

July 16, 2019

Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Judge
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Sentencing of Steven V. Stenger

Dear Judge Perry,

I am writing on behalf of my younger brother, Steve Stenger. Steve and I grew up with our brother and sister in a small home in south St. Louis. From our beginnings we were a close family. Steve and I have remained very close throughout the years. Throughout our relationship, we bonded over discussions about our children, friends, and work. The rest of our family and I remain committed and supportive of Steve during this difficult time.

Steve's first words as he discussed his case with me were an apology to me and my family for his wrongful actions and the serious mistakes he made. He described the case to me and told me how sorry he was for what he had done and the harm he had brought. He was contrite, remorseful and full of regret and shame.

I am nearly six years older than Steve and have been able to closely observe Steve and his interactions with friends and family over the years. Steve has always been a hard worker. We came from a family of hard workers. And not only was Steve a hard worker but he was also talented and very generous from a young age. He was also not afraid to stand up for what he believed and in some cases stood up for other people he believed in. As a young man in his teens I remember Steve sticking up for other kids who were picked on by other kids, sometimes to his own detriment. He carried that trait into his adulthood and often was outspoken for people and ideas he supported. From our humble beginnings Steve was not afraid to dream about what he wanted to become. He worked hard to bring those dreams to fruition. He put himself through college and law school. He worked at fast food restaurants, swept floors and sang Sunday masses and weddings.

Steve is loved by our family and friends because he has always been a compassionate, giving, kind and loving person. Even as he pursued his goals, he gave of his time and his resources freely to friends and family. He has always made time to give helpful advice and help to his cousins and nieces and nephews over the years and his own friends. I have never seen him turn away a friend or family member who needed him.

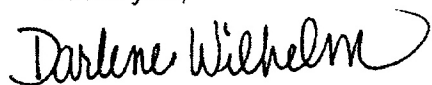
Steve is the kind of person who would give someone the shirt off his back. As an example, last winter and while he was County Executive he gave his socks to a homeless woman who was wearing sandals with no socks on a bitterly cold night. He often gave this same homeless woman money and bought her warm drinks at a local coffee shop. This is a small example of his generosity and compassion, but it demonstrates what I have seen throughout his life. He also gave to his community in much larger ways by dedicating himself and committing himself to causes throughout his adult life. We lost our nephew Mitchell Stenger in 2014 to heroin. In memory of Mitchell Steve began a prescription drug monitoring program that benefited our region. Once again this is just one example of his good works. There are too many to list.

When I learned of his conduct this case I was surprised and disappointed. I felt this way because I know how much Steve truly cares about his community and it was difficult for me to reconcile all of his good works and public service that I saw with his conduct in this case. I believe now that Steve made serious mistakes and veered from his path. I also believe that he still has a desire to contribute to his community and be productive. After a lifetime of watching Steve, and particularly during these last months, I believe in him and his ability to become a better person. Through talking with him over these months, I believe Steve will use this experience to rehabilitate and improve himself so that he will be able to contribute and be productive once again. I believe this is possible in part because of his immediate reaction upon learning of the case against him. He did not react with bravado or arrogance, but instead with humility, acceptance of what he had done, regret and remorse. This pattern of behavior has continued to this date.

Your Honor, I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that you will consider these things while sentencing my brother Steve.

I know Steve is extremely sorry and regrets what he has done, and his family is here to support him through this overwhelming journey. We love him dearly.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Wilhelm". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darlene Wilhelm

The Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Court
Eastern District of Missouri
111 S. 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Re: United States v. Steven V. Stenger

Dear Judge Perry:

My name is Charles Stenger. I am the uncle of Steve Stenger and brother of his deceased father, Pete Stenger. I have known Steve since his birth, and we have remained very close. We see each other often. I have watched Steve grow from birth to today. I am familiar with many aspects of his life.

Steve has always been one of the shining stars of our family. He was born into and grew up in a working class family. His father was a union lineman and his mother worked diligently to raise the four Stenger children. They lived in a small home in South St. Louis and nothing was given to Steve. He worked very hard from the time he was a young man. I can remember him at a very young age working at his first job washing dishes at a local cafeteria. He later went on in high school to sing lead vocals in a very popular local band, playing many dances and events around town. Steve also worked hard at school, and he funded his own education in college and later law school. Steve worked hard through it all and never expressed any complaints. I believe he enjoyed the challenge. In the late 90's he started his law firm with a few other lawyers after a brief employment with Ernst & Young. Through a great deal of hard work and determination he became successful in the legal field and never forgot where he came from. In fact many of his clients were working class people, who I know he enjoyed helping with their cases.

All along the journey he was always kind to his family and friends. At family gatherings he would tell jokes and stories. He is loved by his family and friends. He has always been generous with his time and talents. He mentored many of his younger family members throughout their lives, including my son Charlie and daughter Suzy. He did much the same with his friends, helping several of them start their own law firms and helping others through life's challenges with advice and time.

