



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

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February 17, 2004

Virginia Parole Board
6900 Atmore Drive
Richmond, VA 23225

Re: Joe Giarratano

Dear Ms. Fahey and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of Joe Giarratano's application for parole. I have known Joe since 1979, having first represented him in litigation (about which he was ambivalent) designed to set aside his death sentence, and later (when we realized that he might be innocent) to set aside his conviction. Others will recount the unusual history of his case and his long journey in prison. I will not repeat all this.

I wish to make only one point -- and I do with some hesitation, for fear that it might be misinterpreted. I simply want to say that Joe has accomplished a great deal while he has been incarcerated, much more than most of us achieve in our lifetimes. He is, in a sense, the conscience of the Virginia Correctional System. However valuable he has been in that role, it should not be a life-long obligation. He deserves an opportunity to make his way in the community and to demonstrate that his good citizenship is rooted in his own character and humanity, not in the travails of prison life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RJB', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Richard J. Bonnie