

To: Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles

Hello, my name is Larry Garlington,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my brother, Dr. Ernest Garlington. My intentions are to express heartfelt but honest facts about Ernest, facts that I've found to be inspiring and helpful to me and to many others.

Although Ernest is my brother, I don't feel that I'm biased in my observations. I am eight years his senior and have observed him over the years from a privileged vantage point. He's not changed; in that, he's always had empathy for others, been mature beyond his years and has always had what some would call a "presence". The one to whom your eyes would naturally drift during conversation, even as a youngster. I think that many of these attributes or traits are natural gifts from God but are also due to our upbringing and the way in which we were raised.

The interesting and compelling point here is that; while many people were raised in environments in which positive reinforcements were abundant, and while many people are blessed with gifts from God; what sets Ernest apart and makes me so very proud is what he's chosen to do with said blessings.

Many of us think grandiose thoughts but very few execute in a way that is efficient and above all, reliable. Ernest has taken full advantage of the added time he's had these past years, to think and to devise a plan (TVS Project) that I truly believe is groundbreaking. It is one that will ultimately reduce recidivism, and one that will boost morale individually and have far reaching benefits in various communities and households around the country. And to think that his inspiration has come from the fact that he so very much wants to improve the plight of others, while he himself is incarcerated! He's turning a horrible negative into a victory. A triumph! His resilience is amazing, and contagious. That presence that I spoke of; I believe, contributes to calming tensions, perhaps in situations where violence may have been the preferred method. His intent is to help change a culture by setting a real, visual example of what inmates can aspire to. He's respected, and with good reason.

When I look back on his career, spent mostly in the neighborhood in which he was raised, and think of all the children, adults, young and old, he's impacted, I am most impressed with what he's done in these last four years of his life. I don't want to say that he was meant to go through this because it's not what I want to believe. I do not understand, necessarily, how God works;

but Ernest has been placed in an environment, an environment in which he is literally surrounded by people who are in dire need of what he has to offer. His empathy, maturity and patience, has allowed him to not only survive, but to prosper in thought and deed. I've always thought the world of him, but this experience will in many ways, make him a better, stronger and more insightful man. I believe he's earned the opportunity to finish on the outside what he's started on the inside. We'll all be better for it. He's not a threat to society, society will benefit.

I know there are nights when he hurts, when he misses his family, but he utilizes that God given ability, and is able to transfer any negative energy or sadness into fuel for goodness, in the morning. I am not surprised though, it's what he's always done.



Larry Garlington, 2/14/12

Subscribed + sworn to before me this
14th day of February, 2012 at
Waterbury, CT.

Madellaina Di Bona

MADELLAINA DIBONA
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2015

January 30, 2012

Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole

Re: Dr. Ernest Garlington
Clemency Petition

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of the clemency petition filed on behalf of Dr. Ernest Garlington. I have known Dr. Garlington and his family for three years. While my acquaintance with him has been relatively short, his life, his example of living and his spiritual guidance has had a profound effect on me. I cannot more highly encourage this Board to grant the petition of this very worthy man.

I feel that a bit of information regarding my professional background might be helpful. I have been a practicing attorney, licensed in the state of Massachusetts since 1982. From 1986 to 1990 I was counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Correction. During that period of time, the vast majority of my duties were to defend the Commissioner of Correction and various Department employees in lawsuits filed by inmates. It would not be inaccurate to state that the bulk of these lawsuits were frivolous, and filed merely to make trouble and expense for the Department. Many of these lawsuits sprang out of disciplinary matters in which inmates were sanctioned in various ways for rule infractions ranging from the very minor to the very serious, including attempts on the lives of Department employees.

Since leaving the Department of Correction, I have engaged in my own private practice, the majority of which is devoted to criminal defense. As would be expected, many of the clients I represent are held pending trial, and some end up being incarcerated post trial. Unfortunately, many of these clients commit new offenses while incarcerated, and certainly do not take advantage of the many opportunities given to rehabilitate themselves.

In short, I feel I have witnessed many individuals who have been an extremely negative influence while incarcerated. I give the information above to highlight the fact that Dr. Ernest Garlington is the antithesis of the many inmates I have encountered in my work. Rather than being a negative influence in his time in prison, Dr. Garlington has taken every opportunity to better the lives of those around him and to better the system itself. This has been exemplified through his work in creating and organizing such programs as a bible study group, the "Roots of a Man" workshop based upon his own book, the "College Versus Prison" education program designed to help inmates better themselves by working toward a college education, the children's book drive and the "Reading Between the Bars" program designed to strengthen the bonds between inmates and their children at home. I feel it is important to note that all of these initiatives by Dr.