As some examples of Steve's generosity that I recall throughout the years, Steve hired a mentally challenged friend to complete a large art project; he handled many legal cases for no charge for family, friends and strangers; he hired friends and family at his law firm and mentored them, assisting them to achieve well earned positions at law firms and even the Federal Reserve. Steve has always been willing to help those in need, and offer a helping hand to anyone requiring assistance.

With respect to the case at hand, Steve's immediate response was to express remorse and to accept responsibility for his wrongful conduct and his mistakes. Upon first discussing his case with me he apologized to me for his conduct and the embarrassment he believed it would cause our family. He expressed deep remorse for what he had done. Throughout this ordeal, he has expressed a desire to in some way redeem himself and make right what he has done wrong. I have been able to see firsthand the sincerity in his demeanor. And physically, the signs of the level at which he has felt the impact of his case are apparent.

With respect to his case, I understand the seriousness and gravity of Steve's conduct, and I truly believe he does as well. As a father, a grandfather and a loving uncle I hope Steve can be judged on his whole

body of work. As County Executive, he did many good things for the County as well, and I know how hard he worked as a Councilman for six years and the good things he did in that position. To name a few things of which I am aware, Steve brought the County and the State its first prescription drug monitoring program, did many things to advance public health, helped the poorest in our community, particularly helped poor children in our community, and established long term funding for police. I know that despite his conduct in this case, he does care deeply about his community, and I believe it is from this place that his deep remorse is carried. If given the opportunity, I believe Steve has a lot more to give. Your Honor, I hope you will consider all of these things as you sentence Steve.

Sincerely,


Charles Stenger

July 20, 2019

Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Judge
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Steve Stenger Sentencing

Honorable Judge Perry,

My name is Peter Stenger, Steve's brother. I remember the day Steve was born and when my mother brought him home to meet the family for the first time back in February 1972.

We shared a bunkbed for many of our younger years, and we have always been very close. I love him.

I watched him excel and succeed in middle school, high school, college, and law school. I was very proud. He was organized, disciplined, talented, and gifted during his school years. Everything appeared to come easy for Steve at the surface – but in reality – he just worked very hard to accomplish his goals. I remember law books spread about, with yellow pads scattered throughout the room on Friday nights. He worked hard his entire life, but Steve is also not all work. My brother is generous, kind and thoughtful. He has always made himself available to family and friends for advice and help of any kind. He is a loving and loveable person.

I watched him succeed as an attorney and CPA. I attended his first trial. I watched him start a successful law firm at a young age. I watched him successfully run for a County Council seat and win twice. I watched him run for County Executive and win twice. I was so proud. I watched him do great things for St. Louis County.

Fast forward to May 3, 2019. I watched Steve stand at the podium to plead guilty to three felony counts. I was in shock. I was heartbroken as a brother. Heartbroken for him. Heartbroken for his family. Heartbroken for our family. I soon after saw in the paper that he gave up his law license and was disbarred.

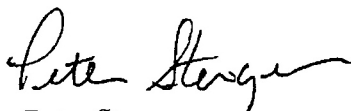
I spent time with Steve on May 3rd following the plea hearing and up to today as I type this letter. He has been deeply affected by knowing that he caused harm. Through it all he has been very humble and remorseful. He has blamed no one other than himself. He truly accepts responsibility for and regrets his actions and decisions. I don't think that bearing the weight of this responsibility would be easy for anyone. He has a look of deep concern on his face most of the time and looks as though he has lost considerable weight. He has apologized profusely to his family, to me, and to our entire family. He is sorry for what he has done and has deep regret. I believe Steve is a good person, and I believe Steve cares about his community, which is why I believe he ran for County Council and County Executive. Steve understands that he failed on that

path, and as I have stated, he accepts full responsibility for his wrongful conduct and has a deep desire to make things right. I hope we can also remember Steve did some very good things for St. Louis County as well.

Steve and his family have my support and love, and the support and love of our entire family. I believe that Steve has the strength to grow from this and become a better person for his family and his community.

I thank you for your time and the opportunity to address the Court.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Stenger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Stenger

July 18, 2019

Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Judge
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Honorable Judge Perry,

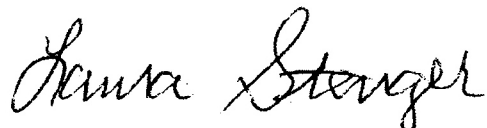
My name is Laura Stenger, Steve Stenger's Sister In-Law. I am married to Steve's brother Pete. I have known Steve for over thirty years. He is a very kind, generous, and giving individual. He always has been.

