

Peterson- ~~Prisoner~~ Sentencing

1 friends and he's basically by himself. He's been in
2 custody since May of 2009. He's not in the general
3 population. They have him in his own section
4 probably for his own protection from other inmates.
5 When he enters into the IDOC system, of course, they
6 are going to have to make arrangements for him
7 because he's a police officer. He might be a high
8 security risk. Not only that but his status in the
9 media may cause some issues too as far as the
10 Illinois Department of Corrections is concerned but,
11 Judge, we are asking that this Court sentence the
12 defendant to a range of somewhere at the lower end
13 of the spectrum which is 20 years based on his
14 background, based on his employment, based on his
15 education, based on his lack of criminal record, his
16 lack of a juvenile delinquency, his relationship
17 with his family, and his medical conditions. Thank
18 you.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Lopez. May I see the
20 attorneys, please.

21 (Off the record discussion.)

22 THE COURT: Back on the record with 09CF1048,
23 case of People versus Drew Peterson. He's here in
24 the sheriff's custody with his various counsel. The

1 State's attorney is here with his assistants; the
2 matter comes on for continued hearing in regard to
3 the sentence of Mr. Peterson. You have an absolute
4 right to make a statement. Anything that you say I
5 will take it into account in determining the
6 sentence in this case. You can speak as long as you
7 want, talk about whatever it is you like, you won't
8 be cross examined; however, on the other hand if you
9 choose not to make a statement, you don't have to
10 make a statement and if you don't, I will not hold
11 it against you that you didn't make a statement; do
12 you understand that?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Peterson, you have a statement
15 you'd like to make?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Go right ahead, sir.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Would you like me to stand up?

19 THE COURT: You can stand right where you are or
20 sit, whatever you'd like.

21 THE DEFENDANT: I don't have a loud speaker so I
22 am worried about people being able to hear me.

23 THE COURT: Then you can take the stand. You
24 can speak at the rostrum if you choose to there. Go

1 ahead, sir.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Good day. My name is Drew
3 Peterson. I hope I don't aggravate the situation,
4 but I have a lot of things that I think need to be
5 said.

6 THE COURT: Say whatever you choose.

7 THE DEFENDANT: And I have been forced to sit
8 silent since the beginning of all this. I did not
9 kill Kathleen.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, you did.

11 THE COURT: There won't be any comments from the
12 audience, or I will have to --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor --


14 THE COURT: Ma'am, I'd like you to leave the
15 courtroom. Mr. Peterson, don't make any outbursts
16 which are calculated to irritate anyone in the
17 audience. You are speaking to the Court now.
18 Please go ahead.

19 THE DEFENDANT: I am sorry, Your Honor, I just
20 have to apply the affirmative defense for misconduct
21 in your courtroom. I apologize but --

22 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

23 THE DEFENDANT: I must have been woozy.

24 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

1 THE DEFENDANT: [For the last couple of years the
2 Illinois state police in conjunction with the will
3 county state's attorney's office has conducted the
4 most extensive, expensive, and obsessive
5 investigation probably known in the United States.] 
6 They harassed every family member, friend, friend
7 of friends, neighbor, fellow employee, love interest
8 I have ever had. They did illegal searches on my
9 property without a warrant and when they obtained
10 warrants, they did it with three year old bad
11 probable cause. What this did was give the Illinois
12 state police the ability to souvenir, hunt, steal
13 from my home. No usable evidence was ever found.
14 They altered evidence, and evidence that was
15 discovered in the first investigation miraculously
16 disappeared; evidence that could have shown me and
17 helped my defense. They intimidated witnesses, and
18 they terrorized my children.

