul Parilla, Vice Chairman Jay Binder and Treasurer Bitsy Kelley defended and enabled Steve Penny for years. Now, they are in-charge of selecting his replacement. It is clear that they intend to continue conducting business as usual which means placing money and medals ahead of the safety and well-being of athletes,” said Jamie Dantscher, 2000 Olympic Bronze Medalist.

Yesterday the Orange County Register reported that USA Gymnastics reached a confidential settlement of in a child sex abuse case involving a former US National Team gymnast which may violate California law.

“The Board of USA Gymnastics has proven that they are incapable of protecting children from sexual abuse. It is time for the sponsors that fund this organization to step up and demand change. Proctor & Gamble, Under Armour, AT&T, Hershey’s, Kellogg and Berkshire Hathaway – now is the time for you to put your influence where your money is and join in demanding new leadership at USAG,” said attorney John Manly who represents more than 100 women and girls in civil lawsuits against USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University and Dr. Larry Nassar.

[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.