I have been so proud of Steve's accomplishments over the many years. I have been especially proud of Steve's involvement in spearheading the St. Louis County Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as I lost my 23-year-old son Mitch to an opioid overdose in 2014. Mitch was Steve's nephew and God Son. Steve promoted the program on behalf of Mitch and the countless others who have died from opioids - in an effort to save lives. I sleep better at night knowing that he succeeded in doing just that.

We are a very close family. We visit regularly. I cannot describe the sadness and remorse that I have seen from Steve following his guilty plea. It is very clear that he is remorseful and regretful for what he has done. He has expressed his sincere remorse to me personally countless times over the past two months.

As a mother who lost her son over four years ago, I am concerned about Steve being separated from his family. Our family has experienced so much devastation. I humbly pray that you will consider my letter in your sentencing of Steve. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Stenger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Stenger

Joshua R. Mourning, Esq.
5800 Lansdowne Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63109

July 23, 2019

The Honorable Catherine D. Perry
United States District Court – Eastern District of Missouri
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Judge Perry:

I am writing you about my uncle, Steve Stenger. While I could go on at length about what a good uncle he has been, I am writing separately to tell you about the impact Steve has had on my professional development.

Steve employed me as a clerk at his law firm, Klar, Izsak & Stenger, while I was pursuing an undergraduate business degree at Washington University. I performed a number of functions and learned a great deal while in that role, but the greatest benefit of the job was the mentorship Steve provided me.

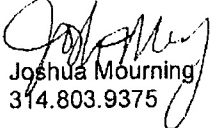
While working at his firm, I had in Steve a constant source of encouragement and support, not only throughout college, but also in connection with my decision to attend law school at Wash U. I credit him in significant part for my success in school (I graduated first in my undergraduate class and in the top 5% in my law class). During my academic career, Steve was not only a mentor—advising me on the things to do, and the things to avoid, in school—but was also a friend. In addition to the normal issues every law student faces, I was also dealing with the stress of some very personal issues. This was a very difficult period in my life, and I believe these combined stresses would have taken their toll were it not for Steve's support—he was always there to provide needed perspective and to help calm me down. Today, I am a successful, and happy, corporate attorney at Express Scripts. I'm not entirely sure I would be where I am today without having had the benefit of Steve's love and encouragement.

I could go on about other support Steve has provided me, but I know time is short. I would also add that it is obvious to Steve's entire family that he has untold remorse for what he has done. Not only is he sorry, but he is utterly ashamed. He has personally apologized to each of us for letting us down, and he knows he has let the entire community, including all of St. Louis County, down as well.

Steve is clear-eyed about his failures and wants to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of his family, his community, and the citizenry at large.

I hope you will consider this information in regard to Steve's sentencing. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,


Joshua Mourning
314.803.9375

BRIAN S. WITHERSPOON
Attorney at Law
Saint Louis, Missouri

August 7, 2019

Hon. Catherine D. Perry
United States District Judge
Thomas F. Eagleton Court House

Dear Judge Perry,

I write this letter taking into account two things. First, the sentencing statute calls for consideration of the defendant's history and characteristics. Second, no person is as bad as the worst thing they have ever done.

Steve Stenger obviously broke the law. Just as obviously, he has to pay for having done so. My letter concerns something much more personal.

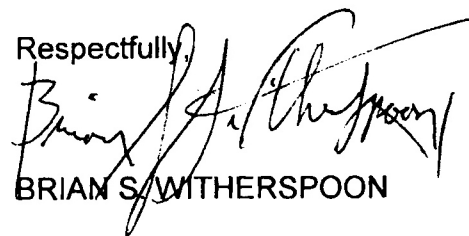
The Court is aware that my late wife, Jan Good, the best PD ever, died of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) in December, 2013. In the thirty months between her diagnosis and her passing, Steve made her laugh. It was no big deal to Steve. I am sure he has no recollection of any of their interactions back then, but I remember.

A glioblastoma diagnosis is essentially a harbinger of a death much sooner rather than later. Glio is unrelenting; it is a matter of time. We knew that, but we were hopeful anyway. Steve, I am sure, had no idea of this aspect of her brain cancer. We discussed it with no one but her doctors. Brain surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and she was back to being Jan Good both in court and out.

I have no idea if Steve knew anything about glioblastoma. He, like everyone else in the building knew she had brain cancer. I have no idea if he remembers talking to Jan during this time; but Jan remembered. She mentioned them to me. He intended to make her laugh, brighten her day, and he did. The courthouse conversations, the phone calls for advice helped her to laugh when she really needed to laugh.

Again, your Honor, this is more about Steve Stenger the person more so than Steve Stenger County Executive or convicted felon. Please consider this in evaluating his history and characteristics. I have spoken with Steve only two times since his arraignment. He is not aware of this letter, nor is his legal counsel. I am indebted to him for his kindness and want the Court to know of it.

Respectfully,



BRIAN S. WITHERSPOON