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November 17, 1995

Ms. Margaret Quick  
Chairperson  
D.C. Board of Parole  
300 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Parole Interview for Joseph Wayne Eastridge  
(Inmate No. 179-164) -- Lorton Minimum Security  
Facility, Lorton, Virginia

Dear Ms. Quick:

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering represents Joseph Wayne Eastridge on a pro bono basis, with respect to his 1976 first-degree murder conviction in United States v. Eastridge, No. 53483-75 (D.C. Sup. Ct.).

On April 7, 1995, we filed on behalf of Eastridge a Motion to Vacate Convictions and Request for Evidentiary Hearing with the D.C. Superior Court (a copy of which is enclosed with this letter). The Petition presents substantial evidence not available at trial which establishes that Eastridge and two of his codefendants (Nick Sousa and Michael Diamen) are innocent of the murder for which they were convicted. In light of the fact that Eastridge will be interviewed for parole in the near future, I thought it important that you be aware of the new evidence that has been uncovered by Centurion Ministries (a public interest organization dedicated to seeking relief for the imprisoned innocent) during their five-year investigation of the matter.

The newly-available evidence outlined in the Petition includes:

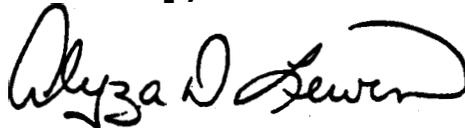
- New testimony establishing that Eastridge, Sousa and Diamen were not at the site of the stabbing, including the testimony of John Gianaris, a previously undiscovered eyewitness, who has stated in a sworn affidavit that there were no more than four men present during the attack on Battle, and that the car in which Eastridge, Sousa and Diamen were stopped and arrested was never at the scene of the stabbing;

- A sworn statement by Stephen Jones, another codefendant, in which he exonerates Sousa, Eastridge and Diamen, confesses to the crime, recants his contrary trial testimony, and identifies individuals other than Sousa, Eastridge and Diamen as the actual murderers.
- Statements from ten witnesses refuting Dorothy Willetts' key testimony at trial in which Willetts alleged that Sousa and Eastridge had admitted to committing the murder. All ten of the individuals listed by Willetts as present at these "confessions," claim the alleged admissions never happened.
- Affidavits from three witnesses, Michael Grayson, Raymond Lurz, Jr. and Richard Richter, identifying six separate occasions during which two of the actual murderers -- John Woods and Charles Jennings -- confessed to the crime, declared Sousa, Eastridge and Diamen to be innocent, and identified themselves and Chesley Barber as the real murderers.

The Petition also presents several legal grounds supporting vacation of Sousa's sentence, including: (1) the absence at trial of newly discovered evidence of his innocence; (2) the prosecution's use of race-based peremptory challenges during jury selection; (3) the violation of Sousa's constitutional right to introduce evidence of his innocence (including a bar against evidence implicating co-defendants); (4) ineffective assistance of defense counsel; and (5) potential government misconduct.

Nick Sousa, ~~Wayne~~ Eastridge and Michael Diamen have been incarcerated for over 19 years for a murder that the evidence shows they did not commit. I am enclosing a copy of the Petition and accompanying exhibits so that you may review all of the facts when evaluating Sousa's parole eligibility.

Sincerely,



Alyza D. Lewin