



**JAY T. FINCH**

**CIRCUIT JUDGE • DIVISION III  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WEST**

**Benton County Courthouse  
Chambers: 479-271-1020  
FAX: 479-271-5752  
Email: [jfinch@co.benton.ar.us](mailto:jfinch@co.benton.ar.us)  
102 NE "A" Street - Box 2  
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712**

**Jan McLeod  
Certified Court Reporter  
102 NE "A" Street - Box 2  
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712  
Bonnie J. Ridley  
Trial Court Assistant  
Jan Precure  
Bentonville Juvenile Caseload**

June 11, 2007

Ms. Beylnda Goff  
# 705617  
P.O. Box 1010, Bk 3  
Wrightsville, AR 72183

Dear Ms. Goff:

I am precluded from advocating on your behalf for changes to your sentence. Since the Supreme Court has denied your Rule 37 Petition, I am also precluded from suggesting or advocating on your behalf in that regard as well.

However, you may include this letter to whatever authority you are appealing at this time. I do believe that you were poorly represented at trial and that the circumstances of your case are unlikely to ever occur again.

I wish you the best with your efforts.

Sincerely,

**JAY T. FINCH  
CIRCUIT JUDGE - DIVISION III**

Post Prison Transfer Board  
105 West Capitol, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2 Union National Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201

10-28-08  
Date

&  
Governor Mike Beebe  
State Capitol, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Executive Clemency/Pardon

Dear Members of the Board and Governor Beebe,

I was a juror in the case of State vs. Belynda F. Goff, Carroll County Docket #CR95-59.

After careful consideration, I am asking that you grant clemency to Ms. Goff. I feel her freedom should be restored and she should be allowed to return to her family.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Henry Butler  
Juror

[Redacted]  
Street Address

[Redacted], Ar. [Redacted]  
City/State

[Redacted]  
Telephone

Post Prison Transfer Board  
105 West Capitol, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2 Union National Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201

11-05-08  
Date

&

Governor Mike Beebe  
State Capitol, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Executive Clemency/Pardon

Dear Members of the Board and Governor Beebe,

I was a juror in the case of State vs. Belynda F. Goff, Carroll County Docket #CR95-59.

After careful consideration, I am asking that you grant clemency to Ms. Goff. I feel her freedom should be restored and she should be allowed to return to her family.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Clara L. (Parker) Titterworth  
Juror

[Redacted]  
Street Address

[Redacted] AR 72201  
City/State

[Redacted]  
Telephone

Post Prison Transfer Board  
105 West Capitol, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2 Union National Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201

11-5-08  
Date

&

Governor Mike Beebe  
State Capitol, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Executive Clemency/Pardon

Dear Members of the Board and Governor Beebe,

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After careful consideration, I am asking that you grant clemency to Ms. Goff. I feel her freedom should be restored and she should be allowed to return to her family.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Ronald S. Young  
Juror

[Redacted]  
Street Address

[Redacted] Ark  
City/State

[Redacted] 4282  
Telephone

Post Prison Transfer Board  
105 West Capitol, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2 Union National Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201

11-18-08  
Date

&

Governor Mike Beebe  
State Capitol, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Executive Clemency/Pardon

Dear Members of the Board and Governor Beebe,

I was a juror in the case of State vs. Belynda F. Goff, Carroll County Docket #CR95-59.

After careful consideration, I am asking that you grant clemency to Ms. Goff. I feel her freedom should be restored and she should be allowed to return to her family.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Janice Head

Juror

[Redacted]  
Street Address

[Redacted] ARKANSAS  
City/State

[Redacted]  
Telephone

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], AR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Governor Mike Beebe

State of Arkansas

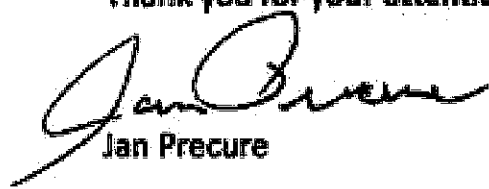
Dear Sir;

I am writing to ask that you grant clemency to Belynda Goff, who has spent several years in the Arkansas Department of Correction after having been convicted in the death of her husband.

I met Mrs. Goff while acting as bailiff at her re-sentencing hearing, during which time I came to believe she had been wrongly convicted. I began to correspond with her in prison, and in all this time my belief in her innocence has only grown.

