

Narrative Timeline of the Nassar Abuse Case

Aside from the obvious, one of the most troubling aspects of the Larry Nassar athletic abuse scandal was the fact that he was able to maintain positions of power for decades, shielded by complicit institutions and individuals. This section of the Game Over Commission report seeks to document the decades-long timeline of the sexual abuse perpetrated by Nassar over the course of his career. Of course, this history is long and likely does not cover the full extent of his abhorrent actions and consequent institutional cover-up: nonetheless, we will attempt to record the most significant events in this timeline.

1988

Two years after his welcome onto the medical staff of USA Gymnastics as an athletic trainer, Nassar began medical school in 1988 and, at the same time, started work as a volunteer trainer with prominent gymnastics coach John Geddert the at Great Lakes Gymnastics Club in Lansing, Michigan¹.

1992

Victim 125—or Jane—says “Nassar invited her to help with a flexibility study he said he was conducting on behalf of the Michigan State University (MSU) medical school.”² She was age 12. Under the guise of this research, Nassar abused Jane at the gymnastics facility and in his apartment. In both interviews and in court, Jane details the extent of Nassar’s abuse, explaining that she was left confused and really uncomfortable³.

Another woman alleged that Nassar abused her in 1992, also under the pretext of his conducting a study about flexibility. She claimed that she was “drugged and raped by Larry Nassar when he was a medical student in 1992,” resulting in her becoming pregnant but having a miscarriage. The woman claims that after she was encouraged to go to Nassar to treat her knee injury as a 17-year-old field hockey player, Nassar drugged her, raped her, and videotaped the assault. Furthermore, the woman—who filed a lawsuit against Michigan State University—alleges that the campus police refused to investigate her claims. She said that George Perles (then-athletic director) was aware of the assault but covered it up.

¹ Barr, J. and Murphy, D. (2018, January 16). Nassar Surrounded by Adults Who Enabled His Predatory Behavior. *ESPN*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State-University-doctor-Larry-Nassar-surrounded-by-enablers-as-he-abused-athletes-ESPN.pdf>

² Evans, T. et al. (2021, October 3). How Larry Nassar Abused Hundreds of Gymnasts and Eluded Justice for Decades. *The Indianapolis Star*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Larry-Nassar-The-making-of-a-monster-who-abused-gymnasts-for-decades.pdf>

³ Evans, T. et al. (2021, October 3). How Larry Nassar Abused Hundreds of Gymnasts and Eluded Justice for Decades. *The Indianapolis Star*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Larry-Nassar-The-making-of-a-monster-who-abused-gymnasts-for-decades.pdf>

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1998

After Tiffany Thomas Lopez—a softball player for MSU on full scholarship—developed chronic lower back pain, university athletic trainers sent her to see Nassar. With the full details emerging in a lawsuit that she filed in 2016, Thomas Lopez claims that she raised concerns to three different MSU athletic trainers about Nassar’s actions, but the university failed to take any action.⁴

2000

According to a lawsuit filed in 2017, a second student-athlete at MSU had reported concerns about Nassar to coaches, with the university failing to take any action⁵. Identified as “Jane T.T. Doe” in the lawsuit filed, Court documents explain that “despite her complaints to MSU employees, agents, and representatives, Jane T.T. Doe’s concerns and allegations went unaddressed in violation of reporting policies and procedures and Title IX and in a matter that was reckless, deliberately indifferent, and grossly negligent.”⁶

2004

Brianne Randall-Gay was 17 in 2004 when she filed a complaint against Larry Nassar to the Meridian Township police, which was dismissed without charges filed⁷. Randall-Gay alleged that Nassar molested her, with Nassar telling the police in response to the allegation that “he was performing a legitimate medical procedure.”⁸ Although Brianne Randall-Gay also alleges that the police took her to the local hospital for a rape exam, charges were ultimately dropped following a PowerPoint by Nassar in which he tried to “create confusion; blur the lines between his abuse and legitimate medical techniques.”⁹ In hindsight, police officer Andrew McCready who investigated the allegation, publicly apologized to Randall-Gay during an interview and explained that he had believed Nassar’s lies.¹⁰

⁴ Barr, J. and Noren, N. (2016, December 21). Lawsuit: MSU Failed to Act on Early Claims of Sex Abuse by School and USA Gymnastics Doctor. *ABC7 Chicago*. Retrieved from https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Lawsuit_-_MSU-failed-to-act-on-early-claims-of-sex-abuse-by-school.pdf

⁵ Lansing State Journal, & IndyStar. (2018). Who is Larry Nassar? Timeline of his career, prison sentences. *USA TODAY*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-is-Larry-Nassar-Timeline-of-his-career-prison-sentences-Lansing-State-Journal.pdf>

⁶ “UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,” 2017, 99.

⁷ AP NEWS (2018, February 1). *Larry Nassar Victim Gets Public Apology from Police*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Larry-Nassar-victim-Brianne-Randall-Gay-gets-public-apology-from-Michigan-police-department-CBS-News.pdf>.

⁸ AP NEWS (2019, March 26). *Officer Says He Was Fooled by Nassar’s ‘lies’ in 2004*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Officer-says-he-was-fooled-by-Nassars-lies-in-2004_-_AP-News.pdf.

⁹ NPR (2018, October 29). *How He Got Away. sec. Believed* https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/How-Larry-Nassar-Got-Away_-_Believed_-_NPR.pdf.

¹⁰ “Officer Says He Was Fooled by Nassar’s ‘lies’ in 2004.”



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2014

A graduate of MSU, Amanda Thomashow, reported Nassar’s behavior to MSU officials. She “told Dr. Jeff Kovan, of the MSU Sports Medicine Clinic, about possible sexual misconduct while on a March 24 visit to Nassar’s office for treatment of hip pain.”¹¹ She also reported the incident to the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives—the office in charge of investigating sexual misconduct complaints under Title IX.

Thomashow reported the abuse to the MSU police department a month later. The President of Michigan State at the time, Lou Anna K. Simon, was one of the multiple officials notified of both the Title IX complaint and police report filed. According to Simon, she was informed that a sport medicine doctor was under investigation, but that she did not receive a copy of the report. However, police investigating the matter claimed to have obtained documentation from Simon’s meeting notes that indicate she was discussing Nassar by name.¹²

In spite of the evidence again accumulating against Nassar, “In July 2014, Thomashow’s Title IX investigation was closed by MSU and she was given a report that cleared Nassar of sexual harassment. A second report sent to MSU personnel and marked confidential also cleared Nassar but warned of his liability to the university.”¹³

After closing the Title IX investigation, MSU allowed Nassar to see patients for 16 months—even though the criminal investigation of him by the MSU Police Department was still ongoing.¹⁴

Also in July of 2014, Nassar wrote a letter to the USA Gymnastics (USAG) Board of Directors, announcing that he is retiring as National Team Medical Coordinator and that his primary role will now be with the women’s artistic program.¹⁵

2015

¹¹ Kozlowski, Kim (2018, January 18). What MSU Knew: 14 Were Warned of Nassar Abuse. *The Detroit News*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/14-on-MSU-staff-got-Nassar-warnings-over-2-decades.pdf>

¹² LeBlanc, Beth (2018, November 21). Police: Agenda Item, Note Show Simon Discussed Nassar Investigation in 2014. *The Detroit News*. Retrieved from https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Police_-_Agenda-item-note-show-Simon-discussed-Nassar-investigation-in-2014.pdf.