Garlington came about before the recent changes to the clemency process which made his petition possible. Certainly each of these programs represents a sincere effort on the part of Dr. Garlington to help those around him and the system itself independent from any motivation to help himself.

Moreover, Dr. Garlington's good works while in prison are consistent with and a continuation of the exemplary life he lived before his incarceration. As a young man, he was a standout student both in the classroom and on the athletic field. He attended the College of the Holy Cross on a football scholarship where he continued to pile up honors both for his scholarly work and his exploits as a member of two national football championship teams. He then went on to earn both a Masters Degree and a Doctorate in the field of Christian Counseling. In his professional career he has devoted himself to helping individuals and families live a better life. He mentored youth in his community through his work as a coach for local teams including at the exclusive Westminster School, and as a motivational speaker. To help strengthen families, he conducted workshops and couple's retreats. He has consulted with and assisted local agencies, schools, corporations, colleges and universities. He is the founder of Christian Warrior International, a merchandising firm whose mission is to foster a greater awareness of God's presence and power in the lives of all. He has also collaborated with various mental health and counseling services. There is no doubt in my mind that, were this Board to grant his petition for clemency, Dr. Garlington would hit the ground running again and continue his many good works in the community.

I have reviewed the entire transcript of the trial which led to Dr. Garlington's incarceration. It strikes me that, while the trial judge acted within the statutory guidelines, the sentence of commitment for thirty three years imposed upon Dr. Garlington was extremely harsh. This is especially so given the fact that Dr. Garlington had no previous criminal record, had lived a model life leading up to the trial and that, at worst, the victim of the crimes charged suffered no more than minor injuries. As a criminal defense attorney, I am especially dismayed that Dr. Garlington's counsel presented no witnesses and never introduced any evidence on his behalf. It is my understanding that there were any number of persons willing to testify on behalf of Dr. Garlington, yet no defense was presented. I find this extraordinary given what I see as the many flaws in the state's case and the stakes involved.

I have had the opportunity many times over the last several years to visit with Dr. Garlington. Even though I visit him in the hopes of raising and maintaining his spirits, I often go to see him weighed down by various aspects of my professional and personal life. Invariably, I find myself being the person supported and spiritually uplifted by these visits. I have never known any other individual more positive about his situation and more prepared to make the best of his circumstances. I am constantly amazed by his mental and spiritual strength and his ability to convey that strength and to pass it along to myself and others. It certainly strikes me that if Dr. Garlington is able to do all of these many good works under the difficult conditions of incarceration, there should be no limit to the benefit he can be to society were he to be granted clemency.

I cannot more strongly urge this Board to consider and grant his petition for clemency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours.

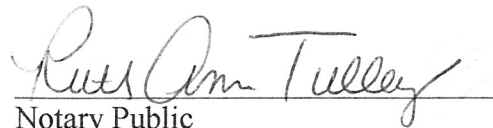


Donald J. Bongiovi, Esq.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, ss.

On January 30, 2012 personally appeared DONALD J. BONGIOVI and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed before me.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: JUNE 16TH 2017

February 17, 2012

Pardon Unit
Board of Pardons and Paroles
55 West Main Street, Suite 520
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Board of Pardons and Paroles,

My name is Melvin Boone and I am a retired New York detective who worked undercover for over 20 years, focusing on investigating and arresting criminals, serving and protecting society. I am also an ordained minister who is devoted to serving God's people and my community. In addition, I am owner of a private security business. In all of these capacities, I have a connection to Dr. Ernest Garlington and I am respectfully and strongly requesting that the Board of Pardons and Paroles grant him clemency.

As a private detective, I worked with Attorney Donald Bonjiovi in investigating the facts of the case involving Dr. Ernest Garlington. In this capacity, I interviewed Willie Foote, the star witness against Dr. Garlington. I have a sworn affidavit by me of my conversation with Mr. Foote that indicates his remorse regarding his testimony. Mr. Foote describes being threatened and harassed by the detectives who took his statement implicating Dr. Garlington. In addition, I interviewed LaTone James who had been incarcerated in the same cell as Mr. Foote. Mr. James was adamant that Mr. Foote returned from court after testifying against Dr. Garlington stating that he was "lying in order to get a sentence reduction." I also interviewed Torrance Battle and he totally recanted his statement that was given to detectives as a confidential informant. Mr. Battle further indicated that he had refused to testify in court because he did not want to perjure himself. Clearly these statements strongly indicate how Dr. Garlington was wrongly accused and unjustly incarcerated.

