

April 11, 2011

To the Honorable Judge Gaiton
US District Court of the
Western District of Missouri

Your Honor,

I have known Christopher Elder, MD, for nearly six years. I first met him at an educational conference dedicated to chronic pain management. Later, I performed administrative and compliance education work for Dr. Elder, relating to his private practice in Texas. I am a former Assistant US Attorney, and founded a medico-legal consulting group known as the Legal Side of Pain. I have worked with all of the major professional pain societies and work with physicians, such as Dr. Elder, who seek me out to develop controlled substance compliance and risk management protocols for their practices.

Dr. Elder is a board-certified physician, who actually has earned two boards backing his training and commitment to the medical profession: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Pain Management. Not only is Dr. Elder a well-educated physician, he has always been involved in ongoing educational activities associated with compliance and risk management in pain medicine. This is critical as it speaks volumes to his dedication to patients – balancing access to quality pain care with the legal responsibility to prevent abuse and diversion. Dr. Elder reflects his ongoing commitment to the principles of balance in his professional society memberships and personal commitment to staying informed.

As an ambassador for quality pain management, Dr. Elder has worked hard to take care of people and do them no harm. I believe his record with the Texas Medical Board speaks to his dedication and integrity, suffering only the mark brought about by the instant case and many unresolved matters concerning the conduct of three government representatives.

In contemplating Dr. Elder's sentence, I ask that you consider these facts, as well as Dr. Elder's long-standing and otherwise untarnished career in one of the most difficult fields in medicine today, and apply whatever sentencing departures you can to level the playing field on his behalf.

Sincerely,

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Jennifer Bolen, JD
Founder, The Legal Side of Pain

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