

## Curriculum Vitae

of

**Katherine Starr**

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### Summary/Overview

Katherine is a two-time Olympian in 1984 and 1988 (Great Britain) and the author of the recently published memoir *“Rescue Me: A Powerful Memoir by an Olympian.”* In 1986 she won two silver medals at the Commonwealth Games. Katherine experienced success at the collegiate level in swimming for the University of Texas, participating on three NCAA championship teams and named 14-time All-American.

Katherine founded Safe4Athletes in 2011 due to living for decades with pain and suffering from the tragic effects of coach-athlete sexual abuse. Safe4Athletes was brought to life to help other athletes who have experienced the same destructive abuse of power in the coach-athlete relationship. Safe4Athletes’ mission is to advocate for athletes that have been abused, bullied, or harassed by their more powerful coach or teammate.

Katherine has acted as an advocate for athletes involved in coach-athlete sexual abuse, athlete-on-athlete sexual abuse, athlete cyber-bullying, athlete sexual hazing, and many forms of athletic abuse.

Since speaking out about abuse in sports, Katherine has developed a reputation for her expertise and eloquence on coach-athlete sexual abuse. This is evident by the rapid growth of traditional media and social media attention on the problem of coach-athlete sexual abuse since the inception of Safe4Athletes (2011), including features with ESPN (Outside the Lines), NBC Sports Radio, NPR, BBC Radio, NY Times, the Takeaway, CBS Sports Radio, Take Part Five (PIVOT Channel), Aljazeera America as well other nationally recognized media outlets in sports.

Through her work, Katherine educates lawyers/media/NGBs on the unique aspects of the power dynamic that exists in the coach-athlete relationship. Katherine has also written several articles on the topic, including “Breaking Down Sexual Abuse in Sports” and being a contributing author to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Consensus – Harassment and Sexual Abuse in Sport published in the British Sports Medical Journal and more recently co-authored an article for America Association of Justice, Trial Magazine.

Katherine has opined on close to twenty-five cases ranging from the standard of care in youth sports to Title IX matters. Her expertise has led to her providing her expert opinion for a Title IX matter with the *Department of Justice (DOJ)*. As well as having opined on one of the largest settlements in a Coach Sexual abuse cases in the state of Washington.

## **Education/Licensing**

University of Texas, Austin - Sociology, B.A

ATIXA – *Title IX Coordinator and Administrator Training & Certification Course*  
(Atlanta, GA)

Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (SPC) – NSPCC – Leicester, England

Sports Lawyers Association Conference 2014, Chicago, Ill – *Legal Issues Surrounding Bullying and Hazing in Sports*

International Working Group - Women in Sport 2014, Helsinki, Finland 2014 - *Sexual Harassment in Sport a Global Issue*

*International Working Group – Women in Sport 2018, Botswana*

*Life Coach – Transformation Institute (2021)*

## **Honors**

*Frank Erwin Award – University of Texas, Austin, 2019*

## **Experience**

**Safe4Athletes 2011- Present:** Advocate for Athlete welfare – sexual abuse, bullying, and harassment. Addressed all issues in sports, from cyberbullying to sexual hazing to coach-athlete relationship abuse.

- Expert Media Interviews – National and International Experts for issues regarding athlete sexual abuse. Interview for the BBC, NPR, the Takeaway (NY Times Radio), NBC, and CBS Radio as well national magazine publications like Marie Claire (Dec 2013 edition).
- Worked with National Governing Bodies and Athletic Departments across the US to pressure administrators to implement more comprehensive policies for open amateur youth sports.
- Developed customized programs and policies for USA collegiate athletic departments – Div. 1.
- Educated local leadership units across the country in implementing Safe4Athletes comprehensive programs addressing sexual abuse, bullying, and harassment.
- Consulted on national cases involving coach-athlete relationships

- Lectured across the country on solutions to change the landscape for open amateur sports and provide a safe and positive environment for every athlete.
- Advocated for athletes at all levels of sport, including professional sports organizations.
- Worked with Athlete-Parents (athletes over 18 yrs old) in addressing issues of abuse, bullying, and Harassment in the sports environment.
- Worked with Athlete Welfare Advocates (AWA) – training them on the Safe4Athletes Policies, point of contact to walk AWA thru the policies and procedures when violations have occurred at the local level; Worked with AWA to resolve issues as they arise.
- Investigate individual and team abuse, develop comprehensive reports outlining the findings and make recommendations for preventing ongoing abuse.

