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JULY 8, 2020

SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS
PO BOX 11629
COLUMBIA, SC 29211

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JUL 13 2020
SC Court of Appeals

ATTENTION: THE HONORABLE V. CLAIRE ALLEN
DEPUTY CLERK
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

REGARDING: THE STATE, RESPONDENT V. STANLEY ALADIN, APPELLANT
APPELLATE CASE NO. 2020-000630

DEAR DEPUTY CLERK ALLEN:

YESTERDAY, JULY 7, 2020, I RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE FROM MY ATTORNEY,
MR. JONATHAN HARVEY, REGARDING AN AMENDED APPEAL FILED ON MY BEHALF
REGARDING THE SUBJECT CASE NUMBER AND ENCLOSED THEREIN. EVEN THOUGH
THIS WAS DATE STAMPED RECEIVED BY THE COURT ON APRIL 24, 2020, IT
IT WAS NOT FORWARDED TO ME UNTIL JUNE 30, 2020 ENCLOSED
WITH CORRESPONDENCE STATING THAT I HAD 20 DAYS FROM THE DATE (JUNE
30) OF HIS LETTER " TO INFORM THE COURT OF APPEALS IN WRITING OF ANY
ARGUABLE BASIS THAT ISSUES ARE PRESERVED FOR APPEAL. "

THEREFORE, I AM WRITING TO DO THE BEST I CAN WITHOUT COUNSEL TO
OUTLINE WHAT I BELIEVE ARE PERTINENT ISSUES THAT WARRANT AN APPEAL.
MY ORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MR. HARVEY DID NOT INCLUDE
APPELLANT DEFENSE. HAVING JUST RECEIVED MR. HARVEY'S CORRESPONDENCE

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YESTERDAY I HAVE LITTLE OR NO TIME TO CONTACT, MUCH LESS HIRE, ANOTHER ATTORNEY. I AM CURRENTLY AN INMATE AT THE KIRKLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE STUCK ON HOLD IN THE "RECEPTION AND EVALUATION" (RANDE) PROCESS BECAUSE OF COVID-19. AS AN RANDE INMATE I HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO PHONE CALLS WHICH I GET ONLY ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FOR 15 MINUTES EACH DAY. UNFORTUNATELY I DIDN'T RECEIVE MR. HARVEY'S CORRESPONDENCE UNTIL AFTER MY TUESDAY PHONE CALL FURTHER RESTRICTING MY TIME TO ENGAGE COUNSEL. IN ADDITION, I AM NOT ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE KIRKLAND LAW LIBRARY. SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME AND CONSIDER MY ARGUMENTS FOR AN APPEAL AS I AM SAILING IN UNCHARTED WATERS WITH NO MAP, COMPASS OR GUIDE.

TO BEGIN WITH, AT THE ADVICE OF MR. HARVEY, I PLED GUILTY IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS TO DOCKET NO. 20A-65-47-0008 AND DOCKET NO. 2018-65-47-0035 IN ORDER TO LIMIT MY EXPOSURE TO A HARSH SENTENCE. THIS REQUEST FOR AN APPEAL IS RELATIVE TO 35 ONLY. MY ATTORNEY CONVINCED ME THAT THERE WAS A RELATIVELY GOOD CHANCE THAT I COULD RECEIVE A PROBATIONARY SENTENCE, EVEN THOUGH HE NEVER PROMISED ME THAT, IF I PLED GUILTY. AT THAT TIME I WAS GOING THROUGH A TUGGY TIME EMOTIONALLY. MY MOTHER HAD JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER, SHE HAS SINCE PASSED, AND I HAVE TWO YOUNG CHILDREN AT AN IMPRESSIONABLE AGE. I JUST COULD NOT IMAGINE THEM BEING WITHOUT THEIR DADDY FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. I WANTED TO GET THIS WHOLE PROCESS BEHIND ME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. MR. HARVEY ADVISED THAT IF I PLED GUILTY AND SAVED THE STATE FROM GOING TO TRIAL THEN I WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE PROBATION OR A LIGHT SENTENCE AT WORST. WITH TIME SERVED. IT WAS BAD ADVICE. AND THEREFORE I FIND MYSELF HERE AT KIRKLAND.