¹³ LeBlanc, Beth (2018, November 21). Police: Agenda Item, Note Show Simon Discussed Nassar Investigation in 2014. *The Detroit News*. Retrieved from https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Police_-_Agenda-item-note-show-Simon-discussed-Nassar-investigation-in-2014.pdf.

¹⁴ Mencarini, Matt (2018, May 4). 2014 Title IX Report on Larry Nassar Was MSU’s Only Report in 3 Years with 2 Versions,” *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Nassars-2014-Title-IX-report-only-one-in-3-years-to-have-two-versions.pdf>.

¹⁵ Nassar, L. (2014, July 8). *Michigan State University Letter of Retirement*.



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The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office received the police investigation into Thomashow's claims of abuse and declined to bring charges, with the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steve Kwasnik saying that Nassar's actions were part of an innovative medical technique.¹⁶ USAG Officials—including President and CEO Steve Penny—met with FBI officials to report allegations that Nassar sexually abused numerous gymnasts.¹⁷

Two months later, and only three months after an initial Facebook post claiming that he would stay on in his role for USAG through summer of 2016, Nassar announces in September that he would retire from the USAG Women's Artistic National Team staff, failing to provide a reason for his retirement.¹⁸

2016

The year 2016 was a significant turning point in which the evidence against Nassar became even harder to ignore.

On August 4, 2016, the *Indianapolis Star* (*IndyStar*) published an ongoing investigation on USAG's failure to report allegations of sexual abuse in what marks the first broad, public coverage of the scandal.¹⁹

In response, a letter from the United States Senate the next day -- signed by Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, and Joe Donnelly -- articulated concerns about the *IndyStar* report and implored the USAG to immediately take action in reporting the complaints and installing future safeguards.²⁰

At the end of the same month, Rachael Denhollander filed a criminal complaint against Nassar with the MSU police, alleging that Nassar sexually assaulted her in 2000 when she was 15 years old. Denhollander said that reading the *IndyStar*'s investigation inspired her to speak out.²¹

¹⁶ Casarez, J., Grinberg, E. and Moghe, S. (2018, February 1). She Filed a Complaint against Larry Nassar in 2014. Nothing Happened. *CNN*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Nassars-2014-Title-IX-report-only-one-in-3-years-to-have-two-versions-1.pdf>

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21-093). Federal Bureau of Investigation.

¹⁸ Mark Alesia, "Nassar Facebook Posts," *IndyStar*, accessed October 10, 2021, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3100632-Nassar-Sept-2015>.

¹⁹ Marisa Kwiatkowski, Mark Alesia, and Tim Evans, "A Blind Eye to Sex Abuse: How USA Gymnastics Failed to Report Cases," *Indy Star*, August 4, 2016, https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Out-of-balance_-How-USA-Gymnastics-protected-coaches-over-kids.pdf

²⁰ Dianne Feinstein et al., "US Senate Letter to Steve Penny," August 5, 2016, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3006350-US-Senators-8-5-16-USA-Gymnastics-Letter>.

²¹ Evans, T., Kwiatkowski, M., and Alesia, M. (2016, September 12). Former USA Gymnastics Doctor Accused of Abuse. *The Indianapolis Star*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-USA-Gymnastics-doctor-accused-of-abuse.pdf>



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The day after Denhollander filed her criminal complaint, MSU relieved Nassar of all clinical and patient duties during the investigation.²²

In September of 2016, a former Olympic medalist -- “Jane Doe” -- filed a civil lawsuit in California alleging that Nassar abused her from 1994 to 2000. The lawsuit named USAG and three previous USAG presidents, including then-president Steve Penny, for negligence.²³

The *IndyStar* published a story in which Denhollander and an unnamed Olympic medal-winning gymnast state that they were both assaulted by Nassar during multiple medical appointments in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The unnamed woman was later identified as Jamie Dantzscher, a member of the 2000 Olympics team. Denhollander was the first woman to be publicly named in connection to the allegations against Nassar and would remain the only non-anonymous accuser for six months.^{24, 25}

In response to the story, USAG issued a statement claiming that “immediately after learning of athlete concerns about” Nassar, USAG “notified law enforcement” and that Nassar was “relieved of his duties.”

Soon after USAG’s statement, Nassar’s lawyer issued a response to the *IndyStar* stating that Nassar was never “relieved of his duties,” and that he instead retired.²⁶

Following these reports, the MSU police department received sexual abuse complaints from dozens of young females.²⁷

²² Alesia, M., Evans, T. Kwiatkowski, M. (September 20, 2016). Timeline: Former USA Gymnastics Doctor Larry Nassar. *The Indianapolis Star*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Timeline-Former-USA-Gymnastics-doctor-Larry-Nassar-1.pdf>

²³ Complaint, Jane JD Doe v. Doe et al., Case No. 34-2016-00200075

²⁴ Denhollander, R. (2018, January 26). The Price I Paid for Taking On Larry Nassar. *The New York Times*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Opinion--Rachael-Denhollander--The-Price-I-Paid-for-Taking-On-Larry-Nassar-The-New-York-Times.pdf>.

²⁵ Dibdin, E. (2020, June 24). A Complete Timeline of the True Story Behind Netflix’s ‘Athlete A’. *BAZAAR*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Complete-Timeline-of-the-True-Story-Behind-Netflix%E2%80%99s-Athlete-A.pdf>.

²⁶ Evans, T., Alesia, M., and Kwiatkowski, M. (2016, September 13). Dr. Larry G. Nassar Disputes USA Gymnastics Claim about Firing. *IndyStar*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Dr.-Larry-G.-Nassar-disputes-USA-Gymnastics-claim-about-firing.pdf>

²⁷ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21–093). Federal Bureau of Investigation.



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In September of 2016, MSU – finally -- fired Nassar, claiming that firing him was independent of the university’s criminal and Title IX investigations and was instead because he had violated “certain employment requirements.”^{28, 29}

The MSU police department executed a search warrant at Nassar’s residence, discovering more than 37,000 images of child pornography.³⁰

On October 6th of 2016, the Michigan Attorney General’s Office announced that it has accepted a request from MSU’s police department to investigate the allegations against Nassar.³¹ The following month, Nassar lost his bid for election to the Holt School Board. Nassar had said that he was withdrawing from the race prior to the election, yet that it was too late to remove his name from the ballot. He came in third place, receiving 21% of the vote and losing by more than 1,500 votes.³² Finally, on November 21st, 2016, Nassar was arrested and charged with three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, including one with a person under 13 years old. His bond was set at \$1 million. During a press conference, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette stated that about 50 complaints were received during his office’s investigation into Nassar and stated that “This is just the tip of the iceberg.”³³

On December 16, 2016, the FBI arrested Nassar for possession of child pornography, on federal charges that related to the 37,000 child pornographic images that Nassar was previously found to have possessed.³⁴

In a separate case, Nassar was arrested and indicted on federal child pornography charges. The indictment claims that “Nassar received child pornography from 2003 through 2016 and

²⁸ Evans, T., Alesia, M., and Kwiatkowski, M. (2016, September 13). Dr. Larry G. Nassar Disputes USA Gymnastics Claim about Firing. *IndyStar*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Dr.-Larry-G.-Nassar-disputes-USA-Gymnastics-claim-about-firing.pdf>

²⁹ Dibdin, E. (2020, June 24). A Complete Timeline of the True Story Behind Netflix’s ‘Athlete A’. *BAZAAR*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Complete-Timeline-of-the-True-Story-Behind-Netflix%E2%80%99s-Athlete-A.pdf>.