19 State police wrote reports that didn't
20 reflect what the witnesses said and this was
21 uncovered in court and in one case by a Lieutenant
22 Coffman of the Bolingbrook police department. Was
23 this incompetence at best or false police reporting
24 at worse. Did they falsify police reports in their

1 obsession. They advised the state's attorney's
2 office who failed to disclose these items; however,
3 this wasn't discovered in court, and I have to ask
4 how many other times did the state police make false
5 police reports and all this was failed to be
6 disclosed. What they did uncover was rumors,
7 gossip, outrageous lies, and most importantly
8 unreliable hearsay; hearsay that pierced three
9 privileges that stood for centuries. I may be
10 redundant with some things that other people said,
11 but I need to say them.

12 First privilege was a clergy privilege.
13 When we met with Neil Schori, he was to become Stacy
14 and mine marriage counselor and when we talked with
15 him, he promised us, he guaranteed us, that anything
16 we talked about would remain personal and private
17 and would not ever be repeated. He subsequently
18 lied. The marital privilege was pierced to
19 subsequent create an agency. Neil Schori testified
20 that Stacy told him that I asked her to lie for me
21 in front of the state police. There was no proof of
22 that, no proof of truth, and out of this privileged
23 information from Neil Schori, the State was able to
24 create an agency and much like the fruits of the

1 poisonous tree doctrine, I find it hard to believe
2 the State was able to take information that they
3 obtained illegally and turn it to their benefit and
4 pierce the marital law privilege. The lawyer client
5 privilege was pierced. Harry Smith, without being
6 compelled, at both the hearsay hearing and at my
7 trial, gave up information, privileged information,
8 from both Stacy and Kathy like it was yesterday's
9 garbage. All that information between Harry Smith
10 and Neil Schori was what ultimately led to my
11 conviction. Hearsay's a scary thing. It requires
12 no proof of truth, and I have to ask the Court who
13 would be accountable for a lie. The person saying
14 the hearsay or the person who said the hearsay so
15 anything could be said and nobody's accountable for
16 the truth.

17 The appellate court took away the ability
18 for a judge, in this case Steve White, to determine
19 reliability and put in the hands of lay people who
20 don't have a clue. Other mitigating factors in
21 this: Neil Schori testified under oath that Stacy
22 could be lying. He also testified reluctantly in my
23 trial that Stacy could have been lying. We have to
24 look at statements that were made that convicted me

1 were all statements made by women who were trying to
2 better position themselves in a divorce or as
3 testified trying to extort money out of a divorce.
4 Divorce statements in and of themselves should be
5 under suspicious and cause for a doubt.

6 Stacy made statements I killed my own men in
7 the army which if somebody would have noticed that
8 that wouldn't be true. She made statements that my
9 son Tom knew I killed his mother. Tom testified
10 that that never happened and he never believed that
11 I killed his mother. In my experience in divorce
12 situations everybody lies and everybody lies
13 basically under the instructions of their own
14 attorneys. There was an incident when Kathy was
15 arrested when she exited the home when me and Stacy
16 were there picking up the kids for a visit and she
17 punched Stacy in the face. Kathy was arrested and
18 charged. They went to court, it went to trial. My
19 nine and ten year old sons were called to testify
20 and under oath they lied. Kathy was subsequently
21 acquitted, found not guilty of the charges, and the
22 next visit with the kids I questioned them, why did
23 you guys lie. They looked at me and said Harry
24 Smith told them to lie, and they were protecting

1 their mom because they didn't want her to go to
2 jail. That couldn't be done.

3 Stacy provided me with an alibi right after
4 Kathy's death. She provided me with an alibi to the
5 Illinois State police and you would think that alibi
6 would be more reliable because it was made to state
7 officials under penalty of law if she was perjuring
8 herself. Then she later said she was lying about
9 that. Seemed like Stacy was lying all the time
10 about everything, but the State's Attorney picks and
11 chooses what they believed and what they chose not
12 to believe. In fact all her testimony should be
13 stricken as Judge White did; however, the appellate
14 court changed that ability for the judge to make
15 that decision. Stacy clearly had a crush on
16 Reverend Schori which I think was a factor in this
17 otherwise why would Reverend Schori think he'd need
18 a witness during the counseling forum or during the
19 counseling situation. And the location of where you
20 choose to practice your religion or speak with your
21 attorney or your clergy personnel should be
22 insignificant because can't you pray anywhere, can't
23 you practice your religion anywhere so I am boggled
24 by the fact that all these privileges were pierced.

