

Dec, 3rd, 2014

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Dear Supreme Court

S.C. SUPREME COURT

I'm responding to below reference.

Craig Rolen v. State

Appellate case 2014-00067

This court ruled in 2009 that my ^{plea} attorney
Bill Godfrey was ineffective when he failed
to make a motion to withdraw my guilty
plea in April, 2005.

Craig Rolen v. State

384 S.C. 409, 683 S.E. 2d 471

(2009) Opinion No. 26678

When I was taken back to
Greenville to make this motion,
I was told by Bill Godfrey,
that solicitor Kris Hodge sent him
to represent me. I did not want
him to. Please see lines 21-25
of Motion hearing transcript, pg 13.

If it were this courts ruling to
go back like it was 2005, same
solicitor, same judge, same lawyer.
Then wasn't it wrong for Bill Godfrey

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not to object to solicitors new
issue she raised at the motion hearing
that the case was too old to try.
This was in April, 2010. Please see
lines 24, 25 on pg. 11. Lines 1-10
on pg. 12.

- Bill Godfrey has failed to speak
up twice and it has severely cost
me. Please look at all this closely.
I spoke up at my plea hearing
because I'm innocent. I gave a
false confession. That's why I
spoke up. Attorney Bill Godfrey
had me scared I was gonna get
a life sentence. Thank you,
Graig Rolen

1 asking you to impose a 20-year sentence, even though there
2 was no recommendation. Then, of course, the victim's
3 family members wanted you to impose the maximum. And it
4 was at the point where he decided he did not want to do
5 this anymore. And I was not able to be in Mr. Rolen's
6 thought process. But I would assume it's because he felt
7 that you were going to impose a tougher sentence than he
8 was wanting to accept, based on what the victims were
9 going to say -- or what the victim's family had said.

10 At that point, he said, I don't want to do this. And
11 Your Honor replied, You have done it. I've accepted your
12 plea. And you went on to sentence him. Even though
13 Mr. Godfrey did not formally move, at that point, I think
14 that it was very clear the Defendant didn't want to do it.
15 He continued to say he didn't want to do it anymore. And
16 Your Honor, knowing all the facts, the circumstances, and
17 everything that was happening at the time, essentially,
18 did deny that motion that the Defendant himself made.

19 I would ask that you would go along with what your
20 initial feeling was at the time using your discretion and
21 opposing -- or denying that motion as -- I, again, can't
22 speak for the Court -- but as it appeared that you would
23 have done on that day five years ago.

24 If you are inclined to grant the motion to withdraw
25 the plea, Your Honor, the State would be severely

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1 prejudiced. The case already was five years old almost at
2 the time of the trial. There were many -- this was a drug
3 transaction-type thing. And the main witness in the case
4 was a crack-addict prostitute who was an eyewitness. We
5 had a very hard time finding her five years ago. And, at
6 this point, I'm not sure that she could be found, if she's
7 even alive. I've been told she was HIV positive two or
8 three years ago when she was involved in another case. We
9 would be substantially prejudiced, at this point, if Your
10 Honor would choose to let him withdraw his guilty plea.

11 DEFENDANT ROLEN: Your Honor --

12 THE COURT: All right, sir.

13 DEFENDANT ROLEN: I know it sounds insane. It is
14 insane. But I gave a false confession to a murder I--had
15 no part in because--I wanted to hurt myself. I wanted to
16 hurt my sister. And I wanted to hurt my momma. I just
17 went crazy over there in the county jail abusing drugs.
18 And it's not so much the abusing drugs as it is just I
19 flipped out. I'm in here for a murder I didn't commit.

20 My friend, Kevin Mahone, got himself killed by
21 messing with a married woman. I have figured it all out.
22 That's why I included the real killer in that false
23 confession because I wanted him to suffer. I wanted to
24 get him caught. Actually, I -- in a way, in the back of
25 my mind, I thought I'd get him caught and then the truth

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would come out. They arrested him and his wife too, whose charges was dismissed. And it's -- the truth is I've lost six years of my life for something I didn't do. And I'm innocent, Your Honor.

I have alibi witnesses I've found out that are still alive. I thought one was dead. I don't even know who these people are, this crack whore. I don't know nothing about them. I've never met them before in my life. I don't know them. I've never met them.

Jimmy Arder [phonetic], Cathy Deal, and Lamar [phonetic] Thomas, I was with these three people the whole week of this incident. Jimmy Arder is still alive. I hear he's on dialysis. So he can be found. He knows I was with him the whole week of this thing. Cathy Deal, I hear she's in North Carolina in a place for Huntington's Disease. She's still alive and she can be found. Lamar Thomas, I have no idea where he's at. But I just know this, I'm innocent. I didn't do this. Yes, I told them I did. I was an idiot. I'm still an idiot. I do stupid things.

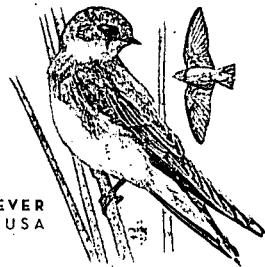
The other day, what did I say when you come in?

MR. GODFREY: When I talked to him on Thursday of last week, Judge, he told me that he did not want me to be his attorney and that he would confess to other charges if they would let him because he wanted the death penalty.

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