³⁰ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21–093; p. 119). Federal Bureau of Investigation.

³¹ Lansing State Journal, & IndyStar. (2018). Who is Larry Nassar? Timeline of his career, prison sentences. *USA TODAY*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-is-Larry-Nassar-Timeline-of-his-career-prison-sentences-Lansing-State-Journal.pdf>.

³² Mencarini, M. (2016, November 9). Ex-MSU Doctor Accused of Sex Assault Gets 2,700 School Board Votes. *Detroit Free Press*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Ex-MSU-doctor-accused-of-sex-assault-gets-2700-school-board-votes.pdf>.

³³ Haxel, C. (2016, November 22) Schuette: Nassar charges ‘tip of the iceberg’. *Lansing State Journal*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Schuette_-Nassar-charges-%E2%80%98tip-of-the-iceberg%E2%80%99.pdf

³⁴ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21–093; p. 119). Federal Bureau of Investigation.



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possessed one or more computer files or disks that had thousands of images, including images of a person younger than age 12.”³⁵

While Nassar was in federal custody after being arrested by the FBI, former MSU student Tiffany Michelle Thomas Lopez filed a lawsuit against Nassar and MSU, in which the former MSU softball player accused Nassar of sexual assault.³⁶

2017

The legal trouble surrounding Nassar and those who enabled him only intensified going into 2017, at which point the perpetrator was already in jail in Michigan for child pornography charges.

On January 10, 18 alleged victims filed a lawsuit in federal court in Grand Rapids, Michigan against Nassar, MSU, USAG, and Twistars Gymnastics Club. The suit alleges that Nassar committed sexual assault, battery, molestation, and harassment between 1996 and 2016 and claims that the inaction of the institutions named led to more women being exposed to Nassar’s predation during those years.³⁷

The criminal activity that Nassar was implicated in took on even more of a national scope, with the Texas police announcing in January of that year that they were investigating Nassar. Karolyi Ranch, a site where USAG trains its top female athletes, was claimed by a former member of the U.S. national team in civil suit to have been a “toxic environment, perfectly suited for (Nassar) to systematically sexually abuse minor children, including the Plaintiff, who were captive at the ranch.”³⁸

On January 24th, 2017, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspended Nassar’s medical license, with the department filing an administrative complaint alleging that Nassar sexually abused a minor -- a complaint that could lead to Nassar’s license being revoked by a disciplinary subcommittee.³⁹

³⁵ Barr, John. (2016, December 16). Former USA Gymnastics doctor indicted on child porn charges. *ESPN.com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/ESPN.com-Former-USA-Gymnastics-doctor-indicted-on-child-porn-charges.pdf>.

³⁶ News 10 (2016, December 21). Former MSU Student Files Lawsuit against Former MSU Doctor & the University. *WILX*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-MSU-student-files-lawsuit-against-former-MSU-doctor-the-University.pdf>.

³⁷ Mencarini, M. (2017, January 10). 18 More Alleged Victims Sue MSU, Nassar. *Lansing State Journal*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/18-more-alleged-victims-sue-MSU-Nassar.pdf>.

³⁸ Evans, T., Alesia, M. and Kwiatkowski, M. (2017, January 26). Texas Police Investigating Nassar. *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved October 10, 2021, from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Texas-police-investigating-Nassar.pdf>

³⁹ Mencarini, M. (2017, January 25). State of Michigan suspends Nassar’s medical license. *Detroit Free Press*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-Michigan-suspends-Nassars-medical-license.pdf>



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In the months following, the legal cases against Nassar continued to build, with federal prosecutors adding another child pornography-related charge against Nassar on the basis that he had files and images destroyed.⁴⁰

Also in February, MSU gymnastics coach Kathie Klages was suspended after two women claimed in court records that Klages discouraged them from filing sexual assault complaints against Nassar in the late 1990s. The next day, Klages retired from MSU.⁴¹

Later that same month, during an interview with *60 Minutes*, three former gymnasts — Jeanette Antolin, Jessica Howard, and Jamie Dantzscher — went public with allegations against Nassar, claiming that he sexually abused them and that an “emotionally abusive environment” at the national team’s Texas training camp allowed the abuse to occur.⁴²

The assault charges continue to mount: as of February 22, 2017, Nassar faced 22 new sexual assault charges, with more than 80 complaints against him.⁴³ Furthermore, with the judge granting a motion to add 19 more plaintiffs to the federal lawsuit against Nassar, the total number of plaintiffs by March of 2017 stood at 49 individuals.⁴⁴

That March, an MSU Title IX investigator concluded that Nassar sexually assaulted a 15-year-old girl during medical appointments in 2000.⁴⁵

On April 6, 2017, Michigan’s state disciplinary board revoked Nassar’s medical license for three years, with a penalty of \$100,000 to be paid before reapplying.⁴⁶ Furthermore, a story published

⁴⁰ Mencarini, B. M. (2017, February 7). Feds: Ex-gymnastics doctor Nassar had computer files destroyed. *Detroit Free Press*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-Michigan-suspends-Nassars-medical-license.pdf>.

⁴¹ Mencarini, M. (2017, February 14). MSU gymnastics coach Kathie Klages retires as allegations stack up. *Detroit Free Press*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-gymnastics-coach-Kathie-Klages-retires-as-allegations-stack-up.pdf>.

⁴² Lapook, J. (2017, February 19). Former Team USA gymnasts describe doctor’s alleged sexual abuse. *CBS*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-Team-USA-gymnasts-describe-doctors-alleged-sexual-abuse-CBS-News.pdf>

⁴³ Mencarini, M. (2017, February 23). Schuette: Nassar is 'A monster' and more charges coming. *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved November 10, 2021, from https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Schuette_-_Nassar-is-a-monster-and-more-charges-coming.pdf.

⁴⁴ News 10. (2017, March 3). 19 Plaintiffs added to lawsuit against Dr. Larry Nassar. *Wilx.com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/19-Plaintiffs-added-to-lawsuit-against-Dr.-Larry-Nassar.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Connor, T. (2017, March 22). MSU Abuse Scandal: MSU Finds Doc Sexually Harassed Teen Gymnast. *NBC News*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-Abuse-Scandal_-_MSU-Finds-Doc-Sexually-Harassed-Teen-Gymnast.pdf.

