

**THE OFFICE OF FRED M. MESTER, P.C.**

41000 North Woodward  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-6178

Cell: (248) 904-9036

Office: (248) 258-1092

[judge@judgemester.com](mailto:judge@judgemester.com)

Circuit Judge, Retired  
1982-2008

Governor Rick Snyder  
P. O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Commutation of Sentence of Nancy Seaman, # 520695

Dear Governor Snyder,

I am writing you in support of the commutation of the Life Sentence of Ms. Nancy Seaman, # 520695. I can think of no one who is more deserving of commutation than Ms. Seaman.

Ms. Seaman's trial occurred after the 1995 Supreme Court Ruling in *People v. Crystal*. Thus, her trial judge and the jury were prevented from hearing the full testimony of Dr. Lenore E. Walker, Ed. D., a licensed psychologist and the foremost expert on Battered Women's Syndrome. This testimony could have made a drastic difference in how the jury perceived the defendant as well as taking into consideration the now recognized relevance of Battered Women's Syndrome. Sentencing would likely have been very different.

Dr. Walker has written to you to attest that after having contact with Ms. Seaman, her expert opinion is that Ms. Seaman "was a battered woman in her relationship with her husband and that she had a reasonable perception of imminent danger to herself at the time she killed him."

Nels Thompson, Limited Licensed Psychologist, Department of Corrections, had the opportunity to monitor Ms. Seaman in group meetings pertaining to domestic violence and has written that, "it is without question in my mind that she suffered physical abuse at the hand of her husband and she learned the typical coping skills of abused women."

From Ms. Seaman's time under the supervision of Mr. Thompson and the Correction System, Mr. Thompson correctly asserted that he had "full knowledge that [Ms. Seaman] would be a productive citizen and would pose no threat of violence in the community." This quote, I believe, is the essence of why Ms. Seaman should have another chance of freedom.

Additionally, during her incarceration, Ms. Seaman has been attending classes and has proven to be very intelligent. She has studied the dynamics of domestic violence and applied it to her own situation. She has very good insight and is very remorseful.

Ms. Seaman has demonstrated her ability as a caring teacher and has made a positive contribution working as a prison library aid helping her fellow inmates. She will be a citizen who will make positive contributions to society upon her release.

In conclusion, it is important to note Ms. Seaman's exemplary record throughout her prison life. She will have a positive foundation for similar contributions to society upon her return. Also of note is the outstanding list of supporters who will be working to support her upon her return to a life of freedom. It is my belief that she can better serve society outside of prison as a free person.

I am available at any time for any further assistance in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Mester  
Retired Circuit Court Judge  
Sixth Judicial Circuit