

Contact: Gloria Allred

Phone: 323-653-6530

Email: gallred@amglaw.com

**STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GLORIA ALLRED REGARDING THE HARVEY WEINSTEIN
DEFENSE TEAM**

Donna Rotunno is Harvey Weinstein's new criminal defense attorney. She appears to specialize in representing men accused of sex crimes against woman.

In an interview in the Wall Street Journal on June 27, 2019, the article's author, Corinne Ramey, stated that Ms. Rotunno "...said in an interview that the #MeToo movement has done a disservice to women. 'I'm not a woman who has ever subscribed to it,' she said. 'I believe women are responsible for the choices that they make.' She said that by representing Mr. Weinstein, she hoped to encourage women to take responsibility for their actions, 'and say to women, 'Maybe don't go to the hotel room, maybe we are having a different conversation.' "

I agree that women are responsible for their own choices, but when will Mr. Weinstein be held responsible for his? Mr. Weinstein removed these women's ability to choose if he forced himself on them. If the jury believes that Mr. Weinstein did force himself on women, then the jury should hold him responsible for that. No woman should be shamed into thinking a sexual assault was her fault or her choice. Many accusers allege that Mr. Weinstein lured them to his hotel room under false pretenses that he wanted to assist them in their careers. I challenge Mr. Weinstein to testify under oath and deny this. We will then see who the jury believes. These accusers, if called to testify, would deny that it was their choice to be sexually assaulted. Mr. Weinstein should be accountable for his misconduct. Many accusers believed Mr. Weinstein's representation that he wanted to talk with them about business and they did not have any reason to believe that he was not telling the truth when he made that representation because there were times when Mr. Weinstein did, in fact,

do business in his hotel suite. The accusers did not have a negative stereotype of men nor did they have a belief that they should expect that every man is lying when they indicate that they want to talk business. I would also like to remind Ms. Rotunno that Mike Tyson was convicted of raping a woman who went to his hotel room. That proves that when a woman goes to a man's hotel room, it does not give him a license to rape and then blame the victim because she went to his hotel room. It is also true that in some cases the allegations of the accusers are that Mr. Weinstein invited them to his home, not a hotel room, and that the women may have accepted his invitation because of his representation that he wanted to talk to them about business or employment opportunities.

In an interview in Chicago Magazine in February 2018, the writer Bryan Smith indicated that Ms. Rotunno stated, “ ‘I have the ability to get away with a lot more in a courtroom cross-examining a female than a male lawyer does. He may be an excellent lawyer, but if he goes at that woman with the same venom that I do, he looks like a bully. If I do it, nobody even bats an eyelash. And it's been very effective.’ ”

I do not believe it is appropriate to go after a victim on the stand with “venom.” If this is Ms. Rotunno's strategy and if she believes that because she is a woman, she can get away with it, she may find that a New York jury will be turned off by that tactic and that they may not agree with her that she gets a pass to do that simply because she is a female criminal defense attorney. A venomous attack on a victim who alleges that she has undergone traumatic sexual assault is not acceptable. A bully is a bully regardless of their gender. Ms. Rotunno should remember that there was a female criminal defense attorney in the second Bill Cosby criminal trial. Nevertheless, Mr. Cosby was convicted of three counts of indecent sexual assault and he is now in prison.

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law

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