⁴⁶ Mencarini, M. (2017, April 6). Ex-MSU doctor Larry Nassar’s medical license revoked for 3 years. *Detroit Free Press*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Ex-MSU-doctor-Larry-Nassars-medical-license-revoked-for-3-years.pdf>.



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in the *Lansing State Journal* reported that three more MSU Title IX investigations found Nassar violated MSU policy.⁴⁷

On June 30th, 2017, 23 more women and girls joined a federal lawsuit against Nassar, resulting in more than 100 total complaints against him at that point.⁴⁸

The following month, Nassar pleaded guilty in a Michigan federal court to three counts related to child pornography, marking the very first time that Nassar had admitted guilt in the case—in return for which, prosecutors would not pursue federal charges alleging sexual abuse of four young women.⁴⁹

In September of 2017, President of MSU Lou Anna K. Simon announced a Title IX review initiative would be conducted by the law firm Husch Blackwell and would examine Title IX compliance, crisis and advocacy support services, prevention and education programs, awareness and outreach, and campus feedback.⁵⁰

Allegations against Nassar continued to grow, with McKayla Maroney, a 2012 Olympic medalist, alleging in a #MeToo post on Twitter that Nassar sexually abused her.⁵¹

In addition, joining the more than 100 athletes alleging abuse inside USAG, 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman alleged that Nassar sexually abused her, discussing the abuse in her new book *Fierce*.⁵²

Perhaps in response to this mounting pressure and the rapidly increasing number of allegations, Larry Nassar admitted for the first time in November 2017 that he sexually assaulted girls under the guise of medical treatment. He pled guilty to seven counts of first-degree criminal sexual

⁴⁷ Mencarini, M. (2017, April 27). 3 more MSU Title IX inquiries find Nassar violated policies. *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved November 10, 2021, from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/3-more-MSU-Title-IX-inquiries-find-Nassar-violated-policies.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Lansing State Journal, & IndyStar. (2018). Who is Larry Nassar? Timeline of his career, prison sentences. *USA TODAY*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Who-is-Larry-Nassar-Timeline-of-his-career-prison-sentences-Lansing-State-Journal.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Goldman, T. (2017, July 11). Doctor Accused Of Molesting U.S. Gymnasts Pleads Guilty To Porn Charges. *NPR*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-Larry-Nassar-Pleads-To-Child-Pornography--The-Two-Way--NPR.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Michigan State University. (2017, September 8). MSU announces firm, scope of work for Title IX review. *MSUToday*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-announces-firm-scope-of-work-for-Title-IX-review--MSUToday--Michigan-State-University.pdf>.

⁵¹ Dator, J. (2017, October 18). McKayla Maroney alleges sexual abuse by former USA Gymnastics doctor. *SBNation.com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/McKayla-Maroney-alleges-she-was-sexually-abused-by-former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-Dr.-Larry-Nassar-SBNation.com.pdf>.

⁵² Scott, N., and Dator, J. (2017, November 10). Aly Raisman alleges she was sexually abused by former USA Gymnastics team doctor. *SBNation.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Aly-Raisman-alleges-she-was-sexually-abused-by-former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-SBNation.com.pdf>.



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conduct in Ingham County Circuit Court.⁵³ According to an addendum to the plea agreement, there were 115 alleged victims.⁵⁴

Joining her teammates Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney, 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas alleged on November 21 that Nassar abused her.⁵⁵

About a week later, Nassar pled guilty to three counts of first-degree criminal sexual county in Eaton County Circuit Court.⁵⁶

The following month, Nassar was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison on child pornography charges.⁵⁷

A lawsuit filed that same month on McKayla Maroney's behalf claimed that USAG paid her to sign a non-disclosure agreement in 2016 so she wouldn't talk about the abuse she suffered by Nassar.⁵⁸ John Manly, Maroney's lawyer, told ESPN that "They were willing to engage in a systematic cover-up of the entire matter."⁵⁹ The lawsuit also named the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), MSU, and Nassar as defendants.⁶⁰

2018

⁵³ Kozlowski, K. (2017, November 20). MSU doctor Nassar pleads guilty. *The Detroit News*.

<https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Gymnastics-doctor-Larry-Nassar-to-plead-guilty-in-rapes.pdf>

⁵⁴ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21-093; p. 119). Federal Bureau of Investigation.

⁵⁵ McIntosh, W. (2017, November 21). Gabby Douglas alleges she too was abused by former USA Gymnastics team doctor. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Gabby-Douglas-alleges-she-too-was-abused-by-former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-SBNation.com_.pdf

⁵⁶ Mencarini, M. (2017, November 29). *Nassar pleads guilty to 3 more sexual assault charges*. Lansing State Journal. Retrieved November 14, 2021, from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-Larry-Nassar-pleads-guilty-to-three-more-sexual-assault-charges-The-Washington-Post.pdf>.

⁵⁷ The United States Attorney's Office. (2017, December 7). Lawrence Nassar Sentenced To 60 Years In Federal Prison. *United States Department of Justice*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Lawrence-Nassar-Sentenced-To-60-Years-In-Federal-Prison_-USAO-WDMI_-Department-of-Justice.pdf.

⁵⁸ Barr, J. (2017, December 21). Confidentiality agreement kept McKayla Maroney from revealing abuse. *ESPN.com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Gabby-Douglas-alleges-she-too-was-abused-by-former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-SBNation.com_-1.pdf

⁵⁹ Barr, J. (2017, December 21). Confidentiality agreement kept McKayla Maroney from revealing abuse. *ESPN.com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Gabby-Douglas-alleges-she-too-was-abused-by-former-USA-Gymnastics-team-doctor-SBNation.com_-1.pdf

⁶⁰ Dwyer, C. (2017, December 20). McKayla Maroney Sues USA Gymnastics For Trying To "Conceal" Doctor's Sexual Abuses. *NPR*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/McKayla-Maroney-Sues-USA-Gymnastics-For-Trying-To-Conceal-Doctors-Sexual-Abuses_-The-Two-Way_-NPR.pdf.



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The victims of Nassar’s abuse seemed to grow both in number and in their advocacy attempts over the course of 2018.