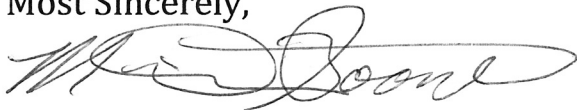
As a minister, I have been greatly impressed by Dr. Garlington's unwavering Christian faith, insight and devotion to helping others. His vision of Christian Warrior International and the projects that he has developed while incarcerated are nothing short of miraculous and are consistent with the man I know. Being able to encourage positive behaviors in his fellow inmates is very rewarding to Dr. Garlington. Strengthening father-child(ren) bonds is

critical in strengthening families and empowering youth to excel academically. Dr. Garlington has allowed God to guide him in being able to make crooked paths straight. What people may have meant for bad, Dr. Garlington has allowed God to use for good.

As a business owner, I would be honored to have Dr. Garlington work with me when he is released. His intellect, drive and dedication would be an asset to any corporation or business establishment. I reviewed the research and project development related to his TVS project and it is extraordinary. This type of business development is clearly incredible, especially being done while incarcerated.

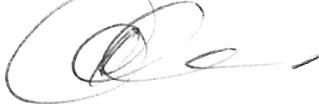
In closing, I want to reiterate that I have seen and facilitated the incarceration of many criminals. I see Dr. Garlington's character and he is not one of them and does not belong in prison. I am steadfast about my assessment and perspective and am strongly requesting the Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant clemency for Dr. Garlington.

Most Sincerely,



Melvin Boone

KIRK X WILSON
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Nassau County
No. 01w16160325
Commision Expires February 05, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF MELVIN BOONE

I, Melvin Boone, hereby state:

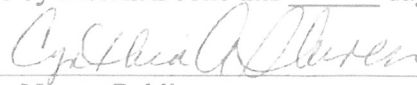
1. I am a retired Nassau County, New York Police Detective. I am currently a private investigator for Anchor Security Investigations, Incorporated based in West Hempstead, New York.
2. On April 8, 2011, I conducted an interview of Willie Foote. Mr. Foote identified himself as the individual who was a witness for the prosecution in the matter of State of Connecticut v. Ernest C. Garlington, Superior Court Judicial Department of Middlesex at Middletown, Connecticut Docket Number CR05-0173818.
3. Prior to initiating said interview, I advised Mr. Foote that I have retained by Ernest Garlington, the defendant in the above entitled matter. I further advised Mr. Foote that my stated purpose in interviewing him was to obtain information which would be submitted to the Superior Court Judicial Department of Middlesex at Middletown, Connecticut in an effort to obtain a new trial for Ernest Garlington.
4. Mr. Foote stated to me that he was aware that he would have a privilege under the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution to not testify in a new trial of Ernest Garlington.
5. Mr. Foote further stated that were he to be summoned as a witness for the prosecution in a new trial against Ernest C. Garlington, he would invoke his privilege against self incrimination pursuant to the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution and decline to testify against Ernest Garlington.
6. Mr. Foote made all of the above statement freely and voluntarily and was not given or promised any consideration for his statements.
7. I understand that this Affidavit will be submitted to the Court in an effort to obtain a new trial for Ernest Garlington.

SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY THIS 15th DAY OF April, 2011.

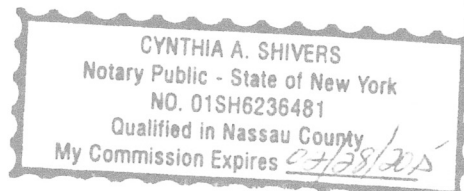

MELVIN BOONE

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NASSAU

Subscribed to, and acknowledged before me by Melvin Boone this 15 day of April, 2011.


