

The Honorable Jan Brodie  
Fairfax County Circuit Court  
4110 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Judge Brodie,

I understand that Christopher Kloman has confessed to the crimes that he committed and that he accepts responsibility for them and I am fully aware of their egregious nature. But I am nevertheless compelled to write because I believe that it is important to think of Chris Kloman's life since these acts have stopped and since he has confessed to and taken responsibility for his acts including those of which the court knew nothing. I think that his life of so many years since these offenses have occurred is not only worthy of consideration, but only fair to take into account in determining his sentence.

Please allow me to identify my family and myself before addressing Mr. Kloman. My husband of thirty seven years, who died in 2008, earned three graduate degrees from MIT, worked in the White House during two administrations at the highest levels, had major security clearances, and later became an industry executive and pioneer in his field. I am a recently-minted Ph.D. historian who earlier worked in the White House as well as for a cabinet officer and thus had security clearances too. I mention our security clearances not because we worked in intelligence, because we did not, but because my husband held a position of great trust and though, in contrast, I worked at a lower level, I had a thorough vetting for my clearance by the F.B.I. because from time to time I had proximity to the First Lady. In addition to his government and business careers, my husband was Chairman of an environmental board that has facilitated hundreds of thousands of our citizens exploring the wilderness in a non-political way, served on a prominent and highly remunerative global funds board, and been an activist in the internet freedom movement, or the effort to bring the internet to populations in closed regime societies. In addition to two four year stints of working in government, I have

been a stay at home mother and a community activist mainly at my children's schools, at non-profit organizations including one of our children's universities, and a cancer prevention board. I am the parent of two very successful children, one with a doctorate and the other with an MBA, both of whom have successful spouses. One of them is a Ph.D. candidate and the other of is serving our country in a position of leadership. I am a grandmother of two little girls and am expecting two more grandchildren. I have taught Sunday School for three years altogether, one year as a teenager and two years as an adult. I serve on the board of a non-profit that has a national policy role.

I and my family have been residents of McLean since 1985 and have known Mr. Kloman since our children entered the Potomac School that year. At that time, Potomac was still a community school. In other words, everyone there knew each other, worked on behalf of the school together, socialized at many school functions, and, as well, in their homes. We never went to the Kloman's home, but we had frequent social interactions with both of them in the thick of school activities, had interactions with him as the Head of the Middle School at Potomac when our children rose to that part of the school, and, notably because it was a close association, I worked side by side with Mrs. Kloman on Fall Frolics, our annual fundraising event for Potomac's scholarship fund. I knew her well and appreciated her talents and those of her children as I came to hear of them and their successes. Our children were in none of the same classes, so I knew them only by reputation and today I know that they hold positions of responsibility, are proceeding productively and creatively, and as when they are younger, are doing very, very well.

I cannot say enough about the good feelings about Potomac and between the families there during the years that we were there. Life at Potomac community was very cordial and relationships between families were likewise. I believe that families at Potomac during these decades, or the eighties and early nineties, generally knew each other better than at other schools of similar academic status. That is during this period, Potomac was in transition from being a community school to being on par with the top private schools in the area. The point is that within this web of close-knit relationships the

Klomans were liked and a family that people trusted. On occasion, my husband and I attended social functions in the homes of mutual friends where the Klomans were also guests.

If Mr. and Mrs. Kloman came to St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean during the years that our children were at Potomac, I do not remember it. Perhaps that is because we were attending different services. For many years, though, since our children graduated from Potomac my husband and I, and since his death I, have attended church St. John's with the Klomans. There were many aspects to the life of the parish to which both Mr. and Mrs. Kloman completely, that is very time-consumingly, devoted themselves. Mrs. Kloman joined the Altar Guild which is known locally for its artistry, elaborate arrangements, and, interestingly enough, the distinction of its members as pillars of the community. Though the scale of these efforts is entirely different, I believe that the flowers at St. John's are remarkable enough that they find their rivals only at the Washington National Cathedral. Apart from Mrs. Kloman's service, Mr. Kloman was particularly involved at St. John's. My experiences with him at Potomac and St. John's are in descriptions below.

