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JUN 03 2016

SC Court of Appeals May 26, 2016

To whom it may concern in the
Court of Appeals:

I recieved the letter from the Public defender that informed me to write an arguable basis of issues as to why I think I deserve an appeal of my guilty plea. As you may or may not know, I am currently incarcerated in the Graham Correctional Institution. I was sentenced to a full three years as well as court-ordered A.T.U. I was incarcerated in the county jail last year for sixty days and was released on one year probation. Unfortunately I violated my probation and was picked up on a bench warrent. I stayed in the county jail for thirty days and during that time I put in for a guilty plea. I waited until I discussed the case with James Cheeks until I reviewed what he thought the judge was going to give me and decided whether to accept his offer or get a paid lawyer. He proceeded

to tell me I would be receiving six months intense probation. (which I assumed was something along the lines of house arrest.) I also asked him specifically if I would be going to prison or anything else along those lines and he stated that no, I was in no danger of going to prison. He said I would be going home with the intense probation. The morning I went to court and went before the judge, the judge did not even look over my case thoroughly at all and was very quick to dismiss me. When he was verbally sentencing me he stated I needed A.T.U. and did I want to accept? I told him I did not even know what that was and he said to step over and discuss it over with Mr. Cheeks and I did so. Mr. Cheeks was rushing me back telling me to "just say yes" (still did not know A.T.U. was part of prison) I go back before the judge and said "yes" like

I was told and he announced I had three years prison! By no means am I saying that violating my probation was something I should go unpunished for because I broke the law and that should never be overlooked. I'm just arguing that I didn't even get to discuss any of this with anyone about possibly me paying my supervision fees, or maybe reinstating my probation. I would have been grateful for a drug test and then further discussion making. With that being said, I think three years was a little harsh with no consideration that this was my first violation for simply not reporting. I do understand completely that it was still wrong but I could understand it better if I had failed a drug test, or if I were found violating in some other way.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I also want to make it aware to the court

that whatever it would take, I would be more than willing to pay any fees as well as participate in any rehabilitation program that would help me with my addiction. I realize I have a disease called addiction and I'm willing to accept any help with request!

Again, thank you for reading my explanation and taking it into consideration.

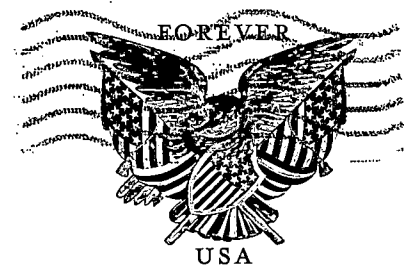
Sincerely,

Julia Easter

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