Notary Public

My commission expires 02/28/2015



AFFIDAVIT OF LATONE JAMES

I, Latone James, hereby state:

1. I am currently incarcerated in the Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown, Connecticut.
2. Previously, I was incarcerated at the MacDougall Correctional Institution in Suffield, CT. During the time of my incarceration there, I was a cellmate of Willie Foote. We were cellmates from 2006 to 2008.
3. I knew Willie Foote from the time we were growing up together in Waterbury, CT.
4. Willie Foote told me that he was involved in a criminal case involving a defendant named "Ernie".
5. Several times Willie Foote was taken from our cell in the early morning hours to go to court to testify against Ernie.
6. Initially, when I asked Willie Foote what the case involved, he told me it concerned child support.
7. Later Willie Foote told me that he was "snitching" on a guy named Ernie.
8. When I asked Willie Foote about it, he told me that he had to "do what he had to do" and that he was lying in his testimony against Ernie.
9. Willie Foote stated that he felt bad because he had lied about Ernie being involved in a shooting.
10. Willie Foote further said that his girlfriend was encouraging him to do whatever he had to do to keep her out of trouble and in order to get a deal the police were offering him which involved getting time taken off his sentence. He stated he had to lie against Ernie so that he could get out of jail.
11. Willie Foote further stated that the police had gotten him involved and were making him "snitch" against Ernie.
12. Willie Foote further said that in order to get a lighter sentence he told the authorities that Ernie was there and was behind the shooting incident, but that it was not true.
13. I learned several weeks later that "Ernie" was Ernest Garlington.
14. I am prepared to testify to the above statement under oath in open court.

15. I have not been given or promised any consideration for this Affidavit.
16. I understand that this Affidavit will be submitted to the Court in an effort to obtain a new trial for Ernest Garlington.

SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY THIS 4th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2011.


LATONE JAMES

WITNESSED BY:


ATTORNEY DONALD BONGIOVI

AFFIDAVIT OF TORRANCE BATTLE

I, Torrance Battle, hereby state:

1. I am currently incarcerated at the MacDougall Correctional Institution in Suffield, CT.
2. I am familiar with both Willie Foote and Ernest Garlington. I have known both men from the time we were growing up together in Waterbury, CT.
3. On January 27, 2004 I gave a statement to the Waterbury Police Department in which I implicated Ernest Garlington in a plot with Willie Foote to commit an assault and battery against Garlington's wife's ex-husband. I further stated that Ernest Garlington was involved in a plot with Willie Foote to shoot his wife's ex-husband. This statement was not true. I never had and have no knowledge of Ernest Garlington being involved in either incident. I was never aware of any arrangements between Willie Foote and Ernest Garlington to commit any criminal acts.
4. On June 5, 2006 I was interviewed by Inspector Mark Miele regarding the same incidents. Again, I implicated Ernest Garlington in a plot with Willie Foote to commit an assault and battery against his wife's ex-husband. I further stated that Ernest Garlington was involved in a plot with Willie Foote to shoot his wife's ex-husband. This statement was not true. I never had and have no knowledge of Ernest Garlington being involved in either incident. I was never aware of any arrangements between Willie Foote and Ernest Garlington to commit any criminal acts.

MY JUNE 5, 2006 STATEMENT WAS
TB
TB
TB
5. ~~Both of the above referenced statements were~~ prepared in advance for me by my then attorney. It was my understanding that ~~both~~^{THAT} statements would be given to the authorities in exchange for a deal on my pending criminal charges. I gave ~~these~~^{IS} false statements^{is} in the hope of getting a better deal on my pending criminal charges. However, I never received any benefit as a result of my statements.

6. It is my understanding that Willie Foote testified in the criminal trial against Ernest Garlington. At that trial Willie Foote testified that he took an automobile ride with me and Ernest Garlington to look for locations to commit an assault against his wife's ex-husband. (Transcript, November 6, 2007 p. 132) * This is not true and never occurred. I was never present during any such ride nor did I witness any such conversations.

7. It is my understanding that Willie Foote testified that almost immediately after the first assault against Ernest Garlington's wife's ex-husband he saw me

coming out of a park. Foote testified that I asked him "was the job done" and spoke to me for seven to ten minutes. (Transcript, November 6, 2007 p. 189 - 190) This is not true and never occurred.