WHILE HERE I ASKED MR. HARVEY TO FURNISH ME WITH THE COURT TRANSCRIPTS

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OF THE HEARING WHICH HE DID. I ALSO REQUESTED A COPY OF THE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING MY ROLE IN THE ALLEGED CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY IDENTIFIED BY SLED THAT WAS THE BASIS OF MY ARREST. UNFORTUNATELY, ACCORDING TO MR. HARVEY, HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO DISSEMINATE COPIES OF THE EVIDENCE TO ME UNDER S.G. CODE ANN. 14-7-1420(A), AS WELL AS A PROTECTIVE AGREEMENT HE SIGNED PROHIBITING HIM FROM "DISSEMINATING COPIES OF ANY STATE GRAND JURY MATERIAL TO ANYONE, INCLUDING STANLEY ALADIN.

HOWEVER, BY STUDYING THE TRANSCRIPTS I DETERMINED THAT THE STATE BASED ITS CASE PRIMARILY ON THE TESTIMONY OF A MR. LONNIE FEARS, AN INDIVIDUAL THAT SEEMED TO BE THE "KING PIN" OF A LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTY CONSPIRACY TO BUY AND SELL ILLEGAL DRUGS OVER A FOUR YEAR PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH SEVERAL PEOPLE HAD DIED DUE TO DRUG OVERDOSE. AT THE TIME OF MY HEARING MR. FEARS WAS IN CUSTODY TRYING TO NEGOTIATE CHARGES OF TRAFFICKING HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE. OTHER THAN THE EVIDENCE OF ME SHIPPING THREE PACKAGES OF MARIJUANA FROM CALIFORNIA TO FEARS, TO WHICH I ADMIT (DOCKET NO. 2019-65-47-0008); THE STATE HAS NOTHING BUT CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AT BEST. MY ATTORNEY FAILED TO ARGUE THIS.

IN FACT, DURING THE PORTION OF THE HEARING CONDUCTED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020, JUDGE LEE STATED, "SO I WANT TO HEAR EXACTLY -- I HEARD -- I HEARD FROM MR. ALADIN YESTERDAY IN HIS OWN WORDS ABOUT THE THINGS HE DID AS IT RELATES TO THE MARIJUANA AND THE METH. AND THE METH WAS A LITTLE ON THE SKETCHY SIDE," MEANING TO ME THE EVIDENCE WAS SKETCHY.

PREVIOUS TO THAT STATEMENT MR. HARVEY HAD SAID "... WE BELIEVE IF THE STATE WOULD CONSENT TO OUR MOTION TO WITHDRAW THE HEROIN PLEA, ALLOW HIM

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TO PLEAD UNDER ALFORD -- WHICH MEANS THAT HE RECOGNIZES THERE'S EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM, BUT IT ALSO AFFORDS HIM THE BENEFIT OF THIS BARGAIN. "THE COURT REPLIED, "...GENERALLY I DON'T TAKE ALFORD PLEAS," AND THEN LATER ADDED, "BUT IT'S STILL A CONVICTION, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT'S ALFORD OR NOT."

FURTHERMORE, REGARDING THE HEROIN, THE STATE BASED ITS CHARGE ON AN INSTAGRAM PAGE WHERE IT IS ALLEGED THAT "DOG FOOD" (DUG PARLANCE FOR HEROIN) IS DISCUSSED AND ON RECEIPT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED PACKAGE (SENDER IS ALSO UNIDENTIFIED) BY FEARS AND "TEMPORARILY" CONNECTED A BANK TRANSACTION ALLEGEDLY BETWEEN FEARS AND MYSELF. MY ATTORNEY FAILED TO ARGUE THIS POINT.

