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Chief Justice Ray Wyant,
Provincial Court of Manitoba

Oct 18th /07

Dear Sir;

First of all I wish to let you know that I am Crystal Taman's father and have been at all of the court proceedings concerning Harvey-Zenk, the driver that killed her.

My wife and I have been very distressed over these proceedings and how the prosecution has not been forthcoming with evidence, making your task of sentencing very difficult. On Sept. 12/07 you questioned Mr. Minuk, the appointed Crown Attorney about whether they had come to an agreement on Mr. Harvey-Zenk's pleading guilty and then dropping the other charges. Mr. Minuk then tried to say it was a plea bargain because of lack of evidence. On July 16/07 at what was to be a preliminary hearing, Mr. Minuk stood up and asked the Judge to put this case over till the following day as the defendant Harvey-Zenk wished to plead guilty to Dangerous Driving Causing Death, in view of the fact that the Crown had 33 witnesses, downsized to 12 for that preliminary hearing. This was not spoken of as a Plea Bargain and lack of evidence to proceed was never mentioned.

In desperation we have written to the Attorney General with our concerns that Mr. Minuk has acted with bias and conflict of interest in this case, and have finally received the enclosed reply from the Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Don Slough. Although they claim there was not enough evidence to prove impairment, many take a refusal to accept a breathalyzer as evidence and an admission of guilt. That charge was also dropped and a charge of Criminal Negligence causing Death also just disappeared. I have however, highlighted a portion where Mr. Slough admits there was evidence to prove the charge of Dangerous Driving causing Death, thereby supporting the fact that it was an agreement between the Crown and Defense and not a plea-bargain by which Mr. Harvey-Zenk agreed to plead guilty. By refusing to reveal that evidence Mr. Minuk acted in conflict to his mandate as a Prosecutor.

One witness stated publicly that the witnesses were informed they could not speak out about the case or it would mess it up. Not one out of 33 witnesses was called to testify. I ask, "how could it mess it up? By the truth being told?"

We truly appreciate the diligent way in which you have dealt with this difficult case.

Yours truly,

Sveinn Sveinson