8. It is my understanding that Willie Foote testified that on August 13, 2002 he was at home when Ernest Garlington came to his home and told Foote that he wanted his wife's ex-husband killed. Foote testified that I was present at that meeting and agreed to participate in a plot to kill the ex-husband. (Transcript, November 6, 2007 p. 206 et seq) This is not true and never occurred. I was never present at any such meeting nor did I witness any such conversation.
9. It is my understanding that Willie Foote testified that he took an automobile ride with myself and Ernest Garlington to look for locations to kill his wife's ex-husband. (Transcript, November 6, 2007 p. 211 et seq) This is not true and never occurred. I was never present during any such ride nor did I witness any such conversations.
10. It is my understanding that Willie Foote testified that sometime before May 21, 2003 he ran into Ernest Garlington at a gas station. At that time Ernest Garlington asked Foote when he was going to get the job (i.e. killing his wife's ex-husband) done. Foote testified that I was present at that meeting. (Transcript, November 6, 2007 p. 217) This is not true and never occurred. I was never present at any such meeting nor did I witness any such conversation
11. I am prepared to testify to the above statement under oath in open court.
12. I have not been given or promised any consideration for this Affidavit.
13. I understand that this Affidavit will be submitted to the Court in an effort to obtain a new trial for Ernest Garlington.

SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY THIS 4th DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2011.



TORRANCE BATTLE

WITNESSED BY:


ATTORNEY DONALD BONGIOVI

* ALL TRANSCRIPT REFERENCES HAVE BEEN ADDED BY COUNSEL

February 18, 2012

Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole
55 West Main Street, Suite 520
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Board Members:

I am writing this letter to urge you to grant clemency for Ernest Garlington. I have been friends with Ernest Garlington's wife, Darlene, since we attended graduate school together. I met Ernest, Ernie, through Darlene. I worked in the financial services industry for over twenty-five years, including ten years as VP, Director of Wealth Management Training and Development for The Bank of New York. I am currently an Independent Consultant. I spend a great deal of my time volunteering, for example, teaching professional skills classes in a downtown NYC high school, and chairing my son's Boy Scout Troop Committee. I tell you this because in these positions I have met and worked with individuals at all levels, from file clerks to CEOs, and from all walks of life. No one has ever impressed me in the way Ernest Garlington has.

Although we're not related, we are family. I am in awe of the way Darlene, Ernie, and my niece and nephew, Dotti and DJay, have persevered under circumstances that others, including myself, would have buckled completely. Dotti works in a day treatment program in schools and is finishing a masters in school psychology. She's inspired by her dad's commitment to working with youth. It started early when Ernie took her to work with him and she volunteered her time with foster children. DJay is graduating this year with honors in broadcast journalism. He is mature beyond his years. Darlene has an inner strength that enables her to shoulder all of this with grace and calm. They are so supportive of each other. Yet they each credit Ernest with inspiring them and giving them the strength to persevere.

I understand this because my family and I have had the good fortune to have Ernie in our lives. The man I have come to know could not have done what he's been accused of. He has a quiet strength about him, yet he's gentle too. I remember when Darlene and Ernie invited my mother, my son and I to stay with them for the weekend. My mother was 86 at the time, her health was failing, she was frail, and irascible. To say that she disliked everything and everyone is an understatement. There were many times during the weekend that I lost my patience with her, but Ernie never did. He was gentle, kind, and doted on her. He had long conversations with her. She adored him and lit up whenever he walked into the room! Her demeanor and personality changed noticeably after spending time with him. She talked about that weekend and Ernie in particular, frequently until she passed away only a few months later. I will be forever grateful to him for giving her such a loving memory and helping her find peace.

Ernie has also been an inspiration and mentor to my teenage son, Richard. When Richard was 15, he spent his winter break with the Garlingtons. At that time, he played the trombone in the school band and each year was required to be evaluated playing a solo piece in the statewide NYSSMA program. Like many boys at that age, all he wanted to do was play video games. As a single parent, getting him to do homework, much less practice the trombone, was an ongoing struggle for me. That week, his Uncle Ernie motivated him to practice his trombone to prepare for the adjudication by giving Richard his undivided attention. Ernie was patient, kind and encouraging while he sat with Richard and listened to him practice

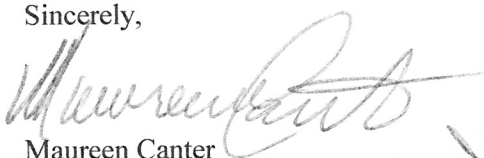
the same song over and over and over until Richard played it perfectly. Richard scored 99 out of 100 that year. That experience is one that Richard refers to frequently. He remembers and quotes the things his Uncle Ernie shared with him about dedicated practice, working hard and not squandering the gifts that God gives us. To this day I can ask Richard, "what would your Uncle Ernie think of what you just said or did?" That is enough to inspire Richard to do better. He is now a freshman in college and is working hard to make his Uncle Ernie proud of him.