## **University of Utah**

### *Created Comprehensive Athlete Protection Program – 2013*

- Implemented a new role of Athlete Welfare Advocate for all Student-Athletes.
- Designed a communication system for athletes to file complaints outside the athletic department.
- System infrastructure includes the President of the University is in the loop for all Athlete complaints.
- An Athlete's “safe” approach for filing complaints against coaches and administrators being accused of abuse or harassment by a student-athletes.
- Successfully revised the policy to prohibit any intimate coach-athlete relationship.
- Created Coaches Code of Conduct.
- Coaches oversight program and monitoring requirements.
- Implemented comprehensive policies for the athletic department, athletes, and staff, including the wellness team.

## **Expert Witness / Consulting**

University of Utah Athletic Department – Policy Development – 2013

Founding Member of Safe Sport International (2015)

International Olympic Committee (IOC) - Expert on Harassment & Abuse in Sports –  
July 2015

USA Government Office of Accountability – Youth Sports Campus on College Campus  
athlete abuse prevention strategies (2015)

Senator Feinstein Office – Feinstein Sexual Abuse Bill (2017)

Senator Udall (NM) – asked to contribute to senate hearings on sexual abuse in sports  
(2017)

European Union – Best Practices for Sexual Abuse Prevention in Sport

Senator Blumenthal (CT) – Senate Hearings (Advised Staff in preparation for Senate  
Hearings 2018)

Department of Justice (2022) – Title IX - Litigative Consulting / Expert Witness

**Current or Past Case Involvement** (*Unable to disclose full details*)

Fabien vs. Earth Treks – Maryland (Plaintiff)

Doe vs. Arizona Board of Regents – Arizona (Plaintiff)

Doe vs. Hesperia Unified School District- CA (Plaintiff)

Doe vs. Regents of the University of California– CA (Defendant)

Doe vs. USA Gymnastics (Plaintiff) (multiple –cases)

Doe vs. Pop Warner Little Scholars (Plaintiff) (multiple defendants) - California

Doe vs. Torrance School District (multiple – cases) (plaintiff) - California

Dewitt vs. Federal Way School District (Plaintiff) - Washington

Doe 140 vs. Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc.

Plaintiff vs. Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc.

C.B vs. Blackhills Football Club, Thurston County – Washington

T.S. vs USA Bowling, Thurston County – Washington

Doe vs. USTA – Santa Clara County, California

Doe vs. Sisters School District (Multiple client complaints)

Rice vs. Blackhills Football Club, Thurston County – Washington

Doe vs. San Diego Sports, San Diego County - California

Doe vs. Kirkwood Sports Association, St. Louis County – Missouri

Gonzales vs. Glacial Gardens, Los Angeles County – California

Department of Justice (2022) – Title IX - Litigation Consulting / Expert Witness

Christopher Dino v. Middletown Little League, New York - New York

Kris Barnum, et al. v. South Sound Lacrosse, Pierce County – Washington

AB v. Tarver et al. – Middlesex Country -New Jersey (Defendant)

Knott vs. Spiller et al. - Boerne, Texas

Jane Doe vs. Butler University – Federal Title IX

Egbert v. Griswold et al. Federal Case

## **Published Writings**

### **[Rescue Me: A Powerful Memoir by an Olympian \(Book\)](#)**

*Published Feb 2022. Published by KStarr Enterprises. The Memoir is a complete account of an elite athlete's journey in pursuing their Olympic dreams and the dangers that lurk in the shadows along the way while encapsulating the grooming process in vivid detail. A powerful and emotional read.*

### **The Real Truth About Collegiate Athletic Scholarships**

*Synopsis: Addresses abusive coaches that make sports environments so unbearable that an athlete quits to be able to restore themselves to sanity. The silent injuries that aren't recognized as injuries, such as the harassment and abuse of a coach, or teammate, leave an athlete to suffer with no voice.*

### **The Vieth Report: Did It Hit the Mark or Miss All Together?**

*Synopsis: Addresses the failed understanding of the issues of coach-athlete sexual abuse and the types of sexual abuse and harassment that have thrived in the sports culture for decades.*

### **Has Bullying Been Normalized in Sports?**

*Synopsis: Looks at bullying in sports and professional sports and how the culture has been normalized, providing minimal resources for athletes to speak up when they are bullied.*

### **The Truth about Coach-Athlete Relationships**

*Synopsis: Look at the types of cases that have been in the news concerning coach-athlete sexual abuse and the resources that are being offered, pointing out that they are not addressing the truth of the issue. Emphasizing the truth missing is the issue of sexual harassment and the power dynamic between the coach-athlete and how it is consistently overlooked and misunderstood.*