Though having spent all these years behind bars, Belynda maintains her faith in God and still has a positive attitude. She has my greatest admiration, and if she were to be released, I have no doubt that she will once again be a contributing member of our society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Jan Precure

Bailiff (Ret)

Benton County Circuit Court, Div III

**LASSITER & CASSINELLI**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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813 WEST THIRD STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
TELEPHONE: 501-370-9300  
FACSIMILE: 501-370-9306  
WWW.LASSITERANDCASSINELLI.COM

June 30, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I have known Belynda Goff since the mid-1990s both personally and as her attorney. I represented her on the initial appeal challenging her sentence, *Goff v. State*, 329 Ark. 513, 953 S.W.2d 38 (1997). I also represented her in the subsequent Rule 37 proceedings (collateral attack) alleging ineffective assistance of counsel. There we prevailed at the Circuit Court level with Judge Finch finding counsel was remiss in failing to call a witness with compelling testimony arising from conversations with the deceased prior to the homicide. Unfortunately, the Arkansas Supreme Court disagreed and reversed the new trial order. *State v. Goff*, 349 Ark. 532, 79 S.W.3d 320 (2002). I have visited with Belynda on numerous occasions during her incarceration. She is a woman of deep faith believing the truth will reveal itself and she will be exonerated. I have found her to be an intelligent, responsible and kind person. It is time that she be allowed to reenter society. Twenty years have passed since her husband's death. To my knowledge she has been a model inmate. She was at the work release center at Wrightsville for a number of years. I have not corresponded with her recently concerning her prison record, but I would be surprised if any problems have arisen. She had strong support from responsible people in her community during the time that I represented her. I strongly recommend clemency. I am certain that Ms. Goff would be a productive member of our community.

Yours Sincerely,

**LASSITER & CASSINELLI**



Jack T. Lassiter

JACK T. LASSITER P.A.  
JTL@LCARLAW.COM

ERIN CASSINELLI  
ERIN@LCARLAW.COM

BLYTHE ALLEN  
BLYTHE@LCARLAW.COM

28 May 2014

Hon. Gov. Mike Beebe  
c/o Jonah Stotsky  
Davis Polk & Wardwell  
450 Lexington Avenue Room 2624-B  
New York, NY 10017

Subject: Belynda Goff, #705617 Letter of Support for Clemency and release from Prison

Dear Governor Beebe:

I am writing this letter in support of Belynda Goff's request for release from prison and grant of clemency.

I have known Belynda Goff for nearly 20 years. During this time I served as her and her family's pastor and counselor. I was with her at the time of her husband's murder, through the tragic arson to her house, at the death of her sister, at the senseless killing of her pets by "unknown persons," at her arrest, investigation, indictment, incarceration, pre-trial activities, trial, sentencing, post-trial events and confinement. I have been there when she, her family and friends received the news about her trial sentence, the appeal for a retrial that was granted and subsequently overturned, and through the process of appeal to the Federal Courts. I have struggled with her dealing with incompetent representation (according to the Circuit Court Judge) and a tainted and eventually censored judge, according to the Arkansas Judicial Disciplinary Board. I witnessed, with her, inadequate police investigation and reporting prior to the trial and at the trial. I was even privy to a likely scenario of events that never fell on the jury's ears because of her attorney's "trial strategy." It has been a long and hard journey for Belynda and all of those concerned about Belynda, her ailing mother and children.

When she joined the First Presbyterian Church in Berryville, her passion and commitment to doing God's work became apparent quickly. Belynda demonstrated a faith-filled spirit, trust in God and commitment to the belief that God would make all things right and good. She bolstered those who lacked the depth of faith and commitment to Christ. She demonstrated the attributes of a loving and caring parent as she helped her three children deal with the events surrounding the death of their father/stepfather and her subsequent incarceration. She shared her journey and insights with those who were close and far, touching lives through her demonstration of the Love of God that she owned and experienced. She lived a pure and righteous life in obedience to God's Word and her faith, prior to the events of her husband's murder, throughout those stress-filled and dark days that followed, and while incarcerated.

Belynda is a caring and nurturing person. She has been a witness to and a source for hope for those behind bars and those who walk in freedom. She is intelligent, having earned a Bachelor and Master degree in religious studies while incarcerated. She is articulate and personable, despite the prison culture. She is tenacious, working hard at everything that she does and performing her tasks well. She has been given additional duties and privileges in prison because of her diplomacy, skill and veracity. She is honest. She is a dedicated and responsible person. Despite the distances between her home in Green Forest and the various prisons that she has been in, she guided her mother's rearing of the children. Her daughter is a college graduate and is married with a child. Her one son was in the Marine Corps and her other son lives with his sister. She is wise beyond her years, drawing on what she knows as Truth and what she



intuitively grasps. When all around her are loosing their heads, Belynda is a calming and hope-filled presence.

