

July 22, 2009

Dear Honorable Judge Timothy Fall:

I am writing to you in regard to Ajay Dev and his recent conviction of serious felony charges in Yolo County Superior Court. To say that I was stunned and dismayed by this verdict would be an understatement.

I met Ajay in 2001, when I joined the staff of Civil Engineers working for the South Delta Branch of the California Department of Water Resources. Our offices shared a common wall so we had daily contact and we soon became more than colleagues. We became friends. Over the past eight years, I also have had many opportunities to observe Ajay interacting with other co-workers, friends and family, in particular his daughter [REDACTED]. Without exception, Ajay always conducted himself as a caring father, proud of his daughter's accomplishments and eager to help her scholastically. In fact, [REDACTED] often visited for tutorial sessions. Not once did I observe any tension between father and daughter.

In my many conversations with Ajay, I learned that his one and only goal was to provide a better life for his family than he had growing up in Nepal. He shared with me photographs of birthday celebrations in their home, a family vacation in Hawaii, and even a Nepalese ceremony in which [REDACTED] was a participant. In all of these photos, what I saw was a happy loving family. Unfortunately, that happiness was not to last.

As every parent knows, children soon develop wills of their own and [REDACTED] was no exception. However, in this case, she became more than a willful child. [REDACTED] became defiant, bent on doing what she pleased when she pleased, even when her behavior was not in her own best interest, and that is what led to this current situation.

On many occasions, Ajay has shared with me his frustrations with a daughter who had begun to associate with kids he felt were exerting a bad influence. And as her grades began to slip, she fell behind academically. She also refused to abide by the household rules set by her parents but when Ajay attempted to enforce discipline, [REDACTED] moved out and contacted the police in what I believe was an attempt to scare him out of her life.

As Shakespeare so famously wrote, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!" Wounded by [REDACTED]'s rejection and spiteful behavior, Ajay felt that he had failed in his parental duties. He tried again and again to reach out to his daughter, only to have his innocent attempts at reconciliation rebuffed and maligned. But what father could turn his back on his own child even if she has turned her back on him?

It is my heart-felt opinion that when [REDACTED] saw that Ajay was not going to abandon his role as her father, she took her revenge by leveling unfounded sexual assault charges against him. In the end, it simply came down to his word against hers and Ajay was convicted.

Now my dear friend and colleague faces imprisonment, leaving behind a wife, daughter and infant son to fend for themselves. I ask for your mercy as you consider what sentence to impose.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]