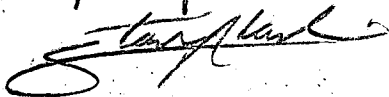
WHEN DISCUSSING THE SAME INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT, THE STATE PROSECUTOR IMPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE ACCOUNT WHEN HE STATED, "... OUR OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE DOCUMENTATION OF RECEIVING IT (THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT)." HE WENT ON FURTHER TO SAY, "WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING IT, BUT WE DID HAVE IT, AS IN IT WAS RETURNED VIA A SEARCH WARRANT. SO I WAS LOOKING AT IT LAST NIGHT." HE WENT ON TO SAY HOW VOLUMINOUS IT WAS AND HAD GIVEN A COPY TO MY COUNSELOR AND THE COURT. THE POINT IS THAT THE STATE WAS BASING THE MAJORITY OF ITS CASE ON AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT CONTAINING ALLEGED EVIDENCE THAT THE PROSECUTOR HAD NEVER SEEN. APPARENTLY NEITHER HAD MY ATTORNEY. AND YET HE FAILED TO ARGUE THIS POINT.

AS A FINAL ARGUMENT, JUDGE LEE REVIEWED MY PRIOR CONVICTIONS BEFORE SENTENCING. THERE WERE NO PRIORS FOR POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION OR TRAFFICKING METH OR HEROIN AND YET I WAS BEING CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN SECOND OFFENSE. MY ATTORNEY ADVISED ME TO PLEAD GUILTY WHICH I UNFORTUNATELY DID.

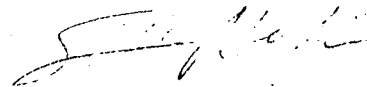
IN CONCLUSION, I BELIEVE MR. HARVEY TRULY THOUGHT THAT HE COULD CONVINCE THE STATE TO OFFER A PROBATIONARY SENTENCE IF WE ACCEPTED THE CHARGES THEREBY RELIEVING THE STATE THE BURDEN OF A TRIAL. HAVING BEEN RAISED TO RESPECT THE OPINION OF MEN WITH A HIGHER EDUCATION THAN ME, AND ESPECIALLY MEN WHO HAVE OBTAINED ADVANCED DEGREES, I TOOK HIS ADVICE. I WAS WRONG. I MADE A MISTAKE. I AM NOT GUILTY OF THE CHARGES OUTLINED IN DOCKET NO. 2018-65-47-0035. AND NEED THE CHANCE TO PROVE IT WITH PROPER LEGAL COUNSEL.

THEREFORE, I APPRECIATE THE STATE TAKING THE TIME TO CONSIDER THE AFOREMENTIONED ARGUMENTS AND GRANT THE RIGHT TO APPEAL PURSUANT TO APPELLATE CASE NO. 2020-000630.

VERY TRULY,



STANLEY ALADIN, SCDC # 382484
KIRKLAND RECEPTION AND EVALUATION CENTER; A1-23
434A BROAD RIVER RD.
COLUMBIA, SC 29210



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Post-Script :

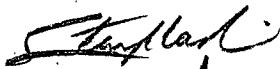
DEAR DEPUTY CLERK ALLEN :

AS I WAS RE-READING THE LETTER I REALIZED THAT BOTH THE PROSECUTOR AND MY TEAM OF ATTORNEYS STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE ALLEGED METH CONSPIRACY WAS "HASHED OUT" DURING A MEETING IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA IN SEPTEMBER OF 2017. FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 TO NOVEMBER 2018 I WAS INCARCERATED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

I BELIEVE THIS TOO SUPPORTS MY ARGUMENT THAT I WAS TRULY GIVEN BAD ADVICE BY MY ATTORNEY. HE NEVER ARGUED THIS POINT EITHER.

I APOLOGIZE FOR ADDING THIS BUT THIS THOUGHT JUST OCCURRED TO ME AND I WANTED TO GET THIS IN THE MAIL THIS EVENING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

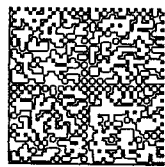

STANLEY ALADIN

STANLEY ALDIN, SCDC# 382484

KIRKLAND RECEPTION AND EVALUATION CTR.; A1-23

4344 Broad Tower Rd.

COLUMBIA, SC 29210



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ATTN: THE HONORABLE V. CLAIRE ALLEN
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

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SCDC
Christina
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