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News from the Michigan Association for Justice

Monday, February 4, 2019
Contact: Nate Pilon, 517-321-3073, npilon@michiganjustice.org

MAJ: Action Taken by MSU Signals Positive Step in Ending University's Culture of Indifference and Institutional Protection, Justice for Nassar Survivors

LANSING— Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) President Debra A. Freid today issued the following statement in response to Michigan State University Interim President Satish Udpa's decision last Friday to fire university Vice President and General Counsel Bob Young and the MSU Board of Trustees' earlier move to force the resignation of former Interim President John Engler:

"We applaud MSU leaders for doing the right thing and removing Bob Young and John Engler from power. From the beginning, they chose to stonewall Nassar investigations and engage in appalling attacks on survivors rather than seek justice and healing. Young failed to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation into MSU and took no action on a U.S. Department of Education report that found the university to be in violation of the Clery Act (a federal statute requiring colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information.) Engler's constant attacks in the media demonstrated a total lack of compassion and empathy for survivors.

MSU's action is a good first step in addressing its culture of indifference and institutional protection, but there is still much to be done as there are 169 survivors whose claims are still being obstructed by MSU. Instead of working hard to make sure the pain of these survivors is acknowledged and their claims resolved fairly, MSU has acted as if there are no more claims or to vilify the survivors themselves. Hopefully, the Trustees and other university leaders now see that only a full and fair resolution of all these claims will bring real and positive change to MSU.

We continue to support and thank all the survivors who have shown amazing strength in coming forward in the face of years of Nassar's abuse and the university's indifference. Because of them, and the trial attorneys who continue to work to ensure that their voices can be heard, the fight for justice will continue."

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*The **Michigan Association for Justice**, formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA), is a trade association of over 1,500 plaintiff's attorneys and staff, with offices in Lansing, Michigan.*