On January 10, Aly Raisman tweeted that USAG is “100% responsible” for the abuse by Nassar, also urging for investigations to uncover why Nassar was able to operate for so long.⁶¹ Joining her teammates Maroney, Raisman, and Douglas, Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles also told her story of abuse at the hands former USAG doctor Larry Nassar.⁶²

That January, between the 16th and the 24th of 2018, 156 women read Victim Impact Statements during an eight-day sentencing hearing for Nassar in Ingham County Circuit Court. Kyle Stephens began the testimony with a forceful recounting of the abuse she suffered beginning in 1998 when she was 6 years old:

*You used my body for six years, for your own sexual gratification. That is unforgivable. I’ve been coming for you for a long time. I told counselors your name in the hopes they would report you. I have reported you to child protective services twice. I gave a testament to get your medical license revoked. You were first arrested on my charges, and now, as the only non-medical victim to come forward, I testify to let the world know that you are a repulsive liar. And that those “treatments” were pathetically veiled sexual abuse. Perhaps you have figured it out by now, but little girls don’t stay little forever. They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world.*⁶³

On January 19, the Michigan State Board of Trustees sent a letter to AG Bill Schuette requesting an investigation into MSU’s handling of allegations against Nassar: “After watching many of these heartbreaking statements and reading accounts about them, we have concluded that only a review by your office can resolve the questions in a way that the victims, their families, and the public will deem satisfactory and that will help all those affected by Nassar’s horrible crimes to

⁶¹ Ketchum, J. (2018, January 10). Aly Raisman says USA Gymnastics is ‘100% responsible’ for abuse by Nassar. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Aly-Raisman-says-USA-Gymnastics-is-%E2%80%98100-responsible%E2%80%99-for-abuse-by-Nassar-SBNation.com_.pdf

⁶² Dator, J. (2018, January 15). Simone Biles says she is a survivor of sexual abuse by Dr. Larry Nassar. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Simone-Biles-says-she-is-a-survivor-of-sexual-abuse-by-Dr.-Larry-Nassar-SBNation.com_.pdf

⁶³ Levenson, E., & Joseph, E. (2018, January 16). Victims confront Larry Nassar in court: ‘Little girls don’t stay little forever.’ *CNN*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Larry-Nassar-ex-USA-Gymnastics-doctor-confronted-by-victims-in-court-_-CNN.pdf



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heal.”⁶⁴ MSU’s Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Breslin issued a statement of support for MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, even amid calls for her resignation.^{65, 66}

On January 22, USAG announced that the executive leadership of its Board of Directors -- Chairman Paul Parilla, Chairman Jay Binder, and Treasurer Bitsy Kelley -- all resigned, effective January 21, 2018.⁶⁷ That same day, 15-year-old Emma Ann Miller testified in court that Nassar assaulted her one week before MSU fired him. Reports indicate that MSU Sports Clinic was still trying to bill her family for the treatment. MSU later said that it will not bill patients of Nassar.⁶⁸ Both ESPN and *Lansing State Journal* reported that USAG suspended former U.S. Women’s Gymnastics National Team Coach John Geddert.^{69, 70} Geddert operated two gyms that worked with Nassar.⁷¹ Geddert was suspended under a bylaw that gives USAG the right to suspend members to “ensure the safety and well-being of the gymnastics community or where an allegation is sufficiently serious that an Adverse Party’s continued participation could be detrimental to the sport or its reputation.”⁷²

The following day, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) formally opened an investigation into MSU’s handling of the Nassar allegations, with a Michigan State spokesman

⁶⁴ Lawler, E. (2019, January 30). MSU Board of Trustees, Simon ask AG to review university’s Nassar actions. *Mlive.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-Board-of-Trustees-Simon-ask-AG-to-review-universitys-Nassar-actions-mlive.com_.pdf.

⁶⁵ Lawler, E. (2018, January 18). East Lansing lawmakers call on MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon to resign. *Mlive.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/East-Lansing-lawmakers-call-on-MSU-President-Lou-Anna-K.-Simon-to-resign-mlive.com_.pdf.

⁶⁶ Wolcott, E. L. and R. J. (2018, January 20). MSU Board of Trustees continues to support Simon. *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved November 14, 2021, from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-Board-of-Trustees-continues-to-support-Simon.pdf>.

⁶⁷ USA Gymnastics. (2018, January 22). *USA Gymnastics statement regarding Board of Directors Executive Leadership*. USA Gymnastics. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-_-USA-Gymnastics-statement-regarding-Board-of-Directors-Executive-Leadership.pdf

⁶⁸ Connor, T. (2018, January 22). Teen says MSU still billing her for appointments with Larry Nassar. *NBC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Teen-says-MSU-still-billing-her-for-appointments-with-Larry-Nassar.pdf>.

⁶⁹ Barr, J. (2018, January 22). USA Gymnastics Suspends Former Olympics Coach John Geddert Who Is Tied to Larry Nassar. *ESPN.com*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/ESPN.com-USA-Gymnastics-suspends-former-Olympics-coach-with-ties-to-Larry-Nassar.pdf>.

⁷⁰ Barr, J. (2018, January 22). USA Gymnastics Suspends Former Olympics Coach John Geddert Who Is Tied to Larry Nassar. *ESPN.com*. Retrieved from <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/ESPN.com-USA-Gymnastics-suspends-former-Olympics-coach-with-ties-to-Larry-Nassar.pdf>.

⁷¹ Barr, J., & Murphy, D. (2018, January 16). Nassar surrounded by adults who enabled his predatory behavior. *ESPN.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State-University-doctor-Larry-Nassar-surrounded-by-enablers-as-he-abused-athletes-ESPN.pdf>

⁷² Dator, J. (2018, January 23). USA Gymnastics suspends former Olympics coach John Geddert who worked with Larry Nassar. *SBNation.com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-suspends-former-Olympics-coach-John-Geddert-who-worked-with-Larry-Nassar-SBNation.com_.pdf.



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saying that the university was reviewing the letter before issuing a response.⁷³ On January 24, 2018, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina sentenced Nassar 40-to-175 years in prison on seven counts of criminal sexual assault. During Nassar’s sentencing, Judge Aquilina says that the sentence will begin after Nassar completes his 60-year federal sentence for child pornography, stating:

*I find that you don’t get it. That you are a danger. You remain a danger. I am a judge who believes in life and rehabilitation, when rehabilitation is possible. I have many defendants come back and show me the great things they’ve done in their lives after probation, after parole. I don’t find that’s possible with you.*⁷⁴

The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) issued an open letter to Team USA athletes discussing four next steps, including USAG leadership turnover, that will be taken in the aftermath of the Nassar case.

We Must Change the Culture of the Sport
We Must Change the Governance Structure of the NG
We Must Know Who Knew What and When
We Must Support Safe Sport Victims and Survivors⁷⁵

Hours after the Nassar sentencing was completed, MSU President Lou Anna Simon resigned.⁷⁶ In another letter, USOC CEO Scott Blackmun wrote a letter to USAG stating that if it failed to meet six conditions by specific dates, it would be decertified as the sport’s national governing body. Among the conditions is that the USAG Board of Directors resigns by January 31.⁷⁷ In response, USAG posted a statement on its website saying that it “completely embraces the requirements.”⁷⁸

⁷³ Kirshner, A. (2018, January 26). Here’s how the NCAA’s investigation into Michigan State over Larry Nassar could work. *SBNation.com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State-NCAA-investigation-over-Larry-Nassar-How-it-could-work-SBNation.com.pdf>.

⁷⁴ Judge Sentences Larry Nassar to 40 to 175 Years in Prison for Sexual Assault. (2018, January 24). *Michigan Department of Attorney General*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/AG-Judge-Sentences-Larry-Nassar-to-40-to-175-Years-in-Prison-for-Sexual-Assault.pdf>.

