

Megan Mason



December 15, 2023

Honorable Timothy Evans
Chief Judge
The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois
50 West Washington Street
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, IL 60602

The Members of the Executive Committee of The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois personally and in their professional capacity:

The Honorable Judge Timothy Evans; Honorable David Navarro, Acting Presiding Judge, Pretrial Division; Honorable James P. Flannery, Jr., Presiding Judge Law Division; Honorable Sophia H. Hall, Presiding Judge Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Resource Section; Honorable Michael P. Toomin, Presiding Judge Juvenile Justice Division; Honorable Judith C. Rice, Acting Presiding Judge Domestic Violence Division; Honorable Regina Scannicchio, Acting Presiding Judge Domestic Relations Division; Honorable E. Kenneth Wright, Jr., Presiding Judge, First Municipal District; Honorable Shelley Sutker-Dermer, Presiding Judge, Second Municipal District; Honorable Jill C. Marisie, Presiding Judge, Third Municipal District; Honorable Ramon Ocasio III, Acting Presiding Judge, Fourth Municipal District; Honorable Kerry M. Kennedy, Acting Presiding Judge, Fifth District; Honorable Tommy Brewer, Presiding Judge, Sixth Municipal District; Honorable Sophia H. Hall, Interim Acting Presiding Judge Chancery Division; Honorable Robert Balanoff, Presiding Judge Child Protection Division; Honorable Rena Van Tine, Acting Presiding Judge County Division; Honorable Erica L. Reddick, Presiding Judge Criminal Division.

Dear Judge Evans:

I am a victim and witness to a pattern of ongoing crimes being committed under your direct supervision and with your consent within The Domestic Relations Division of The Circuit Court of Cook County since at least December, 2018. You are aware of and complicit in these crimes being perpetrated against me and my children - including the racketeering predicate acts of retaliation toward a federal witness, intimidation of a federal witness and conspiracy in money laundering - and yet you refuse to instruct your employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason to cease perpetrating crimes against me and my children. Having been made aware of these crimes being committed under your supervision you have a clear duty to stop the crimes. Instruct Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason to cease any further contact with me or my children, as is your duty under the law.

You have been aware of and complicit in these crimes for over a year since I first wrote to this committee to ask you to stop civil rights abuses and federal crimes being committed by employees under your supervision under color of law, using the computers and staff under your administrative authority within the courthouse under your administrative authority. Indeed, you have even acknowledged receipt of my reports of these crimes by means of two letters drafted by Mr. Stephen Brandt and sent to me in an attempt to evade your responsibility to stop obvious crimes by your employees. On both occasions, Mr. Brandt made the misleading and evasive statement that you and the other members of The Executive Committee cannot “intervene in cases assigned to other judges”.

This statement about intervening in cases is doubly misleading because it suggests that 1. I asked you to intervene in a court proceeding, which I have never done and which I pointedly stated was not my intent in writing to you and 2. It suggests that I am engaged in litigation in The Circuit Court of Cook County, which is to say “a case”. I am not a litigant in your court. I am a victim of crimes being perpetrated under your direct supervision in your court. My divorce was concluded finally on September 25, 2017 when I entered into a mutually agreed upon parenting plan and divorce agreement in this court. I do know that American judges are swathed in generous immunity in matters where there is a question as to whether actions are personal in nature or part of their professional duties. But this is not an issue here because there is no divorce or parentage case before court employee Robert Johnson in which I am a party.

If I do not have a case before The Honorable Robert Johnson, then clearly all the actions taken by the corrupt court employee Robert Johnson, even when they bear an official stamp, are personal in nature. In fact Robert Johnson has issued an exuberant number of illegal orders since learning about my federal testimony about his crimes, but all are void on entry due to a lack of jurisdiction to issue these orders, there being no case. Far from being a neutral administrator, as Mr. Brandt’s letter would suggest, you are in fact actively facilitating Mr. Johnson’s criminal acts by asserting he had jurisdiction which is not allowed under Illinois law or The US Constitution. What’s more, I am only asking you to intervene to stop obvious crime, which is never official in nature. Even in Chicago.

In *Fundiller v. City of Cooper* The United States Eleventh Circuit of Appeals found that individual leaders of a municipal body such as the individual members of The Executive Committee of The Circuit Court of Cook County could be held liable for failing to take corrective action in the face of a pattern of civil rights violations. Although we can all agree that judges are swathed in a level of social support and (in legitimate court proceedings) absolute immunity not enjoyed by police officers. Where I believe you are mistaken is in thinking that the American people and The United States Department of Justice have an unlimited tolerance for the judicial abuses you are facilitating as I write this letter.

