



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2016

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VICTIM'S ATTORNEY JOHN C. MANLY RESPONDS TO U.S.A. GYMNASTICS "INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT."

An attorney representing multiple alleged victims of sexual abuse by U.S.A. Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar reacted strongly to an announcement that U.S.A. Gymnastics hired Indianapolis based law firm Krieg DeVault LLP to conduct what the organization called an "independent review of USA Gymnastics' bylaws, policies, procedures and practices related to handling sexual misconduct matters."

Mr. Manly released the following statement:

"USA Gymnastics has been embroiled in a national scandal for its alleged failures to protect children from sexual predators.

A recent investigative report by the Indianapolis Star newspaper revealed a long history of lawsuits and allegations of sexual misconduct against U.S.A Gymnastics coaches and staff.

The [article](#) titled, *A blind-eye to sex abuse: How USA Gymnastics failed to report cases*, documents dozens of abuse allegations and lawsuits going back decades.

Following publication of this article, U.S Senators Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy, Richard Blumenthal and Joe Donnelly wrote a [letter](#) to USA Gymnastics President and CEO Steve Penney stating, "We urge you immediately to take specific actions to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse are reported to appropriate authorities and law enforcement, so that children are protected.

Within the past six weeks Manly, Stewart & Finaldi has filed suit on behalf of two alleged victims of Dr. Larry Nassar who served as USA Gymnastics team doctor from 1996 to 2015.

Dr. Larry Nassar has admitted publicly that he routinely performed osteopathic treatments involving vaginal penetration of minor girls.

This so called independent investigation of USA Gymnastics failure to protect the child athletes under its care is far too little and much too late. It is also disturbing because it is not truly independent.

The law firm they have hired is dependent on the cooperation of USA Gymnastics, its management and its staff to conduct the investigation. It does not have subpoena power to compel the production of documents or the testimony of reluctant witnesses. Their report will be given to the Board of Directors which may choose not to disclose it to the public.

I also question the judgement of the Board of Directors of USA Gymnastics in hiring a law firm that has defended institutions accused of sexual misconduct to conduct an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct.

This is a classic public relations scheme, where an institution that has allegedly engaged in wrongful conduct simply pays someone to investigate itself. The U.S. Catholic Bishops did this very same thing in 2002 and it was a whitewash. Institutions who investigate themselves rarely find anything wrong. An "independent investigation" that depends on the voluntary cooperation of the institution being investigated is neither independent and is not a real investigation. USA Gymnastics should leave the investigating to the FBI, the Michigan Attorney General, law enforcement, Congress and the courts. The fact that they don't want to do that tells us everything we need to know about their real motivation."

[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.