### **Are You Really Prepared for the Upcoming Sports Season?**

*Synopsis: What steps can parents and sports teams take to ensure policies and procedures are in place for abuse, bullying, and harassment?*

### **When Did the System Fail Kelley Davies Currin and the Rest of Us?**

*Synopsis: The worst-kept secret of Kelly Davies Currin that stayed alive on the pool deck for over twenty years with no action from USA Swimming and decades of denial.*

### **Breaking Down Sexual Abuse in Sports**

*Synopsis: The competing athlete has something at risk, for example, dreams of being an Olympian, a college scholarship, playing time, or financial gain. A complex 'hook' keeps the athlete engaged in a relationship even when abusive and unhealthy. The athlete has*

*to make decisions for the family, the team, and the coach. When speaking up about the abuse, the athlete could be subject to retaliation from the team if there is a perceived threat of their dreams being compromised as a result of the coach's removal; the parents that sacrificed everything to make sure that the child-athletes dreams are fulfilled or the coach that convinces the athlete that the only reason for her/his success is because of the "coach."*

### **Times Have Changed -- So Should Athlete Safety**

*Synopsis: A sports community must adopt a mindset to protect our child athletes from abuse. The coaches who spend hours upon hours each day with our child-athletes -- coaches who are possible pedophiles, bullies, and emotional abusers -- are not constrained by any behavioral guidelines. We have not protected our child athletes with the mindset that any coach among us could be a predator.*

### **Athlete/Parent Shortcuts Lead to Athlete Suffering in the Long Run**

*Synopsis: accountability and commitment doesn't seem to translate to parents once they give up their child to the care of a youth sports program. There is an assumption that coaches of unquestionable integrity provide supervision and that club policies exist to protect young athletes.*

### **The Term 'Improper Relationship' Will Not Change the Culture Needed for Coach/Athlete Sexual Abuse**

*Synopsis: When one is talking about a 12-year-old girl and uses the term "improper relationship" to describe what transpired between a coach and athlete, that term could not come close to the magnitude of the damage and wreckage created by sexual abuse between a minor child and coach.*

### **\$60 Million Later and We're Still Vulnerable – July 2012 – Huffington Post**

*Synopsis: With an independent investigation body, we need better laws and infrastructure to address coach-athlete sexual abuse.*

### **Keep Our Child Athletes Safe – Jan 2012 – Huffington Post**

*Synopsis: Addressing while there are laws that criminalize sexual and physical abuse, often, these coaches hold such power and sway, not to mention the keys to a bright, gold-medal-filled future, that the kids are intimidated into silence. They prioritize their own future Olympic team berth over emotional and physical health.*

**Confronting Sexual Abuse and Harassment by Sports Coaches: A Need for a National Effort. Unpublished Position Paper – Referenced in several books, including the Athletic Directors Desk Reference**

**I Was Sexually Abused As an Olympic Athlete Too. We Can End This Epidemic: *Published Fortune.com (Oct 2017)***

*Synopsis: It's time to make sports, Hollywood, and all professional spheres safe for young girls to excel and freely express their passion. None of us are entirely powerless. We can demand that our leaders open their eyes to what is happening and take action against it.*

**A Case Study: On Sports Liability Waivers and Sexual Abuse in Youth-Serving Organizations**

*Synopsis: Addressing sexual abuse in youth-serving organizations protections under a liability waiver.*

**The IOC Consensus Statement: Harassment and Abuse in Sport**

Publication: British Sports Medicine Journal (Feb 2016)

Link: <https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/50/17/1019>

*Listed expert contributor.*

**Justice and the Pursuit of Sports**

Publication: Trial Magazine – American Association of Justice. (May 23)

*Co-Author with Ian Bauer*

**Senate Hearings May 2017**

Official Record: Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act 2017

**Senate Hearings Sept 2018**

Worked with Senator Blumenthal's Office in preparations for Senate Hearings Oct 2018



## **Speaking Engagements:**

**Long Island Sports Commission – Keynote Speaker – April 2012 – Long Island, NY**

*Topic: Confronting Sexual Abuse and Harassment by Sports Coaches – “How and Why to Protect Athletes from Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment in sports.”*

**Southwest Conference Trainers Conference – Speaker – July 2012 – Dallas, TX**

*Confronting Sexual Abuse and Harassment by Sports Coaches – “How and Why to Protect Athletes from Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment in sports.”*

