

8-6-14

Dear Ms./Mrs. Gasina,

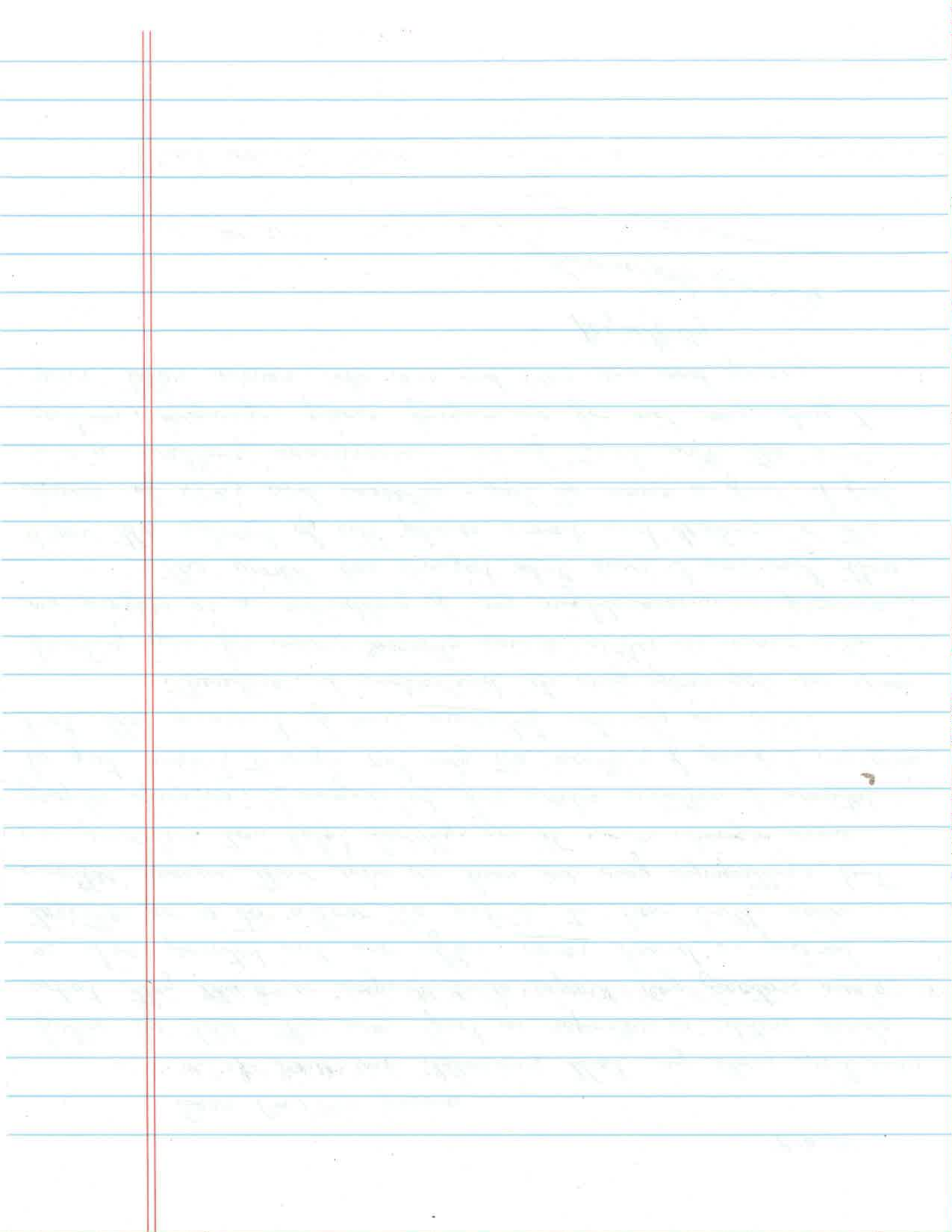
I have no delusions that my story will ever fully be told this way. Just as reporters or editors decide what they think is important to report. Key factors such as I've pointed out are often never heard or pieced together so as to allow the public to hear both sides... another reason those who do hear me may sympathize, but are powerless to help! Sadly, you'll never change some peoples opinions. I agonized for weeks whether I wanted to put myself through not only the recalling of painful memories, but the prospect of any unwanted notoriety in here!

Therefore, I understand it's only your job so I'm trusting you - for now. Basically you're either an answer to my prayers or a rekindling of my nightmares... no pressure!!

The world has changed alot since I was out there. From the advent of cell phones, e-mail, and texting. To the demise of VCR's and cassettes - just to name a few. I feel like a walking "anachronism" out of touch with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Anyways, "please" forgive me for not responding to your letter sooner. Take care and bless you and yours.

Respectfully,

Lawrence John DeLile



1. (Q) ARE YOU INNOCENT?

(A) MOST EMPHATICALLY - YES!

2. (Q) WHO (OR WHAT) DO YOU BLAME FOR THE CONVICTION?

