

January 8, 2004

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

Re: Bernard H. Ellis, Jr., MA, MPH

Dear Judge Haynes,

My hope in writing this letter is that in some way it will give the court valuable insight into the character of Bernard Ellis. Please consider my words as spoken from someone deeply troubled and terribly offended by the injustice being served on my friend, colleague and neighbor.

From the first day my family and I met Bernie, his undeniable strength and kindness have been his hallmark characteristics and have impacted my entire family, my parents, my sisters, nieces, nephews as well as my husband and children. Bernie has a tremendous heart and goodness that extends itself unselfishly to everyone he is around. His generosity and strength have touched us all and we have benefited from knowing such a model individual.

Bernie and I met at a country fair 10 years ago where our booths were set up next to each other. I thought Bernie was a farmer, a beautifully constructed wooden tepee displayed bundles of Indian corn, a table in front was stacked with jars of homemade black raspberry jam (jam that he made, corn that he grew). For three days, Bernie handed out samples of his homemade jam on saltine crackers, sold colorful fall corn and visited with everyone that came along. It wasn't until much later that I discovered Bernie was not only a farmer, but also held a PhD and was a leader in his field.

Bernie has always been about family. Every time we have ever met, he has updated me on his nieces and nephews, family get-togethers, baseball finals. Clearly this man was connected in a real and active way with the ones he loved and expressed his joy about it. That joy always touched his friends and that rare quality has been such a blessing to us all.

This past spring, in the wee hours of May 11, Mother's day, a class 4 tornado hit my parents' farm and there were hundreds of downed trees; on their house, blocking their long driveway and scattered debris everywhere. Not long after we were able to get into my parents farm Bernie showed up to help. We were all in shock at the destruction but

Bernie's take charge attitude and unbelievable energy inspired us all to get to work. It took ten hours, but Bernie and nine family members were able to clear my parents' driveway that day.

I know that Bernie brings tremendous good to whatever he does. I know that in his professional life he has been the same kind of person he has been as a friend. In a world crying for individuals with such stature, honesty and hopefulness please keep Bernie among us. We need him, we want his humility, it inspires our children, helps our aging and shines as a wholesome example of someone embracing life.

I hope you will consider these heartfelt words and reconsider this man's fate.

Sincerely,

Susan Hulme and Marshall Morgan
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Nashville, Tennessee 37212
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