

I am now 19 years of age, never been in any real trouble. I'm not saying I'm perfect either, but we all make mistakes. I was 18 when this incident occurred on 1/9/16. They pulled me out of school, I didn't know what was going on. They expelled me cause I was under investigation, so I did not get my diploma. All I could think about was this charge so I could never focus on my school work, and another reason why I also have a bali on the way! My whole life has been ripped apart with this charge! I was trying to go to the navy, been turned down by several good jobs, all because of this charge. Going to all my court cases really had me terrified! I don't belong in prison I'm a nice person never stole from anyone. Truth be told, I don't even understand why I've been charged with attempted armed robbery, because the victim could never positively identify me. None of the goods that were stolen were in my possession, they were in my codefender's possession. They said they had me on camera with my brother sitting the phone, but he sold it not me on camera. I was just with him. I'm denying involvement in this case, but I was aware of what was going on. I feel like I was misrepresented by my public defender "Matthew W. Shealy". He told me that since I had statements on me, and video of me at the mall with my brother I could get the maximum sentence if I didn't take the plea the judge gave me. Matthew W. Shealy also told me he could get my charges dropped down to common-law because lack of evidence on me. The judge denied him and offered me attempt armed robbery with a 0-10 cap. I did not want to take the plea, but I did, because Matthew W. Shealy (my public defender) told me, "this will not mean you will go to prison, you were the youngest in this case, you go to GED classes, and you have a good job." Matthew W. Shealy told me "since Rayquan Smith your court defender got caught with the pistol, and the wallet they say I took, there is a 90% chance you will walk away with no jail time and get probation." I got on several times several times when he was in various courts cases. I was supposedly the guy who took the ladies wallet out of the car but I got caught. My court defender got caught with all stolen evidence and trying to sell it himself saying "me and Shedrian Rogers robbed her giving him stolen items." My court defender Shedrian Rogers pleaded guilty saying "him and I robbed it." My public defender told me to accept this plea you will get probation since he is your first offense, I accepted the plea. The judge asked "did you promise anything" I said "my public defender told me I would receive probation then said 'judge since your defender didn't recommend that, when he said that I started to cry.' He asked me "did you graduate, what was the last grade you finished, do you have a job, do you work?" I stated, "I got kicked out because of this charge, I go to GED class, I have a job at Salsbury's and I have a city mother that's terminally pregnant who is in the court room now." The judge asked "I need a company to go, before we sentenced you." I stated "I can work at the store at South Carolina, I didn't see anyone, I must have been in the store at the time, I do not do it." My court defender

got caught with the Sheriff they say I stole, and is trying to intimidate me, to save  
self." The Judge demanded I be taken into custody before sentenced. I spent a week in  
it to wait on his decision. The judge gave me 10 years suspended 5 years of probation on my  
1st charge. My public defender promised me no jail time. Only probation, because I  
don't have no involvement in this case, and the 3 guys were caught with possession of stolen  
cars. Am in prison writing the South Carolina Court of Appeals trying to  
get some of this time off my sentence. I was young when this happen, but I  
never robbed anyone in my life. Am begging to God, and the Court of Appeals  
to help me out just a little bit. Am only in prison 5 months for me. I  
was a working young man even when I got charged, and going to school. So  
many tears I have shed realizing my first born is going to be here am going  
to miss five years of his life. I made a bad mistake by being with the  
wrong crowd. Am asking, and praying can you take some of this time back  
for the sake of my child. I hope you people can understand and feel  
I was misrepresented, and tricked to plea guilty. Prison is no place for  
me, but am making it work am asking can you take back some time,  
or grant me freedom. Praying to the lord now hope he answers my  
prayers.

Matthew 5: 16

Let your light shine on me, so that they may see my good, and a working  
man, give glory all to the father who is in heaven.

Sincerely, S. Lepelard

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SC Court of Appeals

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