(A) I COULD EASILY BLAME THE MEDIA FOR "DEFIMATION OF CHARACTER" FOR ALL OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING, OR EVEN A CITY IN FEAR OF LITIGATION FOR IMPROPER BARRICADES, OR THE OVER ZEALOUS INVESTIGATOR SEEKING FAME AND/OR A PROMOTION, BUT ULTIMATELY THE POST TRAUMATIC STRESS OF LOSING MY CHILDREN ALLOWED EVERYTHING ELSE TO SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

3. (Q) DID YOU RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL?

(A) THE JUDGE HOPED TO MAKE IT FAIR EVEN IN AN AREA SATURATED BY MONTHS OF SENSATIONALIZED HEADLINES, BUT IT'S HARD TO ERASE LIBEL OR SLANDER ONCE IMBEDDED. IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO REPEAT WHAT OTHERS SAY WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT OR NOT... SAY IT OFTEN ENOUGH AND YOU'LL COME TO BELIEVE IT ANYWAYS!

4. (Q) HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO COPE?

(A) I STILL DESPAIR FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS KEEP ME GOING.

5. (Q) HOW DO YOU GO ON?

(A) FAITH AND HOPE I SUPPOSE, BUT MOSTLY TAKING ONE DAY AT A TIME.

6. (Q) HOW HAVE YOU SURVIVED PRISON LIFE?

(A) COULDN'T HAVE WITHOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE HUNDREDS OF FRIENDS I'VE MADE IN HERE OVER THE LAST TWO PLUS DECADES.

7. (Q) HOW HAS IT BEEN FOR YOU?

(A) FRUSTRATING TO SAY THE LEAST, ALL I CAN DO IS ADAPT AND SHAKE MY HEAD SOMEDAYS... I DO THE LATTER ALOT!

8. (Q) HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY PEACE OR CONTENTMENT OR HOPE?

(A) PEACE COMES MAINLY WHEN I SLEEP, CONTENTMENT WHEN I LEARN NEW THINGS, OR HELP OTHERS IN NEED. HOPE IS LIKE TIME - FLEETING, BUT I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES EVERYDAY!



9. (Q) WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR MARRIAGE?

(A) I COULD SEE SUE'S PAIN IN HER EYES DURING EVERY VISIT AND FOR EACH APPEALS PROCESS. BECAUSE I LOVED HER I INSISTED SHE LEAVE - SHE RELUCTANTLY DID YEARS LATER.

10. (Q) ARE YOU DIVORCED?

(A) FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES NOW.

11. (Q) HAS SUZANNE REMARRIED?

(A) PLEASE, THAT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS - I IMPLORE YOU TO LEAVE HER ALONE!

12. (Q) ARE YOU STILL IN CONTACT?

(A) OUR CHILDREN LOOKED TOO MUCH LIKE THEIR FATHER - WHICH WOULD BE A CONSTANT DAILY REMINDER OF THE LOVE WE ONCE SHARED. SO IT'S BEST IF WE DON'T.

13. (Q) I KNOW THAT YOU WERE A CATHOLIC - DO YOU STILL HAVE FAITH IN GOD?

(A) I'LL NEVER LOSE MY FAITH IN GOD, OTHERS MAYBE - BUT NOT HIM!

14. (Q) IS THERE ANY CHANCE THE GOVERNOR WOULD COMMUTE YOUR SENTENCE?

(A) OUR CURRENT GOVERNOR IS FAR TOO BUSY TRYING TO STEAR MICHIGAN OUT OF DECADES OF DECLINE, UNFORTUNATELY I DOUBT THE PLEAS OF ONE MAN WOULD BE HEARD OVER THE MANY NEEDS OF OTHERS.

15. (Q) HAVE YOU PURSUED THIS?

(A) I WILL SOMEDAY...

16. (Q) FINALLY - WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF METRO DETROIT - MANY OF WHOM REMEMBER YOUR TRIAL LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY?

(A) REALLY? SO THEY HEARD OR RECALL: I CAN'T SWIM AND HAVE A FEAR OF DEEP WATER, THE SO-CALLED LIE DETECTOR TEST - WHICH NEVER MADE IT TO TRIAL - WAS A RUSE PERPETRATED BY POLICE IN ORDER TO INSTILL "GUILT BY ACCUSATION" WHILE CONDUCTING A BRUTAL DAY LONG (18 HRS FOR ME) INTERROGATION! TO COERCE UNRELIABLE - INVOLUNTARY STATEMENTS WHICH WERE THEN USED TO INSIGHT PUBLIC OUTRAGE VIA THE MEDIA, OR THAT AT TRIAL THE STATES EXPERT MECHANIC WAS PRIMARILY A BUS INSPECTOR WHO COULDN'T EVEN