First, though, please allow me to say that even before this recent serious offense by Mr. Kloman came into the public consciousness, I had said to my husband before his death and to my children that Mr. Kloman "had led the most sacrificial life of anyone that we know." It is with some confidence that I think that I could say that again today. If there were a local Community Service Hall of Fame, he would be the top awardee. He would have achieved this in several ways. Here is his history in this as I recall it.

1.) He was very early and active as an advocate and perhaps one of the initiators of the community service movement at Potomac and he was very successful in encouraging students to engage with it. Other than being known as Head of Middle School, he was an exemplar when it came to the doing of community service. That is he didn't just supervise it, he threw himself into it. It seemed his signature. He could be seen with students picking up trash on the sides of Route #123 and other roads on Saturday mornings, clearing paths on the

Potomac trails, and generally doing care-taking on campus that was instructional from a skill building and environmental point of view. More than any other school official at Potomac during our participation there, he was associated with community service with students and through his own initiation.

2.) Several years ago, Chris ran for the Head of the McLean Community Center Board. I do not know the results of the election, but it is significant that not another soul known to me in McLean had agreed to be on the ballot.

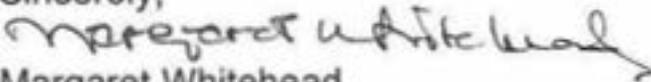
3.) He was the Senior Warden at St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean. You might call this predictable since he was the son of the head of the Virginia Theological Seminary, Felix Kloman, whose portrait I found there when I went to communion to celebrate All Soul's Day last year. I did not know what to expect of Chris in his role as Senior Warden since he had retired from Potomac. If the traditional Senior Warden's "sermon," that is the annual fundraising sermon that relieves the rector of this duty, is any measure, Chris took on the job with a great deal of vigor and dignity. What he communicated in his remarks was not just an appeal as many Warden's before him had, or sentimental statements about such things as his children's baptisms, weddings, and such, but a blanket affirmation of faith in a very dignified, forthright manner. He said that faith was the driver of his life and that it had been important in determining his path. I was touched by his investing so much of himself in this sermon, delivering it with great calm, and, in all, sharing the clarity he had achieved about his faith. This sermon as the backdrop to everything else I know about Chris makes sense and has been a major motivator for writing this letter. I might add that the job of Senior Warden is arduous, and the position is inured with great appreciation and respect. In other words, Chris would not have risen to this post without commanding both appreciation and respect from our Rector and our Vestry whose members are leaders in the community and industry. It is important to understand that though St. John's is in McLean, its membership is very cosmopolitan and consists of numerous national, state, and local leaders and nationally known families.

to it, I have not been there. But he has. After a workday there that he most likely organized himself, that is a day to act as a cleaning staff for the House, I asked him, "How did it go Chris." Emphatically, and with a big smile and great joy, he said, "AWESOME!" I had expected him to say, "We got the job done," or "What a mess we found," or, perhaps smiling, "Cleaning up after teenagers is something!" But he said, "AWESOME." He clearly loved it.

I am reluctant to psychoanalyze Chris, but on hearing of his behavior that ceased years ago and thinking of his contributions as I have known them and outlined them here, it occurred to me that he has seemed as someone who has already been to prison, felt deep remorse, and was atoning. I do not know this for a fact and indeed it has never been mentioned to me. Rather this came to mind because his extravagantly energetic community activism has been consistently on a grand scale. Most certainly were he not in prison, he would continue to be deeply engaged in doing these good works. They seem not just an identity, but, apart from his family and at the very least, his primary interest and his reason for being. As the years have passed, he has persisted in having this spirit and, if his activities at St. John's are any measure, his service has only increased. I rush to add that, as in other the case of many others, I do not recognize what he does in these charitable ways as earning him any particular gain in social status. By its very nature, it appears to appeal to him as an important part of life and to be rewarding as a selfless enterprise.

Herein, then, though I leave you with feelings of sadness over what has happened, at the same time I also give you what I regard as these wholly extraordinary facts about the long term, consistent, and remarkable record of recent years to consider in regard to Mr. Kloman's sentence.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Whitehead