

Honorable Judge Acquillina, first I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the person who abused me. I hope and pray, with everything inside of me, that this will help me move on and forward in my healing process. The crimes that Larry Nassar committed against me have altered my life forever. I first met him when I was a teenager at Spartan Youth Gymnastics. I trained at Jenison Field House, the same facility where the MSU college gymnasts trained. I still remember the first time I met Larry because it was in the middle of a gymnastics practice. It was during a time that John Geddart had left Great Lakes Gymnastics and many gymnasts followed him. While he was looking for a new gym to open under his name he and his girls came to Jenison Field House to train along side us at Spartan Youth Gymnastics. What I did not realize at the time, was that John, Kathie and Larry had been close friends since their college days. They had each other's backs no matter what. Larry had adults on his side protecting him. A truth I wish I would have known back then....

I remember the Twistars gymnasts would tell me that "You are really special if you get invited over to Larry's house for treatments" I naively longed to be invited to his house because I wanted to feel like I was on the "inside circle" and one of the special ones. He had connections to the Olympics! Why would I question his authority or intentions when he was revered as the best sports medicine doctor around? He had a "godlike" status in the gymnastics world. He knew this and took full advantage of it. He used gifts, charm, MSU connections, and his status as an Olympic doctor to groom and prey on his victims and I was one of them.

I recall Larry always being very casual with his conversations, asking me about my sex life and how often I gave my boyfriend a "blowjob." Even though I told him I was not sexually active, he still insisted that "I must do it all the time." He would also tell me to call him, and him only, if I ever needed anything. Not to call the medical office, but call him directly and he would help me with anything I needed. I thought that it was because he truly cared about me as a person, but I was utterly deceived. It was only because he did not want his gruesome behavior to be exposed.

As time went on, he started making subtle physical advancements during my office visits. He would unhook my bra, without warning, so that he could have full access to evaluate and massage my entire back, OR at least as a child, that is the reason I assumed he did it. He would "accidentally" brush his hands down the sides of my body and touch my nipples. I rationalized this behavior as him not realizing how close he got to sensitive areas because I was a physically underdeveloped girl. It seemed that at each visit he pushed the physical boundaries a little more so that I did not notice or really understand what was happening. It got to the vile point where he would turn the lights off, remove his belt, make grunting noises and sounds like he was masturbating, and insert his ungloved fingers inside of me....all under the guise of medical treatment. I became his real life, child pornography subject, his plaything and experiment.

I've experienced a tremendous amount of pain and damage as a result of the crimes that Larry Nassar has committed. Over the past year, I have endured many physical manifestations as a result of the trauma of his abuse. After I heard about the first allegations, my body started to attack itself. I became physically ill with shingles, kidney stones, migraines, nerve pain, depression, panic attacks, PTSD, a flair up of endometriosis, insomnia, and nightmares. I have four beautiful children and many days over this past year my ability to run my household has been impaired. Many days it has been painful to even get out of bed. Doing ordinary household chores and just being a mom and wife takes an enormous amount of strength and determination to push past the agony I am persisting through. My heart hurts, my body hurts, my mind hurts,

my family hurts, and my entire life has been affected. There was even one day that I thought about ending my own life, but thankfully I have hope in God, His love for me and the peace He gives. Slowly, over the months I began to realize that I was conditioned to believe a lie and that Larry Nassar's actions toward me were in fact sexual abuse. I cannot express the amount of hurt and betrayal that I felt knowing his intention was selfish and evil. His actions did not only affect me, they affected my entire family including my husband, my children, my parents and sisters, and even my friends. I ask that you sentence Larry Nassar to the maximum amount of time based on the plea deal that he agreed to. I am only one person out of thousands of lives who have been negatively affected by him. My story is only one account of the damage his actions have done to a life with family, friends, and careers.

Larry Nassar, it is difficult to comprehend and understand the emotions that I am feeling today. I have finally begun to acknowledge the painful reality that I am a victim of childhood sexual abuse and that you, Larry, are the abuser. This does not define me, but it is a part of my story and a BEAST that I will continue to battle.

