

October 10, 2025

Judge Jack R. McKenna
Alaska Court System
825 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

The Honorable Judge Jack R. McKenna,

I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed and offended I was with your re-sentencing of Winona Fletcher.

The Faccio murders were the most horrific murders in the history of Alaska. They are our version of the Manson murders in California.

The Faccio's son discovered the bloodied lifeless bodies that Fletcher and Boyd left behind. Can you imagine how that changed his life? Smelling the blood. Seeing his father, hands bound, brutally executed.

Mr. Faccio had to listen in horror as his wife begged for mercy upstairs, only to hear the begging replaced by a young woman's laughter and then gun shots. It must have felt like an eternity to him until he saw the killer come down the stairs, knowing what they had done, and what they were about to do.

In what can only be described as cruel irony, Janice Lienhart, (daughter of the Faccio's), as well as several other victims of violent crime (including myself) have spent their entire adult lives trying to get justice for victims of violent crime in Alaska. Unfortunately, you, and Appellate Court Justice Marjorie Allard, in one fell swoop, wiped out our lifetime effort.

In 1994, the Legislature passed, and the voters overwhelmingly approved what is known as the Victims' Rights Amendment to the Alaska Constitution. It has several provisions in it, which both the Appellate Court and you chose to completely ignore.

In Article 1, Section 12, of the Amendment changed the administration of the criminal justice system from having two pillars (public safety, reformation of the offender) to having five: public safety, community condemnation of the offender, the rights of crime victims as outlined in Article 1, Section 24, restitution, and the principal of reformation. During the 1994 legislative debate it was discussed on whether to number these in order of priority, but in the end, it was decided that they will all be equal. During this discussion, the principal of reformation was always debated as being LAST among the five pillars.

"Community condemnation of the offender" has never been defined in statute, but for those of us who watched the sheer terror that the Faccio murders inflicted on the community, followed by the terror of seeing who had committed those horrendous crimes, is a pretty good barometer of community condemnation.

The rights of crime victims as outlined in Article 1, Section 24, includes the following: "The right to a timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused." Only a Judge who wants to have a specific outcome could possibly think that dragging the children and grandchildren of the Faccio's through the criminal justice system for over four decades could possibly believe that their constitutional rights have not been violated. The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled that juveniles could not be sentenced to death, or life without parole; and in a separate ruling, that the age of the offender must be taken as a factor in sentencing. All SCOTUS requirements already were addressed and adhered to during sentencing of Fletcher. She was scheduled for a parole hearing in about five years, and the age of the offender was considered at sentencing. And, she already had her sentence reduced at a previous re-sentencing, from 297 years to 135 years.

For. Three. Brutal. Murders.

It can only be assumed that if she had committed only one murder, you would have apologized for the inconvenience and given her a lollipop.

Article 1, Section 24 further reads that victims have a constitutional right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. Janice Lienhart gave her life to help victims, and for the court to keep the family on hold for decade after decade with hearings, re-sentencing, post-conviction relief proceedings, etc., shows that the court does not treat victims with dignity. If a criminal's rights were ignored, or proceedings were delayed, or if a criminal was treated the way that victims are treated, you would simply dismiss the charges; but when it is the victims, apparently it is just fine for Judges to violate the Alaska Constitution.

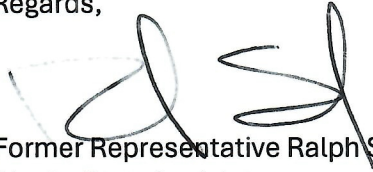
Victims of crime have no real remedy. I know from personal experience that no attorney will take a case to sue the Alaska Court System or the State of Alaska for violating a victim's constitutional rights. Certainly not the ACLU – they only care about protecting the constitutional rights of criminals, not the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and victims of crime! So, victims simply get mad at the system, and pretty much stay angry all the time. Mostly they just give up. Women who are raped feel that they get raped all over again. Parents who have lost a child are never the same. And victims repeatedly watch press reports that somehow make Fletcher and other murderers the victims, forgetting about the countless lives that have been destroyed. So, again, most victims just give up.

The Faccio family was the exception. Janice Lienhart did not just give up. For years, she fought with compassion and usually had a smile on her face as she tried to help victims and worked tirelessly for Victims for Justice. Unfortunately, I believe that if she were alive today, she might feel that it was all a waste of time. This is solely due to the actions of Judge Jack McKenna and Appellate Court Justice Marjorie Allard. You have wiped out a lifetime of effort to help victims – shame on you.

But not to worry, I am confident that your friends at the next Bar Association gathering, the ACLU, and their sycophants at the Alaska Judicial Council will give you a hearty clap on the back about how you did the right thing; made that tough decision. They will wring their hands about how you shouldn't listen to those annoying victims or pesky victims' rights people, after all, they aren't even lawyers, so they can't possibly understand.

It should be noted, however, that most of them have never had to clean up the blood.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS', written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Former Representative Ralph Samuels (*retired*)
Alaska State Legislature

cc:

Chief Justice, Alaska Supreme Court

Governor Mike Dunleavy, State of Alaska

Attorney General Cox, Alaska Department of Law

John Skidmore, Alaska Department of Law

Commissioner, Alaska Department of Public Safety

Commissioner, Alaska Department of Corrections