⁷⁵ Blackmun, S., & U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association. (2018, January 24). Open Letters To Team USA Athletes Regarding Nassar Case. *Team USA*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Open-Letters-To-Team-USA-Athletes-Regarding-Nassar-Case-1.pdf>.

⁷⁶ McIntosh, W. (2018, January 24). MSU President Lou Anna Simon resigns in wake of Larry Nassar scandal. *SBNation.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State%E2%80%99s-Lou-Anna-Simon-resigns-in-wake-of-Larry-Nassar-scandal-SBNation.com.pdf>.

⁷⁷ Greenberg, C. (2018, January 26). US Olympic Committee calls for USA Gymnastics Board resignations within Six Days. *SBNation.com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/US-Olympic-Committee-calls-for-USA-Gymnastics-board-resignations-within-six-days-SBNation.com.pdf>.

⁷⁸ USA Gymnastics. (2018, January 25). *USA Gymnastics response to USOC’s Jan. 25 letter*. USA Gymnastics. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-USA-Gymnastics-response-to-USOCs-Jan-25-letter.pdf>.



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On January 26, MSU Athletic Director Mark Hollis announced his retirement, after having served as MSU's Athletic Director since January 2008.⁷⁹ He issued a statement expressing his willingness to cooperate with ongoing investigations.⁸⁰ The next day, Attorney General Bill Schuette launched an investigation into the nearly two decades of MSU's mishandling of the Nassar allegations.⁸¹

The 31st of January, a sentencing hearing for Nassar began in Eaton County Circuit Court, where he had previously pleaded guilty for three counts of criminal sexual conduct in November. According to *The Detroit News*, it was expected that at least 65 women would testify in court or submit statements.⁸² USAG also announced that all of the members of its Board of Directors had resigned, a statement that was conveniently issued on the deadline that the USOC had previously set to avoid decertification as the sport's national governing body.⁸³ The MSU's Board of Trustees unanimously voted to appoint former Michigan Governor and MSU graduate John Engler as interim president of MSU, who was set to assume his duties on February 5.⁸⁴

In February of 2018, Judge Janice Cunningham sentenced Nassar to 40 to 125 years in prison three charges of criminal sexual misconduct in Eaton County Court. This case involved sexual assaults at Twistars Gymnastics Club and brought an end to his criminal cases (with a total of 3).⁸⁵ Also notable and relevant to this month was the fact that Scott Blackmun announced his resignation as CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, citing health issues from prostate concern.⁸⁶ Additionally, in response to Nassar's abuses, the USOC announced new reforms and initiatives,

⁷⁹ Kirshner, A. (2018, January 26). MSU AD Mark Hollis resigns amid Nassar investigation. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Mark-Hollis-Michigan-State-athletic-director-resigns-after-Larry-Nassar-sentencing-SBNation.com_.pdf.

⁸⁰ Hollis, M. (2018, January 26). Statement From Mark Hollis. *Michigan State University Athletics*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Statement-From-Mark-Hollis-Michigan-State-University-Athletics.pdf>.

⁸¹ Bailey, C. (2018, January 27). Michigan attorney general launches investigation into MSU over Nassar scandal. *NBC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-attorney-general-launches-investigation-into-MSU-over-Nassar-scandal.pdf>.

⁸² Kozlowski, K. (2018, January 31). Toll of Nassar victims rises to 265. *The Detroit News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Toll-of-Nassar-victims-rises-to-265.pdf>.

⁸³ USA Gymnastics. (2018, January 31). *USA Gymnastics statement regarding Board resignations*. USA Gymnastics. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-USA-Gymnastics-statement-regarding-Board-resignations.pdf>.

⁸⁴ Michigan State University. (2018, January 31). MSU Trustees Name Former Michigan Governor John Engler Interim President. *MSUToday | Michigan State University*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/MSU-Trustees-Name-Former-Michigan-Governor-John-Engler-Interim-President--MSUToday--Michigan-State-University.pdf>.

⁸⁵ Hutchinson, B. (2018, February 5). Former Olympic doctor sentenced to another 40 to 125 years in prison. *ABC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-Olympic-doctor-sentenced-to-another-40-to-125-years-in-prison-ABC-News.pdf>.

⁸⁶ United States Olympic Committee. (2018, February 28). U.S. Olympic Committee Announces Significant Changes To Further Protect Athletes. *Team USA*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/U.S.-Olympic-Committee-Announces-Significant-Changes-To-Further-Protect-Athletes.pdf>.



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including providing funding and resources for support and counseling for the gymnasts who were impacted.⁸⁷

On March 27, 2018, Nassar’s former boss and former dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at MSU, William Strampel, was arrested for felony misconduct in office and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct in addition to two counts of willful neglect of duty. Court affidavits reveal that he groped and harassed students, possessed pornography with images of students, and told Nassar details during the school’s 2014 Title IX investigation into him.

On April 13, 2018, at an MSU Board meeting, a Nassar survivor spoke out and detailed how interim president John Engler tried to coerce her into taking a settlement and dropping her civil case against MSU. She also claims that Engler lied to her by claiming that Rachel Denhollander accepted a buyout.⁸⁸

On May 1, 2018, former USAG coaches Bela and Martha Karolyi filed a lawsuit against USAG for over \$1 million in damages for failing to honor a lease agreement and not fulfilling their promise to “wrap their arms” around the Karolyis to protect them from the Nassar trial fallout.⁸⁹ Later that month, MSU agreed to a \$500 million settlement with hundreds of Nassar survivors who filed a class-action lawsuit against the university for failing to protect them from Nassar.⁹⁰

On June 29, 2018, Nassar and former USAG director of sports medicine services Debbie Van Horn were indicted in Texas for what Walker County assistant district attorney Stephanie Stroud called “a total failure by USAG to protect the athletes that were part of their program and to take appropriate action once they were made aware of Dr. Nassar’s actions.”^{91, 92}

⁸⁷ United States Olympic Committee. (2018, February 28). U.S. Olympic Committee Announces Significant Changes To Further Protect Athletes. *Team USA*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/U.S.-Olympic-Committee-Announces-Significant-Changes-To-Further-Protect-Athletes.pdf>

⁸⁸ WJBK. (2018, April 13). Nassar survivor says MSU interim president offered her \$250K to settle. *FOX 2 Detroit*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Nassar-survivor-says-MSU-interim-president-offered-her-250K-to-settle.pdf>

⁸⁹ Barron, D. (2018, May 1). Plaintiffs Original Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Damages. *Chron.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Plaintiffs-Original-Petition-for-Declaratory.pdf>

⁹⁰ Dator, J. (2018, May 16). Michigan State to pay \$500M to survivors of abuse by Larry Nassar—SBNation.com. *SBNation.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/University-to-pay-out-US500m-to-sexual-abuse-victims.pdf>

⁹¹ Reid, S. (2018, June 29). Top USA Gymnastics medical officer indicted with Nassar for sexual assault at Karolyi Ranch – Orange County Register. *The Orange County Register*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Top-USA-Gymnastics-medical-officer-indicted-with-Nassar-for-sexual-assault-at-Karolyi-Ranch-%E2%80%93-Orange-County-Register.pdf>

