

# HELPING INMATES OUT

## **Advice to assist Federal drug offenders gain a commutation of sentence from the President of the United States.**

The chances that an inmate will be granted a commutation of sentence by the President are *very small*. They increase when friends, family, and supporters actively publicize the inmate's case and are educated, clear, and persistent in their advocacy.

- 1) Be sure the prisoner has carefully prepared and filed an application for clemency with the Pardon Attorney, 500 First St., NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20530, Tel: (202) 616-6070. Inaccuracies or falsehoods will result in rejection of the application.
- 2) Prepare an accurate, **one-page fact sheet** about the inmate's case (the crime, trial, and sentence) and background (accomplishments, family, education, jobs, charity, health, etc.). Be sure to explain why the inmate needs to be released now or why the sentence was excessive.
- 3) Prepare for yourself a **contact list** of people -- complete with addresses and telephone numbers-- to appeal to regarding the prisoner's case. This list should include the inmate's U.S. Representative and Senators, other officials, local churches, newspapers, radio and television stations, and individuals and organizations that may help publicize the appeal for clemency.
- 4) Distribute the one-page fact sheet to the contact list. In a cover letter, remind them of the speech by Justice Anthony Kennedy, and the American Bar Association's 2004 commission report. Seeking clemency for a prisoner is legitimate Constitutional activity. Stress that it is grossly unjust to imprison low-level, nonviolent drug offenders as if they were drug kingpins. Use relevant statistics in your appeal (see [www.ussc.gov](http://www.ussc.gov)).
- 5) Encourage all family, friends, and supporters to write and call those on the contact list to support clemency for the prisoner.
- 6) At holiday time -- Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Mother's and Father's Day, and birthdays of the prisoner's family members --notify those on your contact list about the prisoner and his or her petition to the President.
- 7) Update the contact list at least twice a year. Be persistent. Don't give up. Every little step counts.

**COALITION FOR JUBILEE CLEMENCY**  
8730 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400 Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel: 301-589-6020, Fax: 301-589-5056  
Web: [www.cjpf.org/clemency](http://www.cjpf.org/clemency)

## **RESOURCES**

### **FAMILIES AGAINST MANDATORY MINIMUMS (FAMM)**

1612 K Street, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20006

Tel: 202-822-6700

Fax: 202-822-6704

Web: [www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org)

### **THE NOVEMBER COALITION**

282 West Astor

Colesville, WA 99114

Tel: 509-684-1550

E-mail: [moreinfo@november.org](mailto:moreinfo@november.org)

Web: [www.november.org](http://www.november.org)

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