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Case # 2012-212683

SC Court of Appeals

On May 14th 2012 I plead guilty to Kidnapping, Burglary 2nd and manslaughter. I did not want to plea to any charges. My Lawyer (Margaret Tribert) Always knew I wanted a trial. But on several times she would ask me about a guilty plea with different offers. My Answer was always NO. On May 13th 2012 I went to her office along with my mother and father, we talked about going to court on the next day (May 14th 2012) it was to hear different motions. When I asked her if the trial would start that day she said NO. So we continued to talk about the motions she would file with the court she talked to us for about 1 1/2 hours. The morning of May 14th 2012 we met her at the courthouse at 9⁰⁰ AM and she told me and my parents that "Some time during the night she decided not to file any motions with the court" She did not call

point everything changed. She then came to me later and said ARE you sure you wont Plea? And again My Answer was No. Then she started telling me I would never see my daughters again because I would do life or 30 years or more in jail if I went to trail because she did not know how to defend me. She has told me on different times "I don't know how to defend you" or "How do you want me to defend you?" She even told my Parents That ~~that~~ they need to talk some sense into me because I would be going away for a long time if I went to trail. So I asked her if I take a plea how much time would I get? She said she did not know but it would Not be less then Mr Cummings because he helped the State. So Ms Tribert, And the Solicitor went to talk to the Judge. After a while my awyer said he would make the choice (Judge Early) after being told I would spend 30 to life

behind bars in Jail. I told her I would take the plea but I wanted to tell my girls good-bye because they live with me and my parents their mother is absent from their life. And she told me it had to be done Now, (to go to court) I could not leave. So we all took a lunch break and court was to start back in about an hour in a half.

I told my parents I don't want to do this I want a trial so my mother called Ms Tribert and her husband answered the phone and told my mom that she was on another line. So when she came to the phone my mom told her that I wanted to talk to her before court and she wanted to know if I had changed my mind, and my mother told her that "Ronald wants to talk to you before you go in the Court Room". And that we ~~were~~ were all outside under the trees. She did not show up her husband came to get us from under the trees and he said "Margaret is inside" so we all went inside.

after going through the security check in the
house I told her (Ms Tribert) that I changed my
~~mind~~ mind. And a friend of our family asked if he
could speak on behalf of me and try to explain what
I want. She then became very defensive and started
talking loud and walking away. She said the
papers were already signed. So she left, my family
and I went upstairs to the court room. Ms Tribert
was in the court room talking to the judge
the bailiff stopped me at the door so I don't know
what was said before I got to go in. She talked to
him for about 8-10 minutes. I tried to explain to
the bailiff that was my lawyer at the bench and
I need to be in there also and he said "you have
to wait". So I finally got to go in. I went up
to the judge. I ~~did not~~ did not know what was
said before I got in, and the judge nor Ms Tribert
told me what was said. So I was under the impression
that I still had to go with the plea. That is
why I did. If she was telling the judge

that I changed my mind about the plea the Judge or Ms Tribert should have told me that since I was not able to go in the court room. I did not understand a lot of the terms and talk the Judge was speaking of so I asked him to please explain it to me. I do have a hard time understanding things and I told my lawyer this on our very first visit. The next day Ms Tribert called my mother and told her she was filing a motion with the court to 1) Withdraw my guilty plea and 2) Reconsider the sentence. I was given 22 years. She also told my mother that she did not know I was going through with the plea she thought I was going to tell the Judge that I changed my mind. but like I said I don't know what they talked about before I got in the court room. She also told my mother that she thought she did pretty good since she left her paperwork on the desk behind her she thought she did good from memory. but she was incorrect about a few things that

I herd her say, I am asking for this appeal because Ms Tribert could not defend me she said so herself on many occasions. And over the course of three years I only met with Ms Tribert (5) times for one hour and only one meeting was to discuss the trial and that was May 13th 2012 for 1 1/2 hours and as I said earlter we did not talk in detail about a trial it was to hear the motions she changed her mind on during the night. one other meeting was when the state wanted to Revoke my bond because I got behind on my GPS monitor and it was removed for 4 hours, for non payment and 2 times to look over some plea deals from the solicitor and then the 1st meeting we had to meet each other. I would have never taken a plea for 22 years I was offerd 10-15 years at one of the plea meeting because I don't have any criminal charges on my record or a prior criminal history. I never had a strong lawyer client relationship with ms Tribert because she was

Always in a hurry or quick to get defensive about questions that I would ask. This is true when my parents would ask questions also. and also ms Tribert is not a criminal lawyer and it was also kind of scary to go into a court room knowing she does not know how to defend me. Maybe that's why she wanted me to take the plea. and also several months ago when I looked her up under the S.C Barr she had been suspended for practicing law in SC because of Drug & Alcohol abuse. I never told her I knew about this but it has always been on my mind because of the attitude ~~she~~ she always seemed to have. ~~this~~ this is why I am asking for Reconsideration.

Thank you
Ronald D.