**Sports Law and Ethics Symposium – Speaker – Sept 2012 -Santa Clara, CA**

*Topic: How to Prevent Sexual Abuse in Sports*

**National Center for Victims of Crime – Presenter – Sept 2012 – New Orleans, LA**

*Confronting Sexual Abuse and Harassment by Sports Coaches – “How and Why to Protect Athletes from Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment in sports.”*

**California Women’s Conference – Panel Speaker – Sept 2012 – Long Beach, CA**

*Women in Sports Panel Presentation discussing the 40th anniversary of Title IX.*

**Male Survivors Conference – Panel Speaker - Nov 2012 - New York, NY**

*Topic: How to Prevent Sexual Abuse in Sports*

**Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) United Nations – Panel Speaker -**

**March 2013 – New York, NY**

*Topic: How and Why to Prevent Sexual Abuse in Sports*

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMIC) Safe to Compete**

**Conference March 2013, Alexandria, VA –invitation-only private conference with leaders from national sports governing Bodies and various Youth Sports Organizations came together to discuss best practices for Youth Safety.**

**United States Independent Gymnastics Clubs – National Championships - July 2013 – Palm Springs**

*Topic: How to Speak up and Prevent Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment with the Safe4Athletes Program.*

**Tenacity – Speaker– Aug 2013 - Boston, MA**

*Topic: How to be an Athlete Welfare Advocate within the Safe4Athletes Program*

**Santa Clara Law School Symposium – Speaker – Oct 2013 – Santa Clara, CA**

*Topic: How and Why to Prevent Sexual Abuse in Sports*

**Overbrook High School - Guest Speaker – Jan 2014- Philadelphia, PA**

*Topic: How to Speak up and Prevent Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment with the Safe4Athletes Program.*

**Martin Luther King Jr. High School Guest Speaker – Jan 2014 - Philadelphia, PA**

*Topic: How to Speak up and Prevent Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment with the Safe4Athletes Program.*

**Sharon High School – Guest Speaker - Feb 2014 - Sharon, PA**

*Topic: How to Speak up and Prevent Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment with the Safe4Athletes Program.*

**Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) United Nations - March 2014 - New York, NY**

*Topic: Educating about, and preventing, sexual harassment in sports*

**International Women and Sport (IWS) Conference – Speaker/Presenter – June 2014 – Helsinki, Finland**

*Topic: Understanding Trends on Abuse in Sports: Results of the Safe4Athletes Survey*

**International Swim Coaches Association – Aug 2014 - Tampa, FL**

*Topic: Best Practices for Preventing Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports*

**MomsTeam Institute – Speaker – Harvard Medical School – Sept 2014**

*Topic: How to Prevent Sexual Abuse in Youths Sports, best practices*

**Santa Clara Law School Symposium – Speaker – Oct 2014 – Santa Clara, CA**

*Topic: Addressing the Complexity of Emotional Abuse in College Sports*

**World Aquatic Health Conference – Speaker – Oct 2015 – Phoenix**

*Topic: Prevention against Sexual Abuse at Aquatic Facilities*

**Gymnastic World – Speaker – Oct 2015 - Cleveland**

*Topic: How to Speak up and Prevent Abuse, Bullying, and Harassment with the Safe4Athletes Program.*

**Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) United Nations - March 2016 - New York, NY**

*Topic: Creating local Policy for global change*

**Sports Resolution Conference – May 2016 – London, England**

*Topic: Safeguarding Elite Athletes*

**United Nations: Protecting Women and Sport – March 2017**

*Topic: Policy and Prevention from a global perspective*

***The Future of Sports – US Chambers - Washington D.C. Jan 2018***

SafeSport International – Madrid Spain 2018 (Invited)

International Women and Sport (IWS) Conference – Gaborone, Botswana 2018 – Topic –  
*What can be done and what needs to be done about Sexual Abuse in Sport.*

***The University of Texas, Moody School of Communication – Austin, TX 2019***

*The Portrayal of Sexual abuse in Sports Journalism*

***We Leads Conference – USA Swimming – Atlanta, GA – 2019***

*Keynote for the young leaders of the swimming community.*

***European Gymnastics Federation – Zoom Online - 2020***

*Positive Sport for all Webinar – to All 50 European Delegates*

***Play the Game – Odense, Denmark - 2022***

*The Role of Integrity in Combatting Abuse in Sport – June 2022 (Invited)*

***Thirteenth International Conference on Sport & Society (Denmark)***

*The Role of Integrity in Combatting Abuse in Sport – June 2022*

**Workshop Consultant**

**Beyond Sport Conference - Sept 2013 - Philadelphia, PA**

Topic: *Safeguarding in Sports Workshop*

## **Media Engagements**

### **National and Local TV Interviews**

The Stream – Al Jazeera America – Featured Guest - *High Price of Olympic Glory*

Take Five – Pivot Channel – Featured Guest - Safety issues in Youth Sports

NBC Phoenix, AZ - Investigative Story – Expert Contributor

CBS – New York – *Sexual Abuse in Sports and the vulnerabilities of Elite Athletes*