I know that The Department of Justice will not tolerate this forever because they have had me under the protection of US Marshals for two years. This is not so that I can testify about my dimwitted financial criminal ex husband. This is so I can testify about you. Or rather I am under federal witness protection so that I can testify about Robert Johnson, Kaye Mason and Michael Bender so that they will flip on you and Matthew Link, Grace Dickler, Iris Martinez, Sharon Oden Johnson and Dorothy Brown. But that is not my job. I am simply a mom who wants my civil rights, including my right to parent, restored, and to be made whole from the financial damages caused by the ongoing crimes committed under your supervision.

As I have mentioned in my previous correspondence, one of the reasons that federal prosecutors have forced me to continue to be the victim of racketeering crimes in your court is because I was a FINRA licensed financial advisor, trading securities in The Southern District of New York, until the criminal acts by employees and appointees under your supervision destroyed my career, and interfered significantly in my interstate commercial activity. It is in your interest to stop participating in crimes against me. And it is in my interest to stop being the victim of crimes. So do it. Remove Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason from any contact with me and my children. Order that Michael Bender and John Palen be removed as approved court appointees due to their many documented crimes.

If you won't stop the crimes, I will at least make sure that you will never be able to say that you did not know about the grotesque civil rights violations and racketeering crimes being conducted under your supervision, using resources under your administrative authority. In fact I have no

duty to spell out the criminal violations to you, given that I am the victim of these crimes and a lay person, while you are a powerful member of The Illinois Bar. But I do not intend to give you any basis to assert ignorance or plausible deniability to a future federal jury.

So, to summarize what I have already exhaustively reported to you, I have personally witnessed your employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason, along with my ex husband Peter Matt and his attorneys Steven Klein and Christopher Wehrman and court appointees Michael Bender and Jonathan Palen committing the following crimes:

I. Money Laundering (RICO Predicate Act)

- A. My ex husband Peter Matt is a known money launderer and tax evader now under investigation of IRS criminal investigators. This was first made known to influential employees in The Circuit Court of Cook County on October 24, 2016 when I appeared before Judge Veronica Mathein and stated under oath that I knew Mr. Matt to be a financial criminal who controls at least \$1 million in overseas accounts which he refuses to disclose to The IRS because of his opposition to The American (or any) taxation system. I raised this fact because Mr. Matt had taken his first action to use the court to abuse me and I naively assumed that judges followed federal law and do not prefer financial criminals to honest women. Then Presiding Judge Grace Dickler, seeing that she had a whale, then assigned our case to her preferred and creepy friend Raul Vega. At that time I genuinely thought I was a citizen with civil rights, but I now understand I was a mark.
- B. In May, 2021 I appeared before court employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason. Michael Bender was also in attendance. I had attempted to subpoena records of Peter Matt's payments to his attorney Christopher Wehrman to show that Mr. Matt has access to multiple overseas accounts as well as an account at Wintrust that I call the money laundering account, in which he receives transfers from his hidden overseas assets from his German father. Mr. Wehrman said to court employee Robert Johnson, "Your honor [Ms. Mason] just wants to show I'm laundering money for my client". He was laundering money for his client and when I reported this to IRS criminal investigators in October, 2021 Mr. Wehrman

began acting as a cooperating witness to implicate court employee Robert Johnson and others in more crimes.

- C. Robert Johnson has repeatedly sanctioned me for offering truthful testimony about Mr. Matt's money laundering, thereby conspiring in the money laundering.
- D. This past summer Robert Johnson specifically issued a contempt ruling against me on the motion of Mr. Matt who alleged that I was violating our marital settlement agreement by disparaging Mr. Matt's businesses: Goedecke Germany, Goedecke Poland and Goedecke India. Mr. Matt does not report any of these three businesses to The IRS. Mr. Matt does not report any of the businesses or their assets (eg bank accounts) on financial affidavits to this court. However he argued that I was disparaging Mr. Matt's businesses by filing a truthful IRS Whistleblower Report that disclosed Goedecke Germany, Goedecke Poland and Goedecke India. Court employee Robert Johnson allowed a contempt ruling and issued severe financial punishment for my truthful federal testimony as stated in the Whistleblower Report. The only evidence was my duly filed IRS whistleblower report.

