

March 31, 2011
18 Edgewood Way
New Have, CT 06515

Dear Judge Gaitan,

My name is Arlene Elder-Henry; I am the mother of Dr. Christopher L. Elder. I am writing this letter because I was too emotional to speak as a witness at my son's trial, a day I will never forget, and a day that seemed like a nightmare then and even now. This letter I feel is the only way for me to voice what I needed to say on that day in July 2010.

I sat in your court room in disbelief as I watched a jury who were not the peers of my son, convict him of a crime that he did not do. They convicted him even when there was no evidence; the handwritten signatures on some of the presented evidence definitely were not my son's handwriting. Chris's handwriting was so bad in school, that his teachers often made him type his reports. I have never had to go to a court house, jail house or even a school house for Chris for breaking any kind of rules or laws. He has never even had a misdemeanor on his record. I have watched Chris go through years of sacrifice of sleep, not going out with his friends, just so he could study. He has even gone to school with a fractured leg and ankle so that he could achieve his dream to become a doctor. Chris always has been kind to everyone, and volunteered to help senior citizens who could not read, learn to read. He was the son that everyone wished they had, his teachers often said this. He is caring, respectful, hardworking, and studious. He was president of his High School Student government and always stood up for what was right. He was voted most likely to succeed in his graduating class of 1989 at James Hillhouse High School.

For years I worked two jobs so that my son could fulfill his dream to become a doctor and I watched him study and work very hard to accomplish that dream. I have never had one day of trouble from Christopher. He is the son that strove everyday to make his mother proud and to be somebody that could make a difference in society. It took him over 23 years of schooling to become a specialty doctor in physical medicine. I have watched him stay up late night after night studying for exams. I worked the midnight shift and I would have to make him go to bed. As I reflect back on the struggles and pains that he has endured to get through high school, medical school, and residency it brings tears to my eyes, and that was the reason I became so emotional when I was on the witness stand. I have always taught my children to do what is right and Christopher has never so much as missed a curfew. Christopher always worked very hard. He got his first job at the age of fourteen washing dishes in a restaurant after school. I told him that if his grades dropped the he would have to quit, they never did. He also worked while attending college in work-study to help offset his student loans, in which he still pays today. He was so happy when he finished his residency. Then he got his first job, but he didn't like it there and he felt something was wrong so he quit.

I believe that what has happened to Christopher is an injustice not only to him but to the entire group of professional, hardworking, young, black, double-boarded doctors in America. Many innocent black men have been and still are incarcerated even there was a lack of evidence and because of jurors who were not their peers. I ask that you please review the transcripts, and see that there is no concrete evidence against Christopher, dismiss this case, and restore my son, Dr. Christopher L. Elder. His license to practice has been suspended since August of 2010, in Houston, TX because of this case. This is itself an injustice, and has caused a strenuous and undue heavy burden on Christopher, his wife, and children, emotionally, physically, mentally, and financially. I ask that you let God speak to your heart and that you make the right decision. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

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Warm Regards,
Evangelist Arlene Elder-Henry