

DOUGLAS L. COLBERT

ATTORNEY AT LAW
2508 CREST ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
410/466-4442

April 22, 1999

The Honorable Patricia C. Jessamy
State Attorney for Baltimore City
208 Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Pat,

I appreciate your willingness to review the enclosed court transcript of a habeas corpus proceeding in which I asked the Honorable David B. Mitchell to grant bail to Adnan Syed, who is currently charged with murder in the first degree.

In arguing that Mr. Syed presents a risk of flight, Assistant State Attorney Vicki Wash relied upon improper and erroneous assertions concerning Mr. Syed's nationality, ethnicity, ancestry, and religion. Ms. Wash also referred to the national origin and religion of Mr. Syed's parents and made a similar reference to the Baltimore community that supports Mr. Syed's pretrial release. Additionally, Ms. Wash made extensive use of highly prejudicial and unsworn statements that she attributed to a United States government legal advisor. Ms. Wash informed the court that Mr. Syed fit a pattern in which jilted Pakistani lovers murder women in this country and then gain safe haven in Pakistan. She concluded her argument by urging the court to avoid "another Sheinbein situation."

In my opinion, Ms. Wash's presentation was wholly outside the boundaries of proper argument.

I would like to discuss this matter further after you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed transcript. I thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Colbert, Esq.

cc: Cristina M. Gutierrez, Esq.