



PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF LARRY NASSAR SURVIVORS' ATTORNEY JOHN MANLY ON THE FIRING OF USA GYMNASTICS PRESIDENT KERRY PERRY

The removal of USA Gymnastics President Kerry Perry under pressure by the US Olympic Committee says as much about the failure of leadership at USOC as it says about the systemic corruption and rot within USA Gymnastics.

USOC received written complaints about child sexual abuse in USA Gymnastics dating back to 1999 and did nothing. When they were informed of the Nassar's sexual abuse of Olympic athletes in 2015 they did nothing and told no one. Larry Probst was chairman of USOC in 2015 when this happened, and he is still chairman. This is a disgrace.

Less than 18 months ago under intense pressure by Nassar survivors, media and the public, USOC forced President Steve Penny to resign, an action which was resisted by the USA Gymnastics Board. USOC allowed this same Board to select Penny's successor Kerry Perry. Despite promises to the contrary, Ms. Perry continued the same flawed policies that led to the Nassar scandal, placing the reputation of coaches and staff above the safety of athletes and denying all legal responsibilities for the two decade long cover up of Nassar's crimes.

USOC leadership sat on its collective hands for more than a year while Ms. Perry assembled a new Board which has remained silent while she continued to disrespect some of our nation's most gifted athletes and treat survivors of sexual abuse as adversaries. USOC did not act until Ms. Perry selected as women's elite development coordinator an individual who publicly defended Larry Nassar after he had been accused of sexual assault by 50 women and indicted on federal child pornography charges.

Sadly, the culture of abuse which is rampant in USA Gymnastics is rampant throughout the Olympic Governing Bodies. Serious and credible charges of child sexual abuse have been made against USA Swimming, USA Figure Skating, USA Wrestling, USA Taekwondo, USA Water Polo and others, yet USOC has consistently failed to act.

It is time for Congress to take bold and decisive action to oversee United States participation in Olympic sports. USA Gymnastics needs to be decertified as an Olympic Governing Body and the chair and board of directors of the United States Olympic Committee should be replaced by individuals who will protect the brave young athletes who represent our country.

[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.