⁹² Armour, N., & Axon, R. (2018, June 29). USA Gymnastics a “total failure,” according to investigation of famed Karolyi ranch. *USA TODAY*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-a-total-failure-according-to-probe-of-famed-ranch.pdf>



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In August, former MSU gymnastics coach Kathie Klages was finally charged with two counts of lying to police after an ongoing investigation uncovers that Klages knew about the abuse by Nassar yet told police that she had no knowledge of being told by survivors.⁹³ A week later, the NCAA cleared MSU of any violations in how it handled the Nassar allegations.⁹⁴

Although it has become clear that Nassar and some of the people who enabled his abuse will face legal consequences for their horrific actions, the allegations against him continue to pile on. A lawsuit in Michigan filed in September on behalf of Erika Davis claimed that in 1992 Nassar drugged, raped, videotaped, and impregnated her when she was a 17-year-old field hockey player at MSU.⁹⁵

The next month, former President and CEO of USAG Steve Penny was arrested in Tennessee after being indicted for tampering with evidence. Prosecutors assert that Penny executed the removal of important documents from Karolyi Ranch, the Texas training facility, after learning that Nassar was being investigated for sexual abuse.⁹⁶

In another instance of negligent presidents facing punishment, former MSU President Lou Anna Simon was charged with lying to state police during a probe into Nassar. In May, Simon was asked if she knew Nassar was being investigated in 2016. Charges claimed that she said she knew a sports physician was being investigated but that she did not know who they were. New documents purport to reveal that Simon was aware that it was Nassar.⁹⁷

On December 5, amidst unresolved civil lawsuits and the USOC having voted to decertify the group, USA Gymnastics filed for bankruptcy.⁹⁸ A few days later, Ropes & Gray, LLP, the law firm which was retained by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), issued its

⁹³ Dator, J. (August 23, 2018). Former MSU coach Kathie Klages charged with lying to investigators in Larry Nassar case. *SBN.com*. Retrieved from https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-MSU-coach-charged-with-lying-to-investigators-about-Larry-Nassar-SBNation.com_.pdf.

⁹⁴ Roth, C. (2018, August 30). The NCAA Tells Michigan State No Rules Violated In Larry Nassar Scandal. *NPR*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/The-NCAA-Tells-Michigan-State-No-Rules-Violated-In-Larry-Nassar-Scandal.NPR_.pdf.

⁹⁵ Romero, D. (2018, September 11). New lawsuit alleges Larry Nassar drugged, raped and impregnated teen at MSU. *NBC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/New-lawsuit-alleges-Larry-Nassar-drugged-raped-and-impregnated-teen-at-Michigan-State.pdf>.

⁹⁶ Dator, J. (2018, October 18). Former head of USA Gymnastics arrested for tampering with evidence. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-USA-Gymnastics-CEO-Steve-Penny-arrested-for-tampering-in-Larry-Nassar-investigation-SBNation.com_.pdf.

⁹⁷ Romo, V. (2018, November 20). Michigan State University Ex-President Charged With Lying In Larry Nassar Case. *NPR*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State-University-Ex-President-Charged-With-Lying-In-Larry-Nassar-Case_-NPR.pdf.

⁹⁸ Fitzpatrick, S., & Schapiro, R. (2018, December 5). USA Gymnastics declares bankruptcy in wake of sex abuse scandal. *NBC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-declares-bankruptcy-in-wake-of-sex-abuse-scandal.pdf>.



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“Report of the Independent Investigation: The Constellation of Factors Underlying Larry Nassar’s Abuse of Athletes.”⁹⁹ In the spirit of investigations related to the scandal, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill also announced that his office had been investigating USAG for about a year.¹⁰⁰ Furthermore, a report from the office of the Michigan Attorney General named 11 MSU staffers who were aware of allegations against Nassar but failed to report them to administrative staff or USAG.¹⁰¹

2019

The scandal surrounding Larry Nassar’s abuse took on another dimension with the Justice Department announcing that it was looking into the FBI’s handling of the allegations against Nassar¹⁰².

In January of 2019, interim President Engler was quoted in the *Detroit Free Press* as implying that some of Nassar’s victims were “enjoying” the “spotlight” as a result of being abused. As a result, the MSU Board of Trustees announced that it would hold a special meeting to debate Engler’s future.¹⁰³

On March 15, 2019, 51 women filed a suit against the USOPC, its board members, and a number of former high-ranking officials for failing to prevent sexual abuse by Nassar and other coaches.¹⁰⁴ The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Denver, “details abuse dating to the late 1990s. One of the victims was 8 years old.”¹⁰⁵

In July, the U.S. Senate Subcommittee released its report “Senate Olympics Investigation: The Courage of Survivors, A Call to Action.”¹⁰⁶ The next day, a report implied that former MSU

⁹⁹ McPhee, & Dowden, 2018.

¹⁰⁰ Associated Press. (2018, December 20). Indiana AG’s Office Investigating USA Gymnastics. *NBC Chicago*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Indiana-AG%E2%80%99s-Office-Investigating-USA-Gymnastics-%E2%80%93-NBC-Chicago.pdf>.

¹⁰¹ Berg, K. (2018, December 21). Here are 11 MSU employees who AG’s office said knew of Nassar’s abuse, but didn’t report it. *Lansing State Journal*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/11-MSU-employees-knew-about-Larry-Nassars-abuse-but-didnt-report-it.pdf>.

¹⁰² Reid, S. M. (2020, July 8). Justice Department says investigation of FBI’s handling of Larry Nassar case remains ongoing. *Orange County Register*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Justice-Department-says-investigation-of-FBI%E2%80%99s-handling-of-Larry-Nassar-case-remains-ongoing.pdf>.

¹⁰³ Dator, J. (2019, January 16). Michigan State board to discuss interim president’s future following remarks about Larry Nassar survivors. *SBNation.Com*. https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Michigan-State-board-to-discuss-interim-president%E2%80%99s-future-following-remarks-about-Larry-Nassar-survivors-SBNation.com_.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ Associated Press. (2019, March 15). 51 women sue U.S. Olympic Committee for failing to stop Larry Nassar abuse. *NBC News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/51-women-sue-U.S.-Olympic-Committee-for-failing-to-stop-Larry-Nassar-abuse-1.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵ Associated Press, 2019.

¹⁰⁶ Moran & Blumenthal, 2019.



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president Lou Anna Simon would still receive her \$2.45 million retirement package, which includes having a university presidential portrait painted. MSU reserves the right to not display the portrait if Simon is convicted of lying to investigators.¹⁰⁷

In August, former Dean of MSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine William Strampel was sentenced to one year in Ingham County Jail for willful neglect and a felony account of misconduct in office¹⁰⁸.