1 There was a constant and continuous illegal activity
2 by the state's attorney's office including the
3 State's Attorney himself.

4 They violated court orders, they failed to
5 discuss or disclose evidence properly, they made
6 accusations against the court or exchange in Emails
7 with His Honor, and defense counsel who we will say
8 were chastised so what the State's Attorney did they
9 found them a skinny butt spokesperson to go out and
10 speak publicly, criticize the Court, say anything
11 she wanted, and offered the state's attorney's
12 office from any anger the court might bring.

13 The grand jury in this case was convened and
14 used by the state police basically to intimidate
15 witnesses to make them or to compel them to talk,
16 hundreds of people were drug in front of the grand
17 jury particularly on my case, and I know there were
18 other cases going on at the time but it was
19 primarily my case. And when it came time for a vote
20 from the grand jury, only a handful of people were
21 selected, not the entire grand jury was selected to
22 come in and do the vote, pretty much guarantee a
23 true bill of indictment which I was. All this
24 misconduct took place under the nose and in the eyes

1 of the court. I can't believe the court would
2 believe a second to say misconduct didn't take place
3 in the state's attorney's office, the state police
4 were unsupervised in the investigation and
5 preparation of this case. There was a first
6 investigation of this case in which probably one of
7 the most experienced investigators was one of the
8 first people on the scene from the state police and
9 he determined that Kathy's death was an accident.

10 The late Dr. Mitchell, forensic pathologist
11 for the county at that time, looked at Kathy's body
12 when it was in its freshest state. He determined
13 she died of an accident. There was a coroner's jury
14 convened that viewed all the information, and they
15 determined that Kathy's death was an accident. All
16 this was done when the evidence was at its freshest.
17 Three years later when Stacy disappeared the State
18 took an accident and staged a homicide. I may be
19 redundant of a lot of things but again I need to say
20 them.

21 I was a police officer for 32 years. From
22 '74 to '76 I was a military policeman. I took pride
23 in my work. I did regular post duty and a secret
24 security clearance and was assigned to the secret

1 service occasionally to the presidential and VIP
2 security; security at the highest level. I got an
3 honorable discharge from the United States Army and
4 in 1977 I joined the Bolingbrook police department.
5 I was quickly assigned to the Metropolitan Area
6 Narcotics Squad. I received the rank of inspector
7 with the Illinois police department. I received the
8 credential making me a deputy sheriff with the Will
9 county sheriff's department along with a Bolingbrook
10 police officer. I did undercover work for five
11 years and my conduct was exemplary. I got out of
12 the M.A.N.S. unit. I was reassigned back to patrol
13 of the Bolingbrook police department where as a
14 patrol officer, field training officer, a squad
15 officer and detective. I received numerous awards -
16 police officer of the year, numerous citations and
17 accommodations and is probably one of the highest
18 decorated officers at the Bolingbrook police
19 department. Only 20 percent of police officers are
20 promoted to a supervisory rank and in the 1970s --
21 correction 1997, I was promoted to the rank of
22 sergeant. My duties included running a shift of 8
23 to 15 police officers. I was a S.W.A.T supervisor,
24 and I was responsible as a watch commander for the

1 responsibility, welfare, and the care of a town
2 population of 80,000. I always took my job
3 seriously. I never violated the public trust, and I
4 never bared false witness against anyone. I loved
5 having a job which allowed me to help people.

6 In my private life I owned and operated and
7 was the president and CEO as many as six companies
8 and at one time employed as many as 100 people. I
9 helped everybody who asked me for it and every day
10 I'd give the shirt off my back. Any skills that I
11 had when people knocked on my door looking for help,
12 I helped people at my own expense.