II. Bribery (Illinois felony and RICO Predicate Act)

- A. On December 5, 2020 court appointee John Palen solicited a bribe in an ex parte email to Judge Johnson and others. On this date he wrote, "I want to be paid. It is as simple as that." Dr. Palen had a positive retainer balance at this date and there were no fee controversies at that time. Dr. Palen never had a basis to move the court to order fees and never did so because he was not requesting legitimate payment. Dr. Palen was soliciting a bribe from Mr. Matt, who had previously arranged a bribe to former Circuit Court judge and current court appointed Guardian Ad Litem Michael Bender. Dr. Palen was writing to make sure he got his piece.
- B. This solicitation of bribery was among other ex parte emails which I believe might explain the bribes requested by Dr. Palen and others more clearly so I have requested copies of these emails. In open court, court employee Robert Johnson has confirmed that there is an ex parte email thread to which I am not given

access and about which I am not informed. Robert Johnson told me that “I have looked at the emails. They are fine. You don’t need to see them.”

- C. You have been aware of the solicitation of bribery using email servers under your administrative authority, during the workday of employees under your authority for over a year. You have access to these emails and authority over these employees and have had every opportunity to review the emails and stop obvious crime. You have had every opportunity to remove Robert Johnson, Kaye Mason, Michael Bender, and John Palen from contact with me or any other litigant due to their obvious involvement in corruption. However as of this writing you remain complicit in the financial misconduct and the ongoing ex parte communications. I allege that you are therefore also conspiring in any solicitation of bribery by Dr. Palen in addition to demonstrating the wanton disregard for my safety as is evidenced in the other failures to assert supervisory authority documented here.
- D. Robert Johnson has repeatedly sanctioned me for mentioning this solicitation of bribery in court filings, which is to say providing my testimony under affidavit about the bribery.

III. Fraud and Identity Theft

- A. On at least two occasions, in December, 2018 and in July, 2020, court employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason have entered fraudulent appearances purporting to be on my behalf, which is to say on these two occasions one or both of these individuals entered docket entries “allowing” me to appear pro se before the court. Both of these occasions occurred during court hearings regarding motions by Mr. Matt to have me found in contempt of court without my notification or awareness. In other words, both these entries were made at trials that were secret to me. These actions were part of an effort to create a fake document trail to suggest that I am an unreliable, “flaky”, unfit mother in order for Mr. Bender to justify ordering Associate Judge Johnson to issue orders in Mr. Matt’s favor. The fraudulent appearances were made to suggest, contrary to fact, that I was at the sham trials.
- B. As is the unique custom of The Domestic Relations Division of The Circuit Court of Cook County, the dimwitted and off putting Mr. Bender has the role of

Guardian Ad Litem which has been explained to me by every attorney and judge in The Domestic Relations Division as “the person who decides cases”. This is the unique custom of The Domestic Relations Division and is contrary to Illinois Law and The United States Constitution. As you are well aware Guardian Ad Litem (GALs) decide who gets lucrative appointments and who gets the Cook County Democratic Party endorsement to become a Circuit Court Judge. As an associate judge who wished for the job security and millions of dollars in compensation of a Circuit Court Judge, Robert Johnson was in Michael Bender’s pocket on these occasions. His acts of fraud were in furtherance of Mr. Bender’s scheme to sell Mr. Matt a case.

C. In July of 2019 I retained an attorney named Bradley Trowbridge who, before filing his appearance, met with Mr. Bender and agreed to also work for Mr. Bender and Mr. Matt to fix my case in exchange for becoming a judge. Mr. Trowbridge is now also a judge under your supervision, but I only witnessed him committing felonies before he was under your authority. I simply mention this because your employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason were aware of and complicit in Mr. Trowbridge’s fraud. Specifically:

1. Mr. Trowbridge changed my mailing address in the court filing software from 423 Linden Avenue in Wilmette to 423 Linda Avenue in Chicago (a nonexistent address). For this reason I did not receive three postcards mailed to me between March and July, 2020, informing me of postponed court dates. At the same time, Mr. Trowbridge committed eight acts of felony fraud to hide the fact that Mr. Matt was again moving to have me found in contempt of court.
2. Your employees Robert Johnson and Kaye Mason conspired in Mr. Trowbridge’s wire fraud and identity theft by witnessing him engage in the fraud over the course of four months and doing nothing to intervene. One of court employee Robert Johnson’s fraudulent entries “allowing” me to represent myself was also made at one of these secret trials, so in this way he directly participated in the fraud.