I am certain that Belynda would be able to find a job, once released. She is industrious. She is also an accomplished writer and I am sure that she has a "book in her" regarding the past twenty years of her life. Belynda is a hard worker and does not shirk responsibility. Even during the stress of the investigation and trial she was never late for work and would always follow through with her commitments. What employer would not be pleased with a bright, caring, personable, committed, insightful, and articulate independent thinker? Her previous employers felt that she was worthy of employment and I am certain that future employers would feel that same way.

My prayer is that you will find it within your heart to return Belynda to her family, society and freedom. If nothing else, I feel that she is worthy of your serious prayers on her behalf and wisdom discerning her ability to, once again, be returned to society and productivity. May God bless you as you ponder this important decision regarding this person who has served her time and is now ready to be released from prison.

In Christ,



The Reverend Mark W. Lenneville, MBA, MTS, MDiv., LTC (Ret)  
Honorably Retired Minister at Large- Presbytery of Arkansas  
Managing Partner, Uniformed Services Health Professional Placement (USHPP)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], MO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

866-645-2248 ext 1

Esther & Donald Donley

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], IL [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Wednesday, August 06, 2014

Honorable Governor Bebee  
Governor of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Re: Clemency Application for Belynda Goff.

Dear Honorable Governor Bebee:

We are writing you in support of the application for clemency for Belynda Goff. Belynda is the daughter of my deceased brother, Lyle Lindley. Knowing her background and having visited her in the Arkansas prison, I believe clemency is proper in this case.

If she needs assistance in returning to civilian life, my husband and I are willing and able to assist.

While I know it is not the issue in a clemency hearing, I have not spoken to any member of a large extended family that believes she was guilty. The family believes that justice will be served by releasing her to spend time with her children and grandchildren.

Yours truly,

Esther Donley

Brady A. Jones, Maj USMC

Permanent Address:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] K, AR [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

RE: Clemency of Belynda F. Goff

14 July 2014

Hon. Governor Mike Beebe,

I am writing this letter with my highest support for the release of Belynda F. Goff from the Arkansas Department of Corrections. I am a lifelong citizen of Arkansas and have been absolutely shocked by what I believe is a totally wrongful conviction and incarceration.

Over the last 13 years, I have personally reviewed all the court documents, case files, and media reports pertaining to Belynda and I have yet to find even one piece of evidence that would indicate guilt and certainly nothing that would convict someone via a truly unbiased court or jury with adequate defense council. I have observed Belynda personally, and can tell you that I have never seen someone act with so much honor and dignity and certainly not under her circumstances. As a final thought, I attended Belynda's previous clemency hearing and was absolutely shocked to hear the clemency board openly admit (during the hearing) that they had in fact never actually read her clemency package. Additionally, at another session my wife specifically heard a prison board member openly state (regarding Belynda's case), "the Governor would never grant clemency [regardless of innocence] for a violent crime, because it would be political suicide". This is absurd and I don't believe that the Governor's Office would condone this lack of professionalism on his behalf by representatives on the prison board.

Belynda has significant community and family support whom' have stable and established homes where she will be welcomed with open arms to return to her (now adult) children.

For these reasons and many others, I therefore enthusiastically give my most sincere support for her clemency and freedom.

  
Brady A. Jones

Bridgette Jones

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] NC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

July 15, 2014

Subject: Clemency for Belynda Goff

Governor Mike Beebe,

I am writing to ask that you grant clemency to my mother, Belynda Goff. Being that I know this case inside and out and I know her personally, I feel that clemency is the least the state can do for her. You see, Belynda Goff received a life sentence without a single piece of physical evidence supporting guilt. To the contrary, the evidence that was presented clearly pointed to another assailant. Archie Rousey, the homicide investigator, testified that he found the murder weapon (hammers) inside of a closet and that the killer (Belynda) was trapped inside. This is a fallacy. The hammers were tested twice and there was nothing, not a print or a trace of DNA. Not only that, they didn't match the marks left on the drywall behind the victim. Yet, he testified to this being the murder weapon and went before the parole board declaring it fact and they unfortunately believed him without question. This is only a small fraction of the transgressions made by Carroll County.

When some of these facts were brought up to your hand picked legal staff, Amy Click stated in front of myself and state senator Ruth Whitaker, that "Arkansas will walk through broken glass to uphold a conviction". Arkansas will go through great lengths to uphold a conviction but not to uphold justice? This is a problem.

Belynda has a very large support group and as people learn of this case she gains even more. She has no criminal history whatsoever. She was a model citizen and would be again. As an inmate her behavior and accomplishments have been exemplary. It is for these reasons and many more that I ask that you grant clemency.

