

THURSDAY 17 DEC 2015
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

DEAR RACHAEL,

ALTHOUGH I TOLD YOU AT THE END OF OUR LAST MEETING THAT I COULDN'T EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE IN WORDS, I FIGURED I'D GIVE IT A TRY ANYWAYS. FOR QUITE SOME TIME (SINCE SOME STUFF IN THE MARINES) I'VE BEEN MOSTLY EMOTIONLESS INSIDE. THEY HAVE A NAME FOR IT, AMONG THE LIST OF SYMPTOMS OF PTSD: "inability to experience feelings." I JOKE AROUND AND KEEP THINGS LIGHT AS A WAY TO COVER IT, I GUESS, AND SINCE YOU HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, IT'S EASY TO RELATE TO YOU AND ALL SEEMS NORMAL. UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE, THOUGH, THERE'S NOT MUCH GOING ON WHERE THERE SHOULD BE — IT'S JUST COLD, SUPER COLD...

WHEN YOU HEADED OUT TO SUBMIT OUR FINAL BRIEF, HOWEVER, I WAS ASTONISHED TO FEEL A TWINGE OF EMOTION — DISTINCT, UNMISTAKABLE "STIRRINGS" — WHICH I HADN'T FELT IN YEARS. MAKES ME FEEL HUMAN! PROBABLY TRIGGERED BY THE REALIZATION THAT OUR WORK WAS DONE FOR NOW. AS I THOUGHT THINGS OVER, THOUGH, IT WAS MORE THAN JUST THAT.

YOU HAVE ANSWERED LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF QUESTIONS, MANY WHICH WERE NOT EVEN CENTERED ON MY APPEAL ITSELF; YOU'VE SPENT HOURS AND HOURS FACE-TO-FACE TALKING ABOUT POSSIBLE GROUNDS; YOU'VE DRIVEN BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE BRIDGES, MANY TIMES AFTER WORKING HOURS; AND OF COURSE YOU'VE SPENT HOURS DOING THE "STANDARD" READING, RESEARCHING, AND WRITING NECESSARY TO CRAFT A WINNING APPELLATE BRIEF. IN THE END, YOU WERE AT THE JAIL WORKING ON MY CASE EASILY THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS MY TRIAL ATTORNEY. MAYBE FIVE TIMES. MAYBE MORE. I DIDN'T DESERVE THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT AND ENERGY YOU PUT INTO MY

CASE, AND I'M STILL MOVED BY YOUR LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT. HAVING YOU ASSIGNED TO MY CASE WAS A BLESSING, AND MEETING YOU AND GETTING TO KNOW YOU WAS A GIFT. I'M HONORED, AND TRULY GRATEFUL.

A COPY OF THE SUBMITTED BRIEF IS PROBABLY ALREADY IN THE MAILROOM ON ITS WAY TO ME, BUT IF IT SLIPPED YOUR MIND, I'D BE HAPPY TO GET A COPY. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING COPIES AND SENDING THEM TO MY FAMILY AND A COUPLE CLOSE FRIENDS, SO THEY