IV. Retaliation toward a federal witness (RICO Predicate Act).

- A. In January, 2022 I appeared before your employee Matthew Link, who came to this court after ten years of carrying water for disgraced Alderman Ed Burke, in order to move that Judge Robert Johnson be substituted for cause. The Honorable Judge Link was presented with voluminous evidence of Robert Johnson's knowledge of and actions to describe Mr. Matt's money laundering and tax evasion as well as his participation in emails from court appointee John Palen soliciting a bribe. I also presented as proof of Judge Johnson's bias, the fact that he allowed Bradley Trowbridge to commit felony acts of fraud against me in his court. Judge Link asked me at this hearing for the SOJ why it mattered that my attorney committed fraud against me in considering whether Judge Johnson is biased. I replied that it mattered "because Judge Johnson, Michael Bender and Christopher Wherman witnessed Bradley Trowbridge committing fraud against me and did nothing to intervene".
- B. Dr. Gerald Blechman is a psychologist who was assigned as a custody evaluator by Robert Johnson in the summer of 2021, though Robert Johnson had no authority to order his appointment because there was no motion to modify the parenting plan in his court and parties were divorced and bound by a duly enacted parenting plan. Like Christopher Wehrman, Dr. Blechman is now represented by criminal counsel and cooperating with federal investigators so he left his role as extra judicially appointed expert after a year without providing the court a custody evaluation. However in February, 2022 an unsigned document was presented to Judge Johnson and called a letter from Dr. Blechman. In this letter the writer quoted my aforementioned testimony that Judge Johnson had witnessed Brad Trowbridge's fraud and therefore conspired in it.
- C. This letter attributed to Dr. Blechman, which provides no analysis of parentage issues but does quote my testimony about Robert Johnson's conspiracy in Brad Trowbridge's fraud, was the only evidence presented as a basis for Judge Johnson to issue a "temporary" order to modify my duly enacted parenting plan. In other words, Robert Johnson took my children away in retaliation for my testimony about his racketeering activity. This action occurred after my testimony had been submitted under affidavit to a federal grand jury, which is to say after I was a

federal witness. Again, there can be no question that this was an illegal act, wholly personal in nature, conducted by an employee under your direct supervision.

- D. As I should not need to tell you, there is no temporary revocation of duly enacted parenting plans under Illinois law. The order was drafted on a standardized carbon copy form and the parties even went so far as to add the word “temporary” in blue ink. This, like countless other extra judicial orders entered after Christopher Wehrman began cooperating with federal investigators, was drafted in such a way that I or any other twelve community members not specifically trained in law could easily discern that the order was a criminal act, wholly personal in nature.

I can provide perhaps twenty other clear examples of felonies supported by your actions but that is not my job. It is your job to stop allowing crimes to be committed by parties paid by the people of Illinois. It is your job to uphold The United States Constitution and all federal and state laws, regardless of my status, identity or affiliation. My rights are inalienable. I want them restored and protected and I have no intention of giving you any opportunity to claim you didn't know exactly what you were doing.

You are the public face and executive leadership of a corrupt institution. You are a threat to human decency and to American democracy. One of the reasons that I have been slow to gain media attention in this matters (though it's coming, as the 200,000 people who have been interested in my Instagram reels about these crimes would suggest) is that the depravity and lawlessness you sanction and encourage in your court is so extreme that Americans simply don't believe it could occur in this country.

Most shockingly, because you have used your power to make judges aware that they will never be accountable for reckless disregard for the civil rights of litigants, Robert Johnson went so far as to issue an illegal order barring me from all contact with my children for two years. No, dear, this is not a “case” that I am asking you to intervene in. When Robert Johnson entered a two year plenary order of protection in March of 2023 he did so following no motion. He entered this order following no trial. For how could there be a trial if nobody moved the court to issue a

plenary order of protection? And obviously there were no facts to support the order because there was no trial of fact to determine the merits of the motion that was never entered.

You judges seem quite capable of noticing when a person like me commits a crime, and yet I really do appear to be required to spoon feed it to you. Do not tell me that you cannot stop crimes like this from continuing by conspiring with Robert Johnson to pretend his actions were legitimate. You are capable of looking at the court filings and you will see that cooperating witness Christopher Wehrman filed a Legal Aide form seeking an emergency order of protection, which contained a check box: "Is a plenary order of protection sought?". This box was unchecked. You may conspire with Robert Johnson by pretending that there was a motion and a trial. There was no motion. There was no trial. Christopher Wehrman did this and many other similar actions to prove to your jury how bad you people are. Is he right?

Robert Johnson took my children's beloved mother away illegally, without basis. He was able to do this because you let him. You are facilitating, coordinating with, and supporting organized crime. Cut your losses and stop obvious crime. Remove Robert Johnson, Kaye Mason, Michael Bender, and Jonathan Palen from your protection. Every day you fail to do so further establishes your shocking complicity and opens your own pockets to future claims.

I don't need tort, I need my civil rights and my children. Restore them now.

Sincerely,

Megan Mason

