

Governor Pritzker:

Enclosed are materials on former Lake County, Illinois Coroner (2012-2016), Thomas A. Rudd, M.S. M.D. Dr. Rudd was a champion for the truth. More importantly he spoke truth to power in this county. He did not bend to the corrupt law enforcement and investigative agencies of Lake County, Illinois. The average citizen trusted him and the answers he provided to those who lost loved ones at the hands of overzealous and at times corrupt law enforcement, States Attorney's Office and judges. The people knew his investigations sought the truth and only the truth. The community knew he would not participate in cover ups. He worked diligently for all the citizens of the county but especially for the minority citizens who are generally ignored and forgotten and often mistreated!

Unfortunately, because of an election petition clerical error that he made the Lake County Republican power structure went after him with full force. The Republican States Attorney criminalized the election code clerical error for the sole purpose of preventing him from running for office again, preventing the citizens of this county of having the services of an honest man. Wisely, he pled to a lesser charge of a misdemeanor to the election code. Unfortunately, part of the deal was for him not to be allowed to run for office or work in State, County or Municipal government for seven years!

We need this honest professional back in the Lake County Coroner's Office. Please consider his appeal for pardon as soon as possible.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Tablet

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Docket No. _____

Before the
ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Spring Term, 2019
ADVISING THE HONORABLE J.B. PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

In the Matter of

DR. THOMAS RUDD

PETITION FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

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HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD REQUESTED

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Thomas Rudd is an American hero. As a skilled forensic pathologist and elected coroner of Lake County, Illinois, Dr. Rudd let medicine and science guide him in his work. This principled exercise of his duties often found him in conflict with powerful political foes, including law enforcement and prosecutors. Despite political consequences, Dr. Rudd spoke truth to power and has paid a price for his honor.

Dr. Rudd received many honors for his service. In June 2015 Waukegan Township gave him the Man of Distinction Award. In 2016 Black Lives Matter honored Dr. Rudd with the Eddie Washington Humanitarian Award. But perhaps his highest honor was to be the recipient of the Illinois Law Enforcement Executive of the Year award from the Illinois Association of Law Enforcement Executives in 2015. Thomas Rudd was widely recognized for his courage, his medical skills and his wisdom.

That said, this American hero used his medical knowledge and the science of pathology to face off against corrupt law enforcement and politically blinded prosecutors.

In Dr. Rudd's early days of taking office, he reviewed several notable cases prior to becoming coroner that had questionable scientific findings and decisions regarding certain autopsies. The first case was a black man with a history of drug abuse. During a domestic disturbance with his pregnant girlfriend, the police were called to the apartment. While trying to subdue him, the police used force that eventually caused his death. The coroner at that time was a former chief of police. He refused the call that the man's death was a homicide. Dr. Rudd re-examined the case and labeled it a homicide. But before issuing the change, he worked closely with investigative authorities (law enforcement and State's Attorney's office) that were involved with the case. He carefully explained to them his scientific reasons. Shortly before issuing a press release explaining his new findings, he let that State's Attorney's office know about the release. The State's Attorney became irritated and threatened to have his office sue Dr. Rudd if Rudd issued the press release. Before Dr. Rudd could respond to his statement, the phone call abruptly ended by the State's Attorney slamming the phone down. As a result of the change in manner of death of the decedent, certain law enforcement changes were made in that police department and the family was awarded compensatory damages in a wrongful death lawsuit.

When Lake County's Major Crime Task Force and the State's Attorney were satisfied that they had convicted an innocent child care worker, Melissa Calusinski, for the murder of a child, Benjamin Kingan, Dr. Rudd was not so certain. He found errors in the original autopsy report. He searched the records of the coroner's office and located new and clearer copies of the child's x-rays. He founded critical pathology errors in the original autopsy report. He engaged other expert pathologists to re-examine the original findings. He fought for the truth, at his own political peril. The science of this

case has come to the irreversible conclusion that the child did not die at the hands of Ms. Calusinski. Rather, the boy died of repeated accidental self-inflicted head trauma. Dr. Rudd spoke out. This was not a murder but an accidental tragedy. The state has resisted Dr. Rudd's findings. Instead of embracing the truth, the state attacked Dr. Rudd.

