

7R-10-823

COPY

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ARIZONA PRISON WATCH		
AZ JUVENILE PRISON WATCH		
HARD TIME: HEP C		
FREE MARCIA FOWELL		

November 10, 2010

Tom Sheahan, Mohave County Sheriff  
Mohave County Sheriff's Office  
PO Box 1191  
600 W> Beale Street  
Kingman, AZ 86402

Dear Sheriff Sheahan,

It's come to my attention that one of your prisoners, John McCluskey, has reported to a correspondent that his access to the jail law library has been impeded. It also appears as if your jail employees are harassing that correspondent, Ms. Dara Baker, who has twice tried to visit him now and been turned away. It's my responsibility to report that to you, and see that it is addressed.

While I consider myself a prisoners' rights activist, I have no particular fondness for criminals - especially men who seem to relish making others suffer like McCluskey does. He's still entitled to due process, though, and I'm cc'ing this note to the county attorney's office, among other interested parties, because his successful prosecution is compromised by deputies every time his civil rights are.

I'm not surprised that most line officers don't understand how much their efforts to dole out extra punishment to prisoners on their own initiative can harm the department as well as the case, but I'm sure you don't want to go down in Supreme Court history as the sheriff who let Charlie McCluskey off the hook for that escape and those murders. I think you and Mr. Smith should discuss the strategic advisability of interfering with such a notorious defendant's right to access legal assistance, if it's actually being instigated at your level. If it isn't then please tell your people to rein it in. They aren't the judge and jury - they're the jailers.

I'll be driving Ms. Baker to Kingman to see prisoner McCluskey next Tuesday, November 16. If you'd like, I'd be happy to meet with you at that time to discuss this further. If Ms. Baker encounters unreasonable interference with her attempts to visit the jail again, we may both track you down that day.

*Our strategy should be not only to confront empire, but to lay siege to it. To deprive it of oxygen. To shame it. To mock it. With our art, our music, our literature, our sublimity, our joy, our brilliance, our sheer relentless, and our ability to tell our own stories.*

*Arundhati Roy*

Please advise me as to how you decide to proceed dealing with this issue, so I know whether or not to explicitly ask the ACLU-AZ in on this. Right now they're just getting a heads-up: I suspect they'll wait and see what you decide to do before they even consider intervening. I need them in this now because I don't have the same resources they do to fight you, if it becomes necessary. I also don't have this kind of time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust you will resolve it responsibly, such that Mr. McCluskey isn't simply retaliated against further. I wrote this without his knowledge or input, and can handle my own heat - if you have any for me. I'm not too hard to find.

Sincerely,



Margaret J. Plews

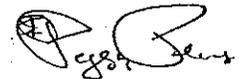
November 10, 2010

Judge Conn -

Cc:

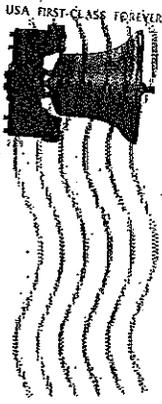
John Charles McCluskey  
Dara Baker  
John A. Pecchia  
Jason Steffan  
Matthew J. Smith  
Victoria Stazo  
Hon. Steven F. Conn  
ACLU-Arizona

If the jail staff continue harassing McCluskey, it would seem to suggest an argument that there be a change of venue. I hope the Sheriff understands what's at stake.



Margaret J. Plaus  
Arizona Prison Watch  
P O Box 20494  
Phoenix, AZ 85036

re: John Charles McCluskey



Honorable Steven F. Conn  
Superior Court Judge, State of AZ  
McLure Co Superior Court  
401 E. Spring St  
PO Box 7000  
Phoenix, AZ 85002-7000

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