

Contact: Gloria Allred
Phone: 323-653-6530
Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today another woman has courageously come forward to accuse Donald Trump of engaging in an inappropriate sexual conduct with her.

Summer Zervos was a candidate on "The Apprentice" on season 5. When she first met Donald Trump she had great admiration for him. Unfortunately because of what she alleges that Mr. Trump did to her behind closed doors she is now deeply disappointed in him and feels hurt, betrayed and embarrassed by the way that he treated her.

Many people ask why accusers are coming forward now to allege sexual misconduct by Mr. Trump. The answer is simple. Some may have held what they allege as a secret within them for many years. Some may have thought they would not be believed against what they thought would most likely be a complete denial by a rich, powerful celebrity. Some may have feared the wrath and retaliation of Mr. Trump and some of his supporters. Some may have thought they were the only ones who were victimized.

Much of that changed when Mr. Trump's own words on the Access Hollywood tape broadcast last Friday described his assaults on women in obscene language that Mr. Trump later described as "locker room talk." This language was shocking and disturbing to many women and men.

Even more troubling for many women after the broadcast of that tape was Mr. Trump's blanket denial in the debate that even though he had used those words, he had never engaged in the actions he had described. That denial in my opinion triggered what is happening now.

For Summer Zervos the Access Hollywood tape hit a nerve. She had not intended to come forward prior to hearing Mr. Trump's words on that tape, but after hearing Mr. Trump on it she decided that it was her duty to speak out.

At or near the time of what she alleges was Mr. Trump's sexual misconduct towards her, she did share with 2 people close to her what she experienced with Mr. Trump, but she told nobody else.

I have spoken to those two individuals who verified to me that she did share with them, shortly after the alleged incidents occurred, many of the accusations that she will describe today.

Donald Trump thinks that he can do and say whatever he wants. He believes that he can go on national television and deny that he acted on his outrageous and disgusting beliefs as captured in his own words on tape and played throughout the country for all to hear. His response that it was all "locker room" talk is chilling when you consider the words coming from a man seeking the highest office in the land.

A number of women have come forward who claim that it was more than just talk. He allegedly accosted a woman on an airplane, pinned another against the wall and shoved his tongue down her throat, walked into beauty pageant dressing rooms as though he owned the women and that he had the right to look at them naked or partially clad at his pleasure, including teenagers. To all these women Donald issues staunch denials and threatens to sue the newspapers that report their accusations. He thinks that he can say whatever he wants and then muzzle his accusers.

Ms. Zervos is one more woman who claims that she was accosted by Donald at the Beverly Hills Hotel when she met with him to discuss employment opportunities. This is very near and dear to me as I have spent the last 40 years fighting for women who allege quid pro quo harassment, i.e. having to perform sexual favors in order to get a job or keep a job or who are seeking advancement.

Instead of a job, Ms. Zervos claims that she got the Donald all over her, kissing her, touching her breast, and leading her into his bedroom.

Donald, before you can become President of the United States you must first learn how to treat women with respect. Your words and your alleged actions convey the exact opposite. Your words alone, as captured on tape are disgraceful and suggest a belief system which is far below the dignity of the office

that you seek. The white house is not a locker room and the American people deserve better than a President who believes that he is entitled to grope and grab and sexually assault women at his pleasure

You should be ashamed of yourself. How could we hold you up as an example for our children? The office of President of the United States is not reserved for the worst of us, someone without values, who regards women as sexual objects or who thinks that his star power gives him a license to denigrate women

Your star has been irreparably tarnished by your own words coupled with the accusations of the many women who have made allegations against you.

You think that this is all one large conspiracy. I have news for you Donald. There is no conspiracy. It is you and you alone who have brought you to this precipice. It is you and you alone who is responsible.

It is my understanding that your campaign may try to discredit the accusers and in essence are declaring war on women, but women will not be silenced by this tactic. Women are now empowered and they will not be bullied into silence anymore.

Spare our nation from having to endure any further embarrassment. Seek help for your beliefs and alleged inappropriate sexual misconduct towards a number of women and girls, and emerge only after you do what is necessary to become a better human being, and are able to treat all of our daughters, our mothers and our sisters with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
Representing Summer Zervos
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