13 Until this happened, I thought I was viewed
14 as a great guy and then moments the media turned me
15 into a monster. First chance I get I am going to
16 get a tattoo on my back from shoulder to shoulder
17 and it's going to read no good deed goes unpunished.
18 That statement now defines my life.

19 I love Kathy. She was a good mom. She kept
20 a nice home. She did not deserve to die, but she
21 had an accident, but she was so emotionally and
22 psychologically damaged by some of these same people
23 Mr. Glasgow paraded in front of you today that made
24 it impossible for her to keep and maintain any kind

1 of long-term relationship.

2 I will try to be brief but today Kathy's
3 story needs to be told and not the Disney version
4 her sister's might have you have believe. When
5 Kathy was 3 years old, she was abandoned by her
6 father. Her mother remarried. She married a man
7 who was abusive both mentally, physically, sexually
8 abused her. When she tried complaining to her
9 mother, her complaints fell on deaf ears. She never
10 told me whether her sisters experienced these same
11 issues; however, they knew what was going on and
12 when they became old enough, they left the home,
13 again abandoning her, leaving her to face all these
14 problems by herself.

15 Her father, who had moved to the southwest
16 part of the country had another family, abandoned
17 them, moved back to the Chicagoland area, and Kathy
18 in her early teens, moved in with her father to
19 escape the abuse from one household where she met
20 with abuse from a stepmother and her father she was
21 physically and emotionally abused and at 16 years
22 old, she was put out on her own much like a dog
23 being tied to a tree who they didn't want him
24 anymore only difference is Kathy didn't get a bag of

1 dog food. The most pathetic thing I have ever seen
2 in my life was the night after our wedding when I
3 held Kathy and she cried because her father failed
4 to show up to give her away at our wedding. Her
5 sister Anna testified that Kathy made a promise to
6 take care of her boys if she died. I don't think
7 Kathy meant take action to put their family in
8 financial harm. At Kathy's wake friends of the
9 family put money in cards and envelopes to help with
10 the cost of the funeral. I paid for the funeral.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You did not. There's a
12 liar right there.

13 THE DEFENDANT: I have the receipt. I paid for
14 Kathy's funeral at the request of her Sister Anna
15 who is sitting right there. I don't think Kathy
16 meant when she said take care her kids for Anna to
17 steal the money and spend it on herself, and I
18 didn't think when Kathy said take care of my kids
19 she meant show my kids the same neglect that you
20 showed her through the years; however, in this case
21 the Savio family neglected my kids and abused a good
22 thing.

23 Kathy's sister Anna was unhappy with the
24 results of the original autopsy and when Stacy

1 disappeared Anna contacted Dr. Baden, the world
2 renown pathologist, and asked him to come and take a
3 look at Kathy's body again and explain to him her
4 concerns and doubts. Kathy's body was exhumed,
5 Dr. Baden did another autopsy at which time he made
6 different findings with his autopsy with a body
7 that's been soaking in water for three years
8 decaying. He took the head off the mother of my
9 children. He cut off the head of the mother of my
10 children and he put it on a counter so that the TV
11 producer assisting him could take a picture to
12 sensationalize the moment for a TV show. This
13 didn't bother the Savio's at all. They were more
14 concerned about who was going to pay for the burial
15 luncheon. These people ruined her life which ruined
16 my life. Now, they are attempting to ruin my kid's
17 life. These people were not there for her in her
18 life, and they have no business speaking for her in
19 her death.

20 I have six children - Lacy, age 7; Anthony,
21 age 9; children with Kathy - Christopher, age 18,
22 pursuing a law degree or pursuing a degree in law
23 studying at Western Illinois; Tommie's pursuing --
24 he's 20 pursuing a degree in medicine; my son Steve,

1 who is a police officer, or was a police officer.
2 He lost his job when I was illegally charged with a
3 weapons charge and he got tied up in it and without
4 cause he lost his job and he lost his income, and I
5 have an older son Eric, 35, who I am estranged from.
6 Eric stopped talking to me when I became involved in
7 a relationship with Stacy.

