

Charles Ksir
2068 N. 17th Street
Laramie, WY 82072
December 30, 2003

Judge William J. Haynes, Jr.
U.S. District Judge
c/o Peter J. Strianse, Esq.
Tune, Entrekin and White, PC
Suite 2100, AmSouth Center
315 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37238-2100

Dear Judge Haynes:

I am a professor of psychology at the University of Wyoming, where I have taught courses in drug use and abuse for over 30 years. For about 12 years I was a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Substance Abuse and Violent Crime, under two different governors. I am co-author, with Oakley Ray of Vanderbilt University, of the leading college textbook on the psychology of drug use, "Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior", now in its tenth edition with McGraw-Hill.

I have known and worked with Bernie Ellis for several years, first when he became a consultant to the State of Wyoming for our Substance Abuse Prevention grant, up through about four years ago when I was a member of the advisory team for evaluating Mississippi's tobacco prevention program.

Bernie Ellis has always impressed me as a hard-working and very capable professional epidemiologist. I saw him accomplish in months projects in Wyoming that I would have said would take years. He was able to work with a variety of professionals to obtain the necessary data to develop the first integrated (law enforcement, physicians, hospitals, treatment programs) approach to understanding the magnitude of our substance abuse problems in the State.

He has a strong sense of integrity. When there were easy paths to obtain grant funding or finish a project but he felt there were better approaches, he pushed for better methods to obtain more complete understanding rather than taking the easy way out.

If Mr. Ellis provided cannabis to another person, I am certain that he was motivated by compassion in doing so.

It would be an unfortunate waste of Mr. Ellis' skills and talents for him to remain incarcerated for a long period of time, and it is hard to imagine how society would benefit from such an outcome.

Sincerely,

Charles Ksir, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Wyoming