

March 23, 2016

Joseph Alvo
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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to you today disgusted by the legal system and hoping you have the power and conviction to help me. I am an ordinary man living an honest life and last year, I was cheated by the board HOA where I live. I have talked to many other residents that felt the same way and they said it just wasn't worth the effort to do anything about it. I disagreed, and so I disputed charges on my account for the longest time. To no end. I took them to small claims court here in Charleston. While waiting for my day in court, I got a letter in the mail that John Dodds asked Judge Guerard for a continuance for personal reasons. When I learned that I would face one of the best attorneys in town, I tried to secure my own council. I called around town for 3 days and kept getting the same story that there was a conflict of interest and nobody would take my case. That said, I had no choice other than trying to plead my case alone. The defense brought in witnesses that I was not told about and had no opportunity to prepare questions for, all of which work for the defendant. They all lied on the stand, and I provided paper trail concrete proof of my case. I actually expected the case to be between me, the defendant, his attorney and the judge. I mean what good is the testimony of the defendant's employees? I even caught them in their lies a couple of times and the judge dismissed that and told me I was only supposed to be asking questions. I'm glad that I've never been to court before, but it's a circus. For one thing, I could not believe how late it ran. We were scheduled for 2pm and when another case ran late, we wound up in court until like 7:30pm. Is that even allowed in government offices at all? I hadn't eaten since breakfast that morning and when it ran late, I could not leave to eat because if they started while I was gone the case would have been dismissed. I was famished the entire case and especially tired from sitting patiently in the waiting room for 3 hours for the case to start.

Once it started, during the questioning, it became apparent to me that the judge and Johnny Dodds were buddies and very likely discussed my case before court, and came up with a strategy to work me down. In the end, while I feel my case was proven, with no explanation, the judge ruled in favor of the defendant, and in the ruling, when the attorney's fee came up, the judge spoke in legal jargon I did not understand, and it was likely that nobody in the room understood except the attorney... it sounded like he told the defendant's attorney, John Dodds what he could do to pursue collecting his fees from me. I think it's awful that judges are allowed to make rulings without explaining their rulings. We have all watched Judge Judy on TV and she always explains why she is ruling a particular way. I was the only person in the room that was honest and I didn't do anything wrong. Now they want to collect fees from me???

When I got the continuance, it came with a countersuit notice at the end, so I called the court and asked about it. They told me not to worry about it and I could ask about it in court. Now I'm looking at some \$2,000 attorney fees and I've done nothing wrong. Towards the beginning of my presentation, I asked the judge if he could help explain the procedures of his courtroom for me, because I have never been to court, and could not retain council. He explained nothing about consequences of paying the attorney's fees.

I believe him to be a corrupt person that has bought off all the attorneys in town. When I was elected to the board of one of the properties to try and convince the board to replace his company. I was suddenly called within days of the election and told that I was not on the board after all; that there was an error with the proxy votes counted. Now how would you feel if after you were elected Governor, someone challenged the votes counted? In my case, the person with the proxy vote (the president of the board) was in the room when the gavel went down announcing that I had won. It was clear from the number of people participating that the proxy voter's votes would win. At the same time, while he was right there in the room, he did not object, and yet, within a few days, he changed his vote. I told them if people were allowed to do that, Obama may as well not be in office either. Can you imagine what (illegal) deal must have been struck there? This guy is a crook and it makes me sick to know he is getting away with this. We just had another property manager in town that is guilty of billing people fees that they should not have been billed, misappropriating funds, and the FBI is presently opening up all the books in that office. How do I get the FBI to open up Steve Peck's books? I believe that at the property where I was voted on the board, he is paying the board members kickbacks and stealing the money we pay that clearly is not going where it's supposed to go.

I was convinced from the first few minutes of my case in court that the judge had already ruled against me, before I said a word, and I was not the one on trial. He asked me questions like what I did for a living that had no relevance to the case. He kept asking me to present my case, and kept interrupting me to throw me off, and I was having a hard enough time for being famished. All citizens deserve a fair trial in court. It was like he was working as an attorney for the defendant that already had an attorney. What's worse is that I don't have any witnesses that were in the room to prove anything, but I can tell you I have no reason to lie about a judge I have never met before. I am very disappointed in this judge and while I know I can't prove it, I'm fairly certain his ethics were absent today, at least in this case. Is there any way I can bring this before judicial review? When I asked him about an appeal, he said I could only appeal it in Charleston, which is useless because I can't get an attorney in Charleston. And I had told him from the start that I tried to secure council but was unable to come up with anyone. Then, at the beginning, without having heard my case, he told me that my case was essentially not worth his time. Governor, when is a case not worth a judges time? It's a judge's job to be fair and give everyone consideration, whether or not I am a buddy or a peer. I get that judges and attorneys scratch one anothers backs, but this was a really bad itch! I paid court costs to file a case, and I have rights to challenge people that steal from me, no matter what the value of the case, sometimes it's all about principles, and those cases should have the most merit. It should not be about the cases value, it should simply be ruled by what is right and wrong and I know I was right. I want an unbiased outsider to look at this case, the arguments made, which witnesses were involved (if they were biased), and tell me if my case was not supposed to be ruled in my favor. It's so disappointing that I want to sell my condo and leave the city. I have absolutely no faith in "the system" here now. Governor, please do something about this.

Regards,



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