

~~Forsell Stanberry~~

Mobile, Alabama 36606 (334) 471-4547

February 11, 2001

To the Honorable Judge Ferrill D. McRae:

This letter is concerning the injustice that has been placed upon my family. My son Rodney Stanberry was convicted and has served four years of a twenty year sentence so far. The problem is, the woman who was the victim of the crime he was convicted for, falsely accused him, even after another man confessed to the crime.

She suffered from a very serious gun shot wound to the head. It's not hard to understand how she could get confused and be persuaded to accuse the person, or person's her family felt was responsible. Her first lie led to several more which later prevented the arrest and conviction of the men truly responsible. The way things look and seem take a back seat to how things actually are. I hope you agree after reading this letter.

The prosecutor, Buzz Jordan, did several things ethically wrong to get this conviction. There was physical evidence that may have contained DNA that was beneficial to the defense. This evidence which was a ski mask and gloves, mysteriously disappeared from listed evidence the police gathered. There was also a statement taken by the prosecutor that was very damaging to his case. This statement was never turned over to Rodney's attorney. How can this be ignored and overlooked? The confession was from Terrel Moore, who was on probation at the time of the crime. Moore confessed to private investigator; Ryan Russell in 1992, the prosecutor in 1993, and to state probation officer; Alonzo Lewis in 1995, after my son's trial. On top of that, two witnesses placed Moore and his vehicle at the crime scene. A third witness testified that Moore gave him the stolen items from the victims home to hide. So when it comes to justice, where do we draw the line?

Moore confessed for one reason only, to save his hide by making a deal with the police against his accomplice. The prosecutor claimed Moore did this for financial gain. This was an insult to your intelligence. If Moore had known that the prosecutor was only targeting my son, he would have never made the incriminating statements that he did. When the police first started investigating the case, they allowed speculation to get out of hand, that fouled up their ability to see the facts that didn't agree with their theory. Human error that you have the power to correct, Judge McRae.

I saw the pre-election TV ads that ran against you, you know exactly how it feels when someone is willing to do or say anything in order to bring you down. Please don't allow them to sweep this under your bench, your reputation doesn't allow it. Two facts still remain. The district attorney's office will never admit fault or petition you to release my son. So it is solely up to you, please stand up for what is right.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Earsell Stanberry

P.S. I have enclosed the letter Rodney sent you this past summer, just in case you did not receive it. Please look into it.