

AG will appeal dismissal of charges against former MSU president

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LANSING – The Michigan Attorney General's Office will appeal a judge's order that tossed charges against former Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon.

Attorney General Dana Nessel's office filed a claim with the Michigan Court of Appeals in June asking for a review of an Eaton County judge's order dismissing charges that Simon lied to investigators about her knowledge of former sports medicine physician Larry Nassar. The full appeal has not yet been filed with the court.

Hundreds of women and girls accused Nassar of sexual abuse during medical appointments over two decades, many coming forward after a 2016 Indianapolis Star report detailed allegations. The charges against Simon involved how much she knew about a 2014 complaint against Nassar.

Eaton County Judge John Maurer in May dismissed the charges against Simon, citing a lack of evidence that showed Simon withheld evidence from investigators.

More: Judge dismisses charges against former MSU President Lou Anna Simon

"The prosecution did not provide evidence sufficient to give a reasonable person probable cause that Dr. Simon knew during her 2018 interview that her purported knowledge in 2014 of Dr. Nassar's name and the 'nature' and 'substance' of the complaint against him" were relevant, Maurer wrote in his opinion and order.

Simon was charged in 2018 for lying to investigators about her knowledge of the 2014 sexual assault claim against Nassar. The former president maintained she did not learn of Nassar's conduct until Indy Star's 2016 report.

Nassar was later convicted in Ingham County on a series of sex crime charges and sentenced to 175 years in prison. He is currently serving a 60-year sentence on federal child pornography charges.

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