2020

On January 17, 2020, a child sexual assault charge against Debbie Van Horn was dismissed by a Texas judge.¹⁰⁹

Less than a month later, on February 14, 2020, coach Kathie Klages was found guilty of two counts of lying to police. Klages was the second former MSU employee who was found guilty in connection to the Nassar abuse case, along with William Strampel.¹¹⁰

On March 3, Nassar’s defense team fought for a second appeal, arguing that Judge Aquilina was “biased” in her sentencing.¹¹¹

On March 23, William Strampel was released early from Ingham County Jail, after spending 7.5 months in jail. He had been sentenced to one year but was released early for good behavior and the release of inmates due to coronavirus spread in jails.¹¹²

¹⁰⁷ Livengood, C. (2019, July 30). Ex-MSU President Simon gets \$2.45 million retirement payout amid Nassar fallout. *Crain’s Detroit Business*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Ex-MSU-President-Simon-gets-245-million-retirement-payout-amid-Nassar-fallout-1.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ Sinclair, H. (2019, August 7). “He was supposed to protect us, but he chose to betray us”: Ex-MSU dean William Strampel’s sentencing. *The State News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/He-was-supposed-to-protect-us-but-he-chose-to-betray-us-Ex-MSU-dean-William-Strampels-sentencing-The-State-News.pdf>.

¹⁰⁹ Murphy, D., & Barr, J. (2020, January 17). Charge against ex-Nassar colleague dismissed. *ESPN.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/ESPN.com-Child-sexual-assault-charge-against-Debbie-Van-Horn-dismissed.pdf>.

¹¹⁰ Brock, H. (2020, February 14). Former MSU gymnastics coach Kathie Klages found guilty of lying to police—The State News. *The State News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-MSU-gymnastics-coach-Kathie-Klages-found-guilty-of-lying-to-police.pdf>.

¹¹¹ Larry Nassar fights for a second appeal; claims Judge Aquilina was biased in the courtroom and on social media. (2020, March 3). *WLNS*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Larry-Nassar-fights-for-a-second-appeal-claims-Judge-Aquilina-was-biased-in-the-courtroom-and-on-social-media--WLNS-6-News.pdf>.

¹¹² Banta, M. (2020, March 23). Former MSU dean William Strampel out of jail 2 weeks before projected release. *Lansing State Journal*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-Michigan-State-University-dean-William-Strampel-out-of-jail.pdf>.



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On May 13, 2020, the criminal case against former MSU President Lou Ann K. Simon was dismissed after Eaton County Circuit Judge Maurer determined there was not enough evidence to bring the case to trial.¹¹³

On August 4, 2020, former MSU Gymnastics coach Kathie Klages was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 18 months of probation for lying to police.¹¹⁴

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On February 25, 2021, former USAG coach John Geddert killed himself amidst an array of charges, including 20 counts of human trafficking and forced labor, one count of first-degree sexual assault, one count of second-degree sexual assault, racketeering, and lying to police. The court and lawyers stated that they did not believe he was a threat at the time.¹¹⁵

Five months later, on July 14, 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General announced the release of the “Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar.”¹¹⁶

On September 1, 2021, USAG put forth a plan for a \$425 million settlement, and a proposal was filed with the joint approval of the Survivors’ Committee that represented the hundreds of USAG survivors in the organization’s bankruptcy proceeding.¹¹⁷

¹¹³ Burns, G. (2020, May 13). Criminal case against Ex-MSU president accused of lying in Nassar abuse scandal dismissed. *Mlive*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Criminal-case-against-Ex-MSU-president-accused-of-lying-in-Nassar-abuse-scandal-dismissed.pdf>.

¹¹⁴ Kozlowski, K. (2020, August 4). Former MSU gymnastics coach Klages gets 90-day sentence, probation. *The Detroit News*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Former-MSU-gymnastics-coach-Klages-gets-90-day-sentence-probation.pdf>.

¹¹⁵ Murphy, D., & Barr, J. (2020, January 17). Charge against ex-Nassar colleague dismissed. *ESPN.Com*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/ESPN.com-Child-sexual-assault-charge-against-Debbie-Van-Horn-dismissed.pdf>.

¹¹⁶ U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. (2021). *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar* (Investigation No. 21–093; p. 119). Federal Bureau of Investigation.

¹¹⁷ Jean Casarez. (2021, September 1). USA Gymnastics and abuse victims propose a \$425 million settlement in bankruptcy court. *CNN*. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/USA-Gymnastics-and-abuse-victims-propose-a-425-million-settlement-in-bankruptcy-court-CNN.pdf>



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On September 15, 2021, Aly Raisman, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, and Maggie Nichols testified at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the FBI's handling of information regarding the Nassar case.¹¹⁸ In her statement, Biles said: "To be clear, I blame Larry Nassar and I also blame an entire system that enabled and perpetrated his abuse."¹¹⁹

The following month, on October 5, 2021, Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco announced before the Senate Judiciary Committee that the U.S. Justice Department is reviewing its decision not to charge FBI agents who failed to properly investigate sex abuse allegations against Nassar.

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On December 13, 2021, an amended plan consisting of a \$380 million settlement, largely from insurance proceeds, was confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana.¹²¹ In addition to the financial resolution, the plan's provisions contain various nonmonetary commitments from SAG, which includes strengthening SafeSport policies related to complaint processing and club member involvement, and having at least one survivor serving on USAG's Board of Directors, SafeSport Committee, and Athlete Health and Wellness Council.¹²² Regarding the settlement, Rachael Denhollander told the Associated Press, "It's not about money, it's about change."¹²³

¹¹⁸ *Dereliction of Duty: Examining the Inspector General's Report on the FBI's Handling of the Larry Nassar Investigation* | United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, (2021) (testimony of Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, Maggie Nichols, Aly Raisman, Michael Horowitz, & Christopher Wray).

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/dereliction-of-duty-examining-the-inspector-generals-report-on-the-fbis-handling-of-the-larry-nassar-investigation>

¹¹⁹ Cheung, K. (2021, September 15). Simone Biles and other gymnasts testify: "I blame an entire system" for enabling Larry Nassar. *Salon*.

¹²⁰ Johnson, C. (2021, October 6). DOJ will revisit decision not to charge FBI agents in failed Nassar case. In *Morning Edition*. NPR. <https://gameover.childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/DOJ-will-revisit-decision-not-to-charge-FBI-agents-in-failed-Nassar-case--NPR.pdf>.

¹²¹ Alex Wolf. (2021, December 13). USA Gymnastics' \$380 Million Bankruptcy Plan Gets Approval. *Bloomberg Law*. <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/bankruptcy-law/usa-gymnastics-380-million-bankruptcy-plan-set-for-approval>.

¹²² *In re Gymnastics*, Modified Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization Proposed by USA Gymnastics and the Additional Tort Claimants Committee of Sexual Abuse Survivors, Case No. 18-09108-RLM-11 (Bankr. S. D. Ind. Dec. 13, 2021).

¹²³ Will Graves. (2021, December 13). USA Gymnastics, USOPC reach \$380m settlement with victims. *Boston Globe*. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/12/13/sports/usa-gymnastics-usopc-reach-380m-settlement-with-victims/>.