You see me here today as Larissa Leigh Boyce. I am standing here as a woman of strength, resilience, and of courage that I never knew existed inside of me. When you first met me, I was Larissa Michell, a confident but vulnerable and trusting 16-year-old gymnast, whose dream was to make it on the MSU college gymnastics team. I remember feeling awestruck at my first appointment with you, as I looked at all of the pictures on the walls of you and the Olympic gymnasts I idolized. I couldn't believe how lucky I was to have the privilege of seeing you. You were the one who helped Karrie Strugg after her injury at the 1996 Olympics! The sad truth, is that you actually made me think that you cared about my well being as a child and individual. I felt just as important as the Olympians you treated. I thought you saw my worth as a human being. I thought you believed in me. You made me believe that your goal was to help me continue and succeed in the sport I loved. Not only that, you made it seem as if you cared about other parts of my life, school and family. Children want to know that they are accepted and loved for who they are, that they are special and worth your time. Children want to be seen AND heard! You knew that and took full advantage of it for your own sick pleasures. I want you to know, that I am not that same person you met when I was a child. My eyes have been opened to the monster you tried to hide in the shadows. Through this process I have struggled with feeling sorry for you, but I finally realize, that YOU made these choices to hurt so many little girls. YOU have brought these consequences upon yourself and YOU have to live with the effects of them. Just as I will have to live with the pain, betrayal, and heartache you caused when you put your selfish desires ahead of my well-being.

The unhappy, disturbing truth about this situation is that you could have been stopped back in 1997. You know that a teammate and I brought concerns about what you were doing to Kathie Klages, but instead of notifying authorities or even our parents, we were interrogated and led to believe that we were misunderstanding a medical technique. I was not protected I was humiliated, in trouble, and brainwashed into believing that I was the problem. This MSU coach then fed me back to you, the wolf, to continue to be devoured. Instead of taking the right steps to report my concerns, she betrayed my confidence. Kathie only empowered you by telling you that I spoke up about it. Had I known that you were such close friends, I would have never told her. She put her friendship with you above the concerns I had. She protected you over me, only a naïve child at the time. Kathie enabled and emboldened your pedophilia, which only continued to allow you to prey on hundreds of innocent victims. If only I could rewind time and speak to my

16 year old self to tell her that her intuitions were RIGHT! To put on the armor of confidence, fight and keep speaking up until somebody listens to her. Oh, how things could have been different. Instead we are sitting here, in this courtroom, 20 years later. The girls sitting in this room and around the world could have been spared from this dreadful, indescribable pain. Unfortunately, we are now in a club that none of us signed up for and one that could have been avoided.

I am angry that you stole my innocence with your selfish and sick fetish. You ripped the sport I loved from my heart the day you chose to gratify your own desires. Without gymnastics I felt lost. As a teenager I even had suicidal thoughts and would picture driving my car into a tree. I prayed almost every night that God would take me home to heaven. I did not understand the pain I was feeling, but now it makes complete sense. You tore me apart with your selfish desires. But like I said earlier, I am strong and resilient. I will survive and I choose to be stronger because of it. You chose the wrong prey...we are athletes and we will not give up or give in. We are trained to fight past the pain and hurt. United, we are now an army of amazing women who are paving a path to justice and change.

It is fitting that you are currently wearing the shackles...maybe now you have a slight picture of the inescapable prison you put me in 20 years ago. I thought that I MUST have a dirty mind for thinking what you were doing seemed sexual. Your disgusting actions destroyed my confidence and shattered any trust I had in my own intuitions. To this day, I question every decision I have to make no matter how simple it may seem. But, I am finally waking up....I am finally rediscovering the strength I have within myself. I am remembering the woman God made me to be. I am not just going to survive through this, I will thrive!

Its crazy for me to fathom that you had the audacity to compare me and the other girls to alcoholism! As if we were an inhuman, lifeless drink to be consumed....and you did try to consume us. That statement showed that you truly have no clue about the way you hurt me and hundreds of other girls. We are not inanimate objects, we are real people with feelings and emotions. You will never truly realize or understand what you have done to harm me until you can grasp the truth that I am a human being with a life, a soul, a heart that beats, and a mind that remembers. You may not remember me or the specific things you did to me, but I have not forgotten. Through time, my pain and sadness will get easier. Right now it is like an open wound, but it eventually will heal and turn into a scar. I will not forget, I will remember, but it will not hurt as much and I will be stronger. I am no longer going to be bound by the things you did to me or the way you betrayed my trust. I am letting go of the hold you had in my mind. I am releasing you to God and His judgment. You are in His hands now. May you ponder that each and every day you wake up behind bars. May you understand each day, the imprisonment you subjected me and hundreds of other innocent girls to with your horrendous abuse. Today, I can finally say that I am free from the hold you had over me. Today, I am seizing the power and control you took from me. I am free from the chains of abuse that bound me! May God have mercy on your soul.

Larissa Boyce