

June 21, 2007

District Attorney Thomas Spota
Assistant District Attorney Leonard Lato
Building #77 N County Complex
Hauppauge, NY 11787

Re: Marty Tankleff

I am the sister of Arlene Tankleff, who was murdered on September 7, 1988, in Suffolk County.

No doubt this letter will fall on deaf ears, just as the other letters I've written you over the years have, but I feel compelled to write it anyway. Perhaps it is only for cathartic purposes, but my blood boils every time I think of you people, or hear references to your ridiculous, "theory-infused" briefs like the one you recently filed. Where do you come up with these far-fetched "myths"?

I must state, for the record, that I find you an embarrassment to your profession, and I must make my feelings known to your jurisdiction. We've been told for almost nineteen years to "take the high road," "hold your head up," "don't lower yourself to Suffolk County's level," "the truth will surface," etc. Frankly, I am sick to death of doing that. It doesn't work with you. And why doesn't it work with you? Because you have no dignity, no morals, no ethics, no conscience, and you do not deserve the respect your office provides you. It is your duty, by law, to seek the truth. Your "theory" about not being obligated to provide DNA on the fingernails is overwhelmingly despicable. What are you afraid of? That you will find the real killer's DNA on my sister's body, and maybe, just maybe, you will be proved wrong?

Why are you fighting so desperately to keep Marty Tankleff in prison? Why are you coddling violent career criminals and tampering with defense witnesses? What are you afraid of? That Marty will become another of the over 200 exonerated? And Suffolk County law enforcement will be exposed for the sham it really is? And the world will see who the real "nefarious scoundrels" are? And the real killers will be brought to justice? And what other truth might come out along the way?

Mark my words. The family, supporters, the Innocence Project and other legal organizations, judges, law professors, the media and everyone else who believes as fervently as we do will NEVER give up fighting this fight. You will find yourselves in the hot seat tomorrow, next month, next year, or sometime in the next ten years over this case. Does the name Mike Nifong ring a bell?

Sincerely,

Marianne McClure