Respectfully

  
Bridgette Jones

Stephen Goff

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], VA [REDACTED]

July 6, 2014

Dear Gov. Beebe,

My mother Belynda Goff, as we all know has been "convicted" of a crime and has been serving a life sentence. Another fact we all know is that evidence or (in this case lack thereof), is key in any investigation. This letter is written in full support of my mother Belynda. As her son and the man she raised to be, I'm going to present my opinion on some aspects of the case and her character.

From day one of this horrific nightmare of a situation, my mother raised me over and my brother over the phone. Christmas was no longer the same. Birthdays went by Mark, Bridgette and I grew older. The ironic thing here is that we would be sad and a little piece of us wasn't connected until that phone rang and we heard her voice. Of all people in the world who had something to be sad or angry about, my mother was the one person who would tell us to keep our heads held high and to keep moving forward in life. Belynda throughout all her years serving has set an example of fighting for what one believes in, for truth and for justice. Just looking at the motive itself, Belynda was viewed as an angry wife out for revenge. Belynda was offered chances to accept guilt and admit defeat for her freedom. Yet she stood steadfast remaining faithful to her beliefs and relied on courage. In order to take this observation into play you have to ask is Belynda that selfish of a person? Judging by her decision to refuse the title of guilty when offered her life back, it seems highly unlikely. Let's not forget Belynda's constant effort to progress academically remaining active and involved with prison programs.

As we have established this sentence was a life sentence. This life sentence was delivered on absolutely no logical grounds (purely circumstantial). As mentioned earlier there was huge gap in the evidence. Samples go missing and with no investigation. One could say this episode of neglect was unjust. This case deserves the attention it demands. Admitting that what physical evidence left for us to test maybe little, the faith of not just Belynda's children, but her friends and all the people of who grown into this organization of support will not be unnoticed. I've said from day one that if someone wants evidence to look at Bridgette, Mark and I. The lives we have led have been rough but we are respected intelligent beings who refuse to accept injustice.

In closing, I don't understand how such a drastic measure of sentencing can take place if literally nothing was proven. I won't say I'm not angry or bitter. I'd be lying. But one has to know when to separate one's emotions from a situation and look at it strictly logical. I guess my point is no matter what angle you look at this case in; there is still a woman in prison to this day without her family, without her kids, and without her right to live the way she deserves because of an empty, absent minded accusation.

Stephen Goff

Governor Mike Beebe,

In 1769, English lawyer Sir William Garrow coined the phrase "innocent until proven guilty". This phrase was meant to simplify the presumption of innocence and remind all parties that the burden of proof is on he who declares, not he who denies. This one simple practice has a great deal to do with the purpose of my letter.

I am not estranged to the fact that this one case is probably miniscule in comparison to the vast amount of responsibility and burden that lies on your shoulders. However, as a United States Marine Corps veteran and a person of honor and integrity, nor am I estranged to the intestinal fortitude it takes one to stand up for those that cannot stand for themselves and to embrace the honor, power, and responsibility that we, servants of people, signed up for.

That being said, I thank you in advance for your time and utmost attention regarding Belynda F. Goff.

Governor, almost 20 years ago Belynda, my mother, was ripped from her family and thrown in a cage for the brutal murder of my father. Two years after his murder, she went on trial in the same, very small, town that the media had been stirring up with thoughts of a vicious murdering wife. Regardless of the comments from others and the ridiculous behavior of those around us, we maintained that there is "no way our justice system would let an innocent woman go to prison". We, like most unknowing citizens, were falsely secure in the idea that the system actually works.

My mother was badgered and verbally beaten with not a shred of physical evidence to prove her guilt. Instead, a charade of "circumstantial evidence such as: "it could have been hammer", "she could have cleaned up", and "the killer, our opinion was trapped inside" went on.

After lies, deceit, and a clear lacking of ability by the state to operate under the integrity of the law, my mother was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

For almost 20 years, we have consistently been asked to "prove her innocence". Well, I will remind you of the beginning of this letter and beg of you to finally ask the correct question; the question that should have been asked a long time ago: "where is the proof that she is guilty."

Once you ask that question and actually look at the evidence, or lack thereof, there

will not be a second thought as to whether or not clemency should be granted. It will be evident and require no thought at all.

Uncle, your hands from the safety net of avoidance and make the decision that will finally start something positive for our family and give us a tiny shred of hope that our justice system still has some integrity left in it.

Again, I thank you for your time and appreciate any help that you might be to this case and Belynda's future.

Sincerely,

Mark G. Goff