When a Fox Lake, Illinois police lieutenant was found shot to death, the same Major Crimes Task Force and the same prosecutor's office heralded Lt. Joe Gliniewicz as a brave cop, killed in the line of duty. Newspapers, television, the community revered him as "G.I. Joe," tragically killed by thugs. Dr. Rudd refused to be led by the emotions of the moment and again used medicine and science to review facts, challenging the police and the prosecutors with facts. Joseph Gliniewicz died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds. What was staged as a murder was in reality a suicide. When the forensic scientific evidence revealed to Dr. Rudd that Lt. Gliniewicz was killed with his own gun at close range, the Major Crimes Task force called Dr. Rudd "unprofessional" and "completely irresponsible." Dr. Rudd placed science ahead of emotion and sought to discharge his duties as a medical examiner free of politics or pander. And Dr. Rudd was reviled for his courage.

Lake County, Illinois had become the epicenter of wrongful convictions. Juan Rivera, Alejandro Dominguez, Bennie Starks, Angel Gonzalez Jr., and Jason Strong, to name a few, have demonstrated that when law enforcement and prosecutors turn blind eyes and deaf ears to the truth, innocent men and women suffer in prison while the guilty roam our streets unpunished. Dr. Rudd has spent his career trying to right this wrong.

At every turn of Dr. Rudd's practice he has attempted to speak the truth. His life has been guided by the principle that inaction by those who should have acted; indifference of those who should have known better; silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, made it possible for evil to triumph.

Dr. Rudd is convicted of the misdemeanor offense of disregard of the election code. This minor error must not be allowed to silence a voice of justice or derail a champion of liberty.

BACKGROUND AND REQUIRED INFORMATION

Conviction for which clemency is being sought.

Dr. Thomas Rudd seeks clemency for his conviction for the misdemeanor offenses of disregard of the election code. Dr. Rudd entered a plea of guilty on March 14, 2018. The Lake County Court general number is 17 CF 473. He pled guilty to five counts (one count for each of the five nominating petitions he improperly signed) for the offense of disregard of the election code and received a sentence of conditional discharge.

Required Personal Identification Information.

Dr. Thomas Rudd was convicted for the offense for which he is seeking clemency under the name of Thomas Rudd. He has never used any aliases. Dr. Rudd was born July 21, 1946. His social security number is [REDACTED] 6637. His address is 1170 Edgewood Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045. Dr. Rudd has never before sought clemency.

Facts of the Offense.

Dr. Thomas Rudd was the elected coroner of Lake County, Illinois. He sought re-election in the March 2016 General Primary Election. On November 23, 2015, Dr. Rudd filed his nominating petitions in order to appear as a candidate for nomination to the office of coroner.

On or about December 7, 2015, an objection was filed against Dr. Rudd's nominating petitions. On December 14, 2015, Dr. Rudd filed a "Withdrawal of Candidacy" in which Dr. Rudd stated that he wished to withdraw his name from the ballot. Dr. Rudd realized that he was in error when he signed his name to nominating petitions that he did not sign.

In February 2017, a Lake County Grand Jury returned a five-count indictment against Dr. Rudd, charging that in five separate nominating petitions he falsely signed his name although he had not witnessed the signatures of the voters on the petition. Dr. Rudd's admission of his error in signing the petitions and his withdrawal of his candidacy should have ended this story. But the state chose to indict and embarrass Dr. Rudd in this criminal prosecution.

As an aside, the lawyer who represented the objectors in the nominating process was Burton S. Odelson, a prominent election code lawyer. Odelson was so outraged at the state's indictment against his former adversary, that he joined the Rudd defense team. "He was punished once (by withdrawing his candidacy for reelection as coroner). This is a punishment beyond a punishment."

On March 14, 2018, Dr. Rudd entered a plea of guilty to the misdemeanor offense of disregard of the election code. He was placed on 24 months of conditional discharge.

Personal Life History.

Dr. Thomas Rudd is seventy-two years old. He was born on July 21, 1946. In 1969 Dr. Rudd earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Loyola University, Chicago. He received his Master of Science degree in biology, molecular biology and virology in 1972 also from Loyola University.

In 1974, Dr. Rudd was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Illinois. He is also a diplomate of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He served his internship in pathology at Northwestern

Memorial Hospital, his residency in pathology at Northwestern and a fellowship in nuclear medicine at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago.