Fox Syndicated News - New York, NY - *Sexual Abuse in Sports and the vulnerabilities of Elite Athletes*

ABC Syndicated News – New York, NY - *Sexual Abuse in Sports and the vulnerabilities of Elite Athletes*

NBC – WFMJ – Youngstown, Ohio - *Former Olympic athlete offers help for sexual abuse victims*

PBS – Documentary – *Best Practices in Preventing Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports*

FOX 11 LA – *Expert Commentary on Sexual Abuse of an Athlete (Dec 2016)*

ESPN - Outside the Lines (Nov 2017) – Expert Consultant on Sexual Abuse in Sports

WLS-TV – Chicago – Preventing Sexual Abuse in Sport (Feb 2018)

WGNT – Norfolk, VA – Educating Youth on Best Practices for Preventing Abuse in Sport ( Sept 2018)

ESPN- Longhorn Network – Addressing Sexual Abuse, the Problems, and the Solution. (2019)

End of Sport – Podcast – Recorded expected air date – Sept 2020

Effortless Swimming -Podcast – April 2022

“Integrity in Sport Series” with Judie Sanders - 2021

Griesling Law with Judie Sanders – July 2022

SERMApod – with Rich Lenkov – Nov 2023.

### **Radio Shows**

CBS Radio – New York

The Takeaway – Subsidiary of New York Times

NBC Sports Radio

BBC Radio 4 – Documentary – Sexual Abuse in Sports

NPR - SoCal Olympic swimmer travels to London Olympic Games 2012 to combat athlete abuse

“Women in Sports “ – Expert on Sir Lanka Cricket team and widespread sexual abuse  
BBC – Joel Hammer Show (Oct 2015) (Nov 2016) (Jan 2018)

BBC – Sports Hour (2016)

BBC – Feature Story (Oct 2016)

BBC Domestic News Guest (2016, 2017, 2018)

BBC News Hour Featured Guest (2016, 2017, 2018)

KLAA – Community Cares – Angels Radio (2012) (2018)

ESPN- Longhorn Network – Addressing Sexual Abuse, the Problems, and the Solution.  
(2019)

### **National Magazines**

**Marie Clare Magazine** – Addressing the issues and the vulnerability to Athletes being sexually abused, the failures of the National Governing Bodies to address independently.

**Runners World** – Addressing the issues and the vulnerability of Athletes being sexually abused and without resources to help.

**Swim News** – Empowering Swimmers and Ending Abuse

**The Atlantic** – Emotional Abuse in Sports

### **Newspaper Media – Online & Print (shortlist)**

New York Times – Commented on WNBA hire and sexual harassment implications  
(May 2015)

Orange Country Register – Front Page Sunday Edition (ongoing regular contributor)

Austin American Statesman – Front Page of the Sports Section

New York Daily News – Featured Story

Independent British Paper – Featured expert

Dayton Daily News – Featured expert about Kayla Harrison, sexual abuse victim.

IndyStar – Quoted on Jerry Sandusky's outcome and the \$60 Million Settlement.

IndyStar – Gymnastics Sexual Abuse

Washington Post – Gymnastics Sexual Abuse

Vice – Featured Article

Wall Street Journal Weekend Edition – Feature Story on Katherine Starr and Safe4Athletes

**Board of Directors/Advisory Boards**

**Safe4Athletes** – *Chair of Board*

**US Center for Safe Sport** - USOC Independent Center to investigate and adjudicate allegations of sexual abuse in sports – *Advisory Board Member*

**Safe Sport International** – *Founding member* - An International Organization to provide best practices in policies to National Sports Governing Bodies, International Sports Federations.

**MomsTeam Institute** – *Advisor Board* – *Sexual Abuse Prevention in Youth Sports*

**Paradigm Treatment Facility** – *Former Advisor Board Member* – Teen treatment center specializing in athlete emotional trauma.

**SoCal Olympians and Paralympians** – Board Member (2014-2023)