8 Mr. Glasgow, all aspects of my life have
9 been destroyed. Everything from my personal life to
10 my professional life to my social life, all aspects
11 have been destroyed, and I tell you this to give you
12 greater cause for celebration when you celebrate the
13 fact that you perpetrated the largest railroad job
14 that ever took place in this country. Like
15 Mr. Lopez says, I don't do well in incarceration. I
16 have been held in solitary confinement for almost
17 four years. Due to the bad food and lack of
18 exercise, I have high blood pressure, high
19 cholesterol, borderline diabetes, a variety of skin
20 issues, and I've had two bouts with skin cancer.
21 Since I have been incarcerated, I have had nine
22 family members who have died; six of which were
23 cousins; none of them making it to the age of their
24 mid 60s.

1 Then tell me this, I am not looking for any
2 sympathy, the point I am trying to make is anything
3 you sentence me to, you are sentencing me to the
4 Department of Corrections to die. If you go through
5 the constitution and the various amendments, I feel
6 all my rights have been violated one way or the
7 other, twisted, turned, right to a speedy trial,
8 right to confront my accusers, right to against
9 reasonable -- rights against unreasonable searches
10 and seizures, forgive me, if you give me a moment;
11 right to a reasonable bond, equal protection of the
12 law just to name a few, and I think the only thing
13 left to make this case for true form would be a
14 cruel and unusual punishment, and I don't think
15 nobody would care because nobody cares. I can't
16 believe I spent 32 years defending the Constitution
17 that allowed this to happen to me. I can't believe
18 people fought and died in wars to protect the
19 Constitution that allowed this to happen to me.
20 Everybody should be outraged, but nobody cares. I
21 take full responsibility for my relationship with
22 the media.

23 When this first broke out, the terrifying
24 event took place, my house was barraged with what I

1 believe was 20 media trucks, barrages, every
2 emporium you could imagine, and I just wanted them
3 away from my house because they were scaring my
4 kids. They hounded me. I agreed to go on national
5 TV to tell my side of the story and asked for legal
6 help. Everything from busy bodies like Nancy Grace
7 to the local and national news to that ridiculous
8 movie that was played repeatedly right before my
9 trial, during my trial, which introduced to the
10 public evidence that the state's attorney's office
11 knew would never be allowed in a court, but it
12 allowed the jury, pretty much guarantee, that I
13 would not receive a fair trial. It was pretty clear
14 the State took part in that movie because things I
15 recall saying to the state police, and only to them,
16 was in that movie. I did receive advice from
17 counsel which seemed sound at the time to make as
18 many TV appearances as I could. The same advice was
19 given to governor Rod Blagojevich. We share the
20 same publicist, and the same advice was given to us
21 by the same person. Seemed like sound advice at the
22 time.

23 I am an obnoxious man by nature truly and
24 through the years as a police officer, like most

1 police officers, my defense mechanism is always
2 comedy which is normally not seen by the public.
3 The media took it and capitalized on that, exploited
4 that, and my obnoxious nature shined through, but I
5 want to show the Court at no time did I, in any way,
6 wish to project any insensitivity to anyone. Did
7 that make sense?

8 THE COURT: It did, sir. Go ahead.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Kathy's death, it was never my
10 intention throughout these proceedings, no one
11 witness, no one juror, not one prosecutor looked me
12 in the eye until today, and I hope Mr. Glasgow looks
13 me in the eye right now; never forget my face; never
14 forget what you have done here.

15 Originally, I had some cute and funny things
16 to end with but in closing now it's time to sentence
17 an innocent man to a life of hardship and abuse of
18 prison, and I don't deserve this. I don't deserve
19 this. Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Court has considered the statutory
21 factors in aggravation and mitigation; the arguments
22 of the attorneys; the evidence presented during this
23 sentencing hearing into account in arriving at what
24 it believes is the appropriate sentence in this