

David Merchant
Chief Appellate Defender
Office of the Minnesota Appellate Defender
540 Fairview Avenue North, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55104

July 19, 2010

Dear David:

We were stunned to receive your office-wide email announcing that you had accepted Marie's resignation as manager but had denied her request to stay on as a non-management attorney with a full caseload. We cannot express the depths of our disappointment and sadness that we and our clients have lost the benefit of Marie's experience, intellect and dedication.

There are numerous instances in which a manager in the public defense system has continued working as a line attorney upon resigning or otherwise ending a management position, so there is certainly precedent for retaining Marie as an attorney in the office to which she has dedicated 25 years. Moreover, it was apparently announced at the last Chiefs' meeting that the public defense budget is sound enough that new attorneys will be hired, so clearly budgetary concerns were not the basis of your decision.

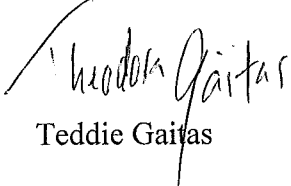
Until yesterday, our office had two senior, experienced, dedicated female attorneys in management positions. Since February, one of those managers has been passed over for promotion. The other, after conversations with you and Kevin Kajer regarding issues in our office and your leadership, has lost her job. Our office is now down another attorney. We are forced to absorb Marie's case load with barely more than one week's notice. The attorneys on her team are without a manager. And our office is even further demoralized by what appears to be a retaliatory action against one of the most senior and most beloved attorneys, one who tried to directly address with you concerns about your ability to lead our office and now finds herself without a job.

We support Marie's request that she be able to continue on as an attorney in this office.

Sincerely,



Rachel Bond

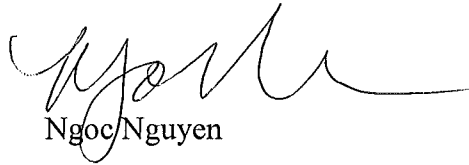


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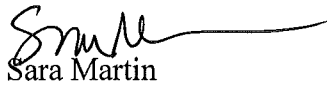
Tony Atwal

|s|

Rich Schmitz

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Sean McGuire


Sara Martin

Cc: Kevin Kajer
John Stuart
Board of Public Defense