I am extremely blessed to be Ernest Garlington's friend. Even in prison he is a compassionate source of strength for me and for others. I am thankful to be on his visitor's list. I say this because visiting him lifts MY spirits every time. He is the model of forbearance, always upbeat and positive. His faith in God and the innate goodness of his fellow man is unwavering. He never criticizes or complains. Inevitably, our conversations move from what's happening with my family to what can be done to help the other inmates. What he has done while he has been in prison is nothing short of amazing. It confirms my belief in who he is. He continues to give to others through teaching and bible study. His TVS University proposal is brilliant! It will rehabilitate inmates and improve their employment prospects, thereby reducing recidivism. In the process, it will benefit the community at large, taxpayers and students. The "Reading Through the Bars" component of the project will aid not only the prisoners, but their children as well. I leave him feeling uplifted and motivated not only to do more to support his proposal, but to volunteer my time to support my local charitable community events. He inspires me and makes me believe that I can help to make the world a better place for others.

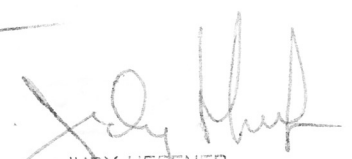
This case was a travesty of justice. Not only do I firmly believe in Dr. Garlington's innocence, but the 33 year sentence imposed was unconscionable! I believe the connections between various parties in the case influenced the outcome, and the sentence imposed. They fueled the extensive media coverage of the case, as well as the negative way they portrayed Dr. Garlington, especially by the Hartford Courant. Their staff writer covering this story, Alaine Griffin, was pulled from the story when her conflict of interest and the resultant bias in favor of the prosecuting attorney and the alleged victim evident in all of her articles was brought to the attention of the publisher by me. Dr. Garlington's true compassionate nature and character were never highlighted. This is a devoted family man who served his community tirelessly. He was never in trouble with the law. The alleged victim in the case wasn't hurt. Murderers and rapists receive less time. I read a recent article about The Texas Cheerleader's Mom case, in which the mother pled guilty. As a comparison, she was released after only 6 months in prison! There is no justification for a 33 year sentence in this case. It serves no purpose. Dr. Garlington did nothing to be punished for. Nor is he a man who needs to be rehabilitated. He is a man who can and is doing so much to rehabilitate others.

Ernie's family, friends and the community are being deprived of a good man. What he has been able to achieve to help others while in prison is just a fraction of what he could achieve if released. If there is any person that deserves to be granted clemency, it is Dr. Ernest Garlington.

Sincerely,



Maureen Canter



JUDY HEEFNER
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 4721915
Qualified in Nassau County
Certificate Filed in Nassau County
Term Expires 1-23-14

2/18/14

February 8, 2008
3773 Charlotte Ct.
Seaford, NY 11783

RE: Alaine Griffin, Staff Writer

Stephen D. Carver
Publisher
Hartford Courant
285 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06115

Dear Mr. Carver:

I am writing to express my extreme indignation at the Hartford Courant's coverage of the Ernest Garlington trial. I have been following the story on-line since October 2005, and the latest article on February 6, 2008 was the final straw for me. Just as the media is required to give equal time to political candidates in both parties, the job of a *NEWS* reporter is to report details in a fair and unbiased manner. From the outset, the staff writer covering this story, Alaine Griffin, has done just the opposite. Her bias in favor of the prosecuting attorney and the alleged victim has been evident in all of her articles. Curious as to her potential motives, I did some research on her, and discovered that she has a major conflict of interest in this case. I can't remain silent any longer. As demonstrated by the way Ms. Griffin has reported the case, she should be pulled from the story, and replaced with another writer.

Ms. Griffin sensationalized this case from the beginning, emphasizing alleged torrid details about the parties involved, without fact checking or providing counterpoint. For example, early on, she reported Mr. Garlington's profession as psychologist, but changed it to counselor later, only after being corrected by a reader. Whenever Ms. Griffin did present something positive about Mr. Garlington and his family, it was a mere sentence or two about him being a mentor to youth in the community. There were few, if any, quotes from his supporters. On the flip side, she always presented the alleged victim in a very sympathetic light, repeatedly quoting him, his family, friends, and even the prosecutor, about their ongoing "fear for their personal safety." Sensationalizing a story is upsetting in and of itself, but, unfortunately, it appears to be the direction most of the media is going today. What is much more disturbing is the biased approach Ms. Griffin took in reporting the trial itself.