16. CONT...

START OUR VEHICLE FOR TESTING, MISSED THE BENT ACCELERATOR CABLE EXITING THE FIREWALL, DOWN PLAYED THE 2-BROKEN MOTOR MOUNTS AND OBLONG CABLE MOUNT FOR THE GAS PEDAL - NOT TO MENTION AN UNKNOWN SCRAPPING NOISE COMING FROM WITHIN THE CARBURATOR. OR AT TRIAL THE STATE TROOPER WHO TEST DROVE OUR VEHICLE WAS 6'4" TALL AND NEARLY 300 LBS. AND HE HAD TO APPLY SO MUCH PRESSURE TO STOP OUR CAR THAT HE BROKE THE FRONT SEAT! AND THAT ON ONE PARTICULAR TEST THE ACCELERATOR GOT STUCK AND WITH AN ENGINEER AND 2-MECHANICS ON HAND THE TROOPER WAVED THEM AWAY AND SAID THE PROBLEM WAS IN THE CAR. HE THEN TESTIFIED THAT IT STARTLED HIM SO HE WANTED TO SHUT OFF THE CAR THEN RESTART THE TEST WITH THE INTENT TO SEE HOW FAST THE CAR WOULD GO. IT DIDNT RACE AGAIN, WHAT HE DID WAS VOID AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE! DO THEY ALSO RECALL AT TRIAL THE ARRESTING OFFICER WHO RODE SHOT GUN WITH THE STATE TROOPER TOOK NOTES AND WROTE ACROSS THE TOP OF HIS NOTE PAD - "ACCELERATOR STICKING" ... AND THEN SWORE UNDER OATH HE HAD NO IDEA WHY HE WROTE THAT - THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH OUR CAR. AND THEN AFTER THE TESTIMONY OF THE TROOPER, ENGINEER, AND BOTH MECHANICS ALL STATED THE ACCELERATOR STUCK AND THE ENGINE RACED ON THAT ONE PARTICULAR TEST - THE OFFICER SAID THE CAR STALLED! THE QUESTION OF WHETHER I HAD A FAIR TRIAL OR NOT WAS NEVER COMPLETELY ANSWERED EITHER. THE TRIAL JUDGE STATED AT SENTENCING THAT HE FELT THE JURY MAY HAVE BEEN SUBCONSCIOUSLY INFLUENCED BY PAST MEDIA REPORTS AND ASKED THAT THE APPEALS COURT CLOSELY REVIEW HIS DECISION NOT TO CHANGE VENUE... THEY FELT FOUR MONTHS WAS ENOUGH TIME FOR JURORS TO FORGET EVERYTHING THEY VE HEARD OR READ (REALLY?!). EVENTUALLY IN THE SIXTH-CIRCUIT COURT A RARE HEARING WAS HELD, ALL 15 JUDGES SAT DOWN TO HEAR MY CASE, NOT A ONE COULD SEE ANYTHING MORE THAN CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AS OPPOSED TO GUILTY BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. DID YOU KNOW THEY ALL CONDEMNED THE MICHIGAN

OVER ↓

16. CONT...

COURTS FOR RELEASING SUPPRESSED EVIDENCE TO THE MEDIA, AGAIN - A MERE 4-MONTHS BEFORE TRIAL! YET SADDLY THEY SPLIT (POLITICALLY) 8 TO 7 DENYING ME A HOPEFULLY SECOND "FAIRER" TRIAL WITH A CHANGE OF VENUE, THIS ALSO SPOKE VOLUMES THEREBY LETTING THE STATE KNOW IT'S OKAY TO COERCE AND HYPNOTICALLY INDUCE INVOLUNTARY STATEMENTS FROM SOMEONE, THEN USE THE MEDIA TO DEFAME THEM THUSLY INSURING "GUILT BY PUBLIC OPINION"! DID YOU KNOW BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID TO ME DURING INTERROGATION THE POLICE NO LONGER VIDEO-TAPE THEIR SO-CALLED POLYGRAPH TESTS? MAKES IT HARDER TO PROVE COERCION BEING DONE TO OTHERS! AND EVEN THO I HAD A RARE HEARING BEFORE 15-JUDGES WHICH BARELY SPLIT 8 TO 7 AGAINST ME, SOME CLERK DECIDED MY CASE AND MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DIDN'T WARRANT GOING BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT. FOR YEARS MY LAWYER'S WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO TALK TO THE MEDIA UNTIL AFTER MY LAST DENIAL. DID YOU KNOW BARBARA WALTERS WANTED AN INTERVIEW, BUT MICHIGAN JUST RECENTLY STOPPED ALLOWING CAMERAS INTO THEIR PRISONS, SO EVEN THO I AGREED TO INTERVIEW - THE M.D.O.C. WOULDN'T ALLOW IT! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HYPER CRITICAL OF MYSELF WHICH IS WHY I'VE ALWAYS ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCIDENT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT WAS - A TRAGIC ACCIDENT! I AM A GOOD AND KIND MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS - ALWAYS TRIED TO BE THE BEST MAN, HUSBAND, AND FATHER I COULD BE. I'VE SPENT NEARLY HALF OF MY LIFE WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ME JUST LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY!

IN CLOSING, I DO WISH TO PASS ON AN OVER DUE APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO RESCUED MY WIFE AND I THAT NIGHT, AND TO THOSE WHO DESPERATELY TRIED TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN. YOU ARE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS -

"THANKYOU AND GODBLESS"

Lawrence John Reffuse