Dr. Rudd is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology and is board certified in both anatomical and clinical pathology. He is also a diplomate of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. Dr. Rudd is a licensed physician in Illinois.

From 2012 to 2016, Dr. Rudd served the community as the coroner of Lake County, Illinois.

Dr. Rudd is married to Mary M. Rudd. He and his wife live in Lake Forest.

COMPELLING REASONS FOR GRANTING CLEMENCY

A great public servant is laboring under the disability of this conviction, depriving the public of his knowledge, his skills and his voice.

A grant of clemency would allow Dr. Rudd to return to the work our community demands, that of speaking truth to power, challenging injustices and using evidenced based science to set the record straight.

Dr. Thomas Rudd is an American hero. It is hoped that this petition for executive clemency will be granted and Dr. Thomas Rudd's voice for justice will again ring true.

Respectfully submitted,

Jed Stone, Attorney for
Dr. Thomas Rudd

VERIFICATION AND CONSENT

I, Dr. Thomas Rudd, declare under penalty of perjury that I consent to the filing of the forgoing Petition for Executive Clemency and that all of the factual assertions made therein are complete, truthful and accurate.

Dr. Thomas Rudd

Subscribed and sworn
Before me this ____ day
Of _____, 2019, at
Waukegan, IL.

Notary Public

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

This morning, Dr. Thomas Rudd entered a plea to Disregard of the Election Code, a misdemeanor. The state dismissed the ill conceived and unfounded Perjury counts which were felony charges. The court placed Dr. Rudd on conditional discharge. The case is resolved.

Dr. Rudd is a remarkable public servant and a stellar forensic pathologist who sought to serve Lake County's residents with honor—seeking the truth and fearlessly speaking truth to power.

If anyone doubted that the prosecution of Thomas Rudd was politically based, one only needs to look at the prosecutor's demanded condition of this misdemeanor discharge. Dr. Rudd will be barred from "public employment" for a period of five years.

This condition is not because the people were not well served by their coroner. To the contrary, Tom Rudd dutifully served his constituents and always sought the truth using medicine and science as his guiding principles. He fearlessly challenged politicians and corrupt law enforcement officials with evidence based medicine.

This agreement gives us our freedom and takes away the disability of a felony conviction. But the prosecutors have demanded in return that the public be deprived of Thomas Rudd's services for the next five years.

Justice prevailed today when perjury counts were dismissed. But the public good has been injured by the prosecutors who deny the public of the thoughtful and truthful services of this great and decent man.

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When editor and publisher Ron McAlister asked me to write a piece for this issue on youth/young people I racked my brain about a subject or topic that was pertinent. Instead of a specific topic I decided on a concept that is very important to all people but especially to those just starting their life: TRUTH.

As many as you know I am a physician pathologist. A medical scientist. These days science has a bad reputation. Partly for good reasons, but mainly for bad reasons. I want to speak up for science. Science can be extremely subversive. The scientific way of thinking offers a way of protecting ourselves against unjust authority and the chains of oppressive dogma. A better understanding of what science is about will help us free ourselves.

My world is populated with the embattled in science, the ones who had their evidence and who trusted their evidence and the theories that predicted and were supported by that evidence more than they trusted the powerful people or the established authorities who told them they were wrong. Or worse yet: were told to ignore the evidence, ie. TRUTH.

I believe that our endless curiosity, our need to understand our world in a better and more complete way than before is at the essence of our humanity. In our vision of a just and generous society, along with love and joy and honor and justice and dignity, science will be there. It must be there.

The search for knowledge is deeply radical. It is radical to question the contents of beliefs held so firmly and for so long that they seemed to have been given by GOD. It is an attempt to roll back the existing layers of social fat built up around what appears to be true. It is an attack on the status quo.

I want to affirm the enormous power of scientific evidence as a tool in the search for knowledge. It is this reliance on evidence and proof which has given science it tremendous power. This has allowed us to put away the tarot cards, the tea leaves, and the ritual chants. Without evidence and proof, we are ignorant and helpless, ultimately, we are tyrants or victims of tyrants!

To those of you who are just beginning their young lives whether in sciences, the arts, or whatever you do I say: seek the truth at all times.

The Truth is hard

The Truth will not be threatened

The Truth has power.

The Truth requires taking a stand.



Thomas A. Rudd

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Tablet