There was an article nearly every day over the course of the 2 week trial. In every one, Ms. Griffin:

- Focused on the prosecuting attorney's version of the facts in the case, and his questioning of the witnesses,
- Frequently quoted Russell Zentner, the prosecutor, providing details that supported his quotes
- Described the reactions of the alleged victim and his family
- Referenced the person who was convicted and sentenced for shooting the alleged victim
- Mentioned the huge bail imposed on Mr. Garlington
- Gave short shrift to the accused side of the story, e.g., typically only a sentence or two about the defense attorney's cross examination of witnesses, opening or closing remarks, etc.

From this, the readers of your paper couldn't help but presume that Mr. Garlington is guilty, as she didn't present both sides evenly.

This latest article, on February 6th, was more of the same. Ms. Griffin quoted Mr. Zentner as saying, "The victim in this case is very dismayed about how long it's taking from verdict to sentencing." She quoted the judge, Patrick J. Clifford, as having asked the new defense counsel Jeffrey Denner, "if he could 'tailor' his request for the transcript, questioning whether Denner needed a transcript of the entire trial, including jury selection." She then quoted Mr. Denner's response, "I don't mean to be difficult to the court," and the fact that he declined to elaborate on his need for the entire transcript. She also quoted the original defense attorney as saying the case was "full of gaps." At no time has she ever told the reader what those "gaps" were, though I am sure Mr. Dow outlined them in his closing argument. This latest article served yet again to portray the defense attorney, and by extension, the accused, in a negative light.

Consequently, I decided to "Google" Ms. Griffin and ascertain if there is anything in her background or affiliations that might explain why she is so sympathetic to the prosecution. Imagine my consternation to discover that she not only sat on a task force with the presiding judge in this case, Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Clifford, but on an eight member sub-committee as well. (I have enclosed a copy of the Public Access Task Force Committee Member List. Link to the site is <http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/PublicAccess/>) I don't have an argument per se with a reporter networking in this manner, as long as that reporter is able to put aside the affiliation to remain objective in his/her reporting. As I have outlined here, Ms. Griffin has not been able to do so. In fact, I would argue that her articles give the impression that, at a minimum, she is attempting to curry favor with the judge and prosecutor, by portraying them and their version of the facts in the most positive light.

It would be an outrage if the Hartford Courant, a Pulitzer Prize winning paper, allows this to continue. It is grossly unfair to Mr. Garlington to be tried in the media in this manner. In addition, I am sure you would agree that the reputational risk to your paper is enormous. The Hartford Courant's illustrious heritage would be forever tarnished if this were to become public. Therefore, I repeat my assertion that Alaine Griffin should be removed from this story, and replaced with another writer who has no connection to any of the parties involved in the case.

I am sending this letter to you, Bonnie Phillips and Joe O'Brien, Bureau Chiefs of the Middletown News, as well as to Andrew Julien and Lynne DeLucia, editors of the Hartford City and Town News Desks respectively, as I am unsure which of you has the ultimate responsibility and authority to pull Ms. Griffin from the story. I trust that the next article that appears about the Ernest Garlington trial will have a different by-line.

Yours truly,


Maureen Canter

Cc: Stephen D. Carver
Joe O'Brien
Andrew Julien
Lynne DeLucia

Enc.

January 19, 2012

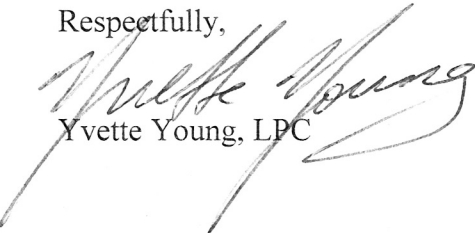
Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole
55 West Main Street, Suite 520
Waterbury, CT 06702

To whom it may concern,

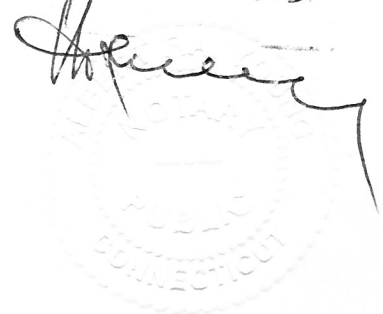
This letter is to serve as a character reference for Dr. Ernest C. Garlington. I can directly attest to the kind, generous, and compassionate nature of Dr. Garlington. A few years ago, my car, and wallet got stolen from my job. Dr. Garlington did not know me at the time but I was receiving my clinical supervision from his wife Dr. Darlene Garlington. She had informed Dr. Garlington of my situation and during a retreat at her home that week he bought a bouquet of flowers for me and shared a few words of wisdom with me. I was overwhelmed by his act of kindness because he went out of his way to show compassion towards an individual he did not know. His gesture appeared to be a natural part of his persona. I had the opportunity to witness his interaction with his family on this occasion and at a community event, and was left feeling that he was a committed husband and father.

