



## State Appellate Defender Office

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## Media Release

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### State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) statement regarding Lawrence Nassar's appeals

Michigan's State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) is the public defender for appeals, formed pursuant to state statute in 1979. SADO handles a portion of court-appointed appeals from state court convictions in Michigan.

The Ingham County Circuit Court and the Eaton County Circuit Court appointed SADO to represent Dr. Nassar in his appeals from his state court convictions. Dr. Nassar is represented by other counsel in his federal appeal.

On July 24, 2018, SADO filed pleadings in the Ingham County Circuit Court on Dr. Nassar's behalf, consisting of a motion to disqualify Judge Aquilina from any further proceedings and a motion for resentencing. The specifics of those challenges can be found in the pleadings that were filed, which are of public record. SADO expects to file pleadings in Eaton County Circuit Court on Dr. Nassar's behalf in the near future.

Closure is important for our client, for the victims, and for the system. A full, fair, and rigorous appeal is an essential step toward achieving such closure in this case. The appellate process is also vitally-necessary to strengthen the integrity of the criminal justice system, and to ensure that the conviction and sentence in this case are fair, legal, and just.

All criminal defendants are entitled to due process. SADO is committed to that principle for all of our clients.