

Dr. Monty Weinstein
24 East 12th Street, New York, NY

3 January 2010

Dear Dr. Monty,

I just wanted to thank you for your tireless work in our case. When I walked in six and a half years ago, I naively thought that reason, the weight of fact, and the “best interests of the child” prevailed in an American Court of law. Instead, I have come across two judges (Judge Sidney Strauss and Judge Lizbeth Gonzalez) who routinely make up their own law; who dismiss two court-ordered psychologists’ reports and the law-guardian’s insistence that custody go to me to protect the child; and the Good ‘Ole Boys Network, Court of Appeals who responded to a 1500 page Appeal—filled with dozens of illegal and unethical breaches on the record by their buddy Sidney—with a one-paragraph response, allowing judges to ignore any fact and witness testimony that they do not like, support litigants even when they are shown to lie on the stand, and to rule upon a mere whim or hearsay. The ‘judgment’ from the Appeals Court looks to be a routinely issued template of dismissal and does not mention a single particular facet of my case. This callous system deliberately gave my son to a proven abusive mother, and then punished my son and I for my advocacy on his behalf by cutting our time together.

All-too typically, the mother further used the system by creating a fictitious harassment claim, keeping me under a temporary Order of Protection without her ever having to present a single piece of evidence for eleven months. When it finally came before Judge Lizbeth Gonzalez, the judge readily admitted that the mother had no basis to her harassment claims, yet Judge Gonzalez insisted that I admit to wrongdoing and accept an Order of Protection, because “trials take a lot of time.” When my lawyer said that we would not accept such and that I had a right to put on a defense; the judge mocked and threatened both of us in open court, and issued a “stay-away order”—meaning that I was not allowed contact of any kind with my son. Acting every bit the petulant tyrant, Judge Gonzalez issued this Order after allowing only the mother to testify, never allowing me to speak, without reviewing my documented response, and even though there was no issue of custody before her!

I did not believe this could happen to exemplary parents. I am convinced that without people like you who are willing to stand up to the system, this would happen to everyone. As you know, I see my son every day at the bus stop and have called him without fail every night for seven years. I have attended every school event, every field trip, and I take my son solely to all of his sports. I get up every Saturday and Sunday at 4:00am to take him to his hockey games and practices, so that he can pursue his dream of playing in the NHL for the New York Rangers. We have spent hundreds of hours on book reports and school projects and pet lizards, fish, and cats. I am a dedicated, loving, educated parent with a B.S in Electrical Engineering and an M.F.A. in Theatre. Despite the Court’s best efforts—in contradiction to their own experts’ advice—and against a relentless backdrop of jealous parental alienation, my son and I have

built an exceptionally strong bond. It was this that the Court and mother sought to break. It was this that you have preserved.

I cannot begin to speak to the weeks of pain that my son endured while he was kept in the dark about his father's sudden disappearance, but I am certain that without your intervention, Dr. Monty, this Court would have continued its games. (Gonzalez originally aimed to separate us for 2 months because she did not want to reconvene sooner.) The Court held my son hostage in an attempt to get me to agree not to mount a defense, because exercising my right of "innocent until proven guilty" was too inconvenient and too much work for them to bother with. It was indeed a dark hour when I came to you.

When I saw your letter and heard of all the work that you did on behalf of my son and I, I broke down crying. I already knew how maliciously the U.S. Court system treats good, loving fathers, but I was also convinced that no one would ever care enough to look into the well-being of a suffering nine-year old. Courtesy of the New York Court system, we missed our big Halloween plans, but thanks to you we were back together to enjoy the best Christmas and Christmas Eve we have had yet. So, thank you Dr. Monty. Thank you! It was your devotion and bulldog tenacity that freed my son and put the Court in check. Our sessions helped keep me together under the stress, gave me hope for our future, and gave me tools to continue to endure the abusive co-parent and legal system.

I understand that your hard work has helped to remove both Judge Strauss and Gonzalez from the bench. This is a victory for all parents and children in those districts. Within a system aimed at demoralizing and pulverizing good people, I have personally experienced the Court's vengeance when you stand up against this Machine for one child. I know that you have helped hundreds of children and parents in your life's work, and I expect you withstand the Court's ire on a daily basis.

Please continue your good, good work. People like me need you as we navigate the sea of nefarious judges, unscrupulous lawyers, and vengeful exes bent upon keeping children away from good, loving parents.

Your heart and the fight you bring are the rare and necessary ally. With you at work, there is hope that these systems can change in time and begin to focus on making decisions for the children's sake. On behalf of those who have unknowingly benefitted from your work and those who are currently under too great a burden to speak, I thank you, my son thanks you—we thank you.

In Gratitude,



Erik