I was shocked when I heard the news that he was accused of ordering an attack on another human being. The allegation made against him is not aligned with his character. In my opinion, Dr. Garlington is a gracious human being, and I think it is a travesty that he and his family have had to endure such an ordeal by his incarceration. I believe Dr. Garlington deserves clemency based on his current and previous work towards the betterment of our society. His current work to enhance the literacy, spirituality, and character of the inmates in Garner Correctional Facility, further highlights his commitment to uplifting the life of others. His release from prison will allow him more opportunities to serve those in need. Through his work Dr. Garlington has demonstrated that he is not a criminal but a humanitarian, and therefore should be given the opportunity to return to his family and his community. It is my sincere hope that you grant Dr. Garlington clemency as it is the right decision to make.

Respectfully,


Yvette Young, LPC

Albert F.A. Young
Notary Public
My Commission Expires
June 30, 2008-2013



Eileen Harris
217 Loop Drive
Sayville, NY 11782

February 10, 2012

Pardon Unit
Board of Pardons and Paroles
55 West Main Street, Suite 520
Waterbury, CT 06702

As strange as this sounds, I have never met Dr. Ernest Garlington, nor do I live in the Connecticut area. Yet, he and his family have had a tremendous impact on my life.

I made the acquaintance of Dr. Darlene Powell Garlington through business. Since we are both quite outgoing, we quickly became friends and thereafter I had the privilege of meeting their children. Darlene and I never really discussed her husband's case in length since it was obvious that it was wreaking havoc in her family's life.

I began to follow Dr. Ernest Garlington's criminal case by reading the Hartford Courant simply because, at first, it intrigued me. However, as time went on I realized that there was something terribly wrong with the entire proceedings. Many things did not add up and it appeared that the media was having a field day, particularly since this was a "juicy" story about wealthy, educated professionals, "possible" adultery, "possible jealousy", "possible" hire-for-murder - all "possibles", not necessarily facts. To a reporter, this was a story made for big by-lines and possible television/movie rights.

The apparent injustice of the entire trial, and the fine character of the Garlington family, led me to offer my support to the family, and in turn, to Ernie. As a graphic artist, I was able to offer my services to help in supporting the numerous projects conceived by Ernie. Naturally, because of the type of people they are, the Garlingtons wanted to contract my services. However, I felt so strongly, as I continue to feel, about Ernie's unwavering commitment to the betterment of others, that I have donated all of my services, as well as any resources I have in the graphic arts/printing field, to assist in making and watching his contributions to children, as well as fellow inmates, come to fruition.

In my 27 years of business, I have **never** had more satisfaction working on projects than at this time. Ernie's complex projects have motivated me to learn more in my field, as well as, expand the services I previously offered. His commitment to serving others, despite his present predicament, has enabled me to put my own problems in perspective. Suddenly, small things in my life no longer take on great importance; spiritually, I've grown watching Ernie and his family pray for others while their own lives have been so disrupted; I've had the privilege of recently receiving one of the very

few letters he has written, offering his condolences, as well as his prayers, for the loss of my father; and emotionally I've changed by watching a family, torn apart, yet committed to one another. The support and love they offer each other is seldom seen in a family nowadays, never mind in a separated family who has faced such challenges. The resiliency and success of the Garlington family, as well as the diverse backgrounds of those helping/supporting Ernie are a testament to his fine character. He is a humble, religious, sincere, talented, educated, appreciative, strong man who needs to be living and working in his community again.

If Dr. Ernest Garlington is not granted clemency, it will be society's loss, not his. His incarceration has done nothing to diminish his belief in himself, in his family nor in others of our society. He has already proven that despite his circumstances, he will continue to work for the betterment of people - both inside and outside of his correctional facility.

I look forward to the day that I meet this fine gentleman and watch as he and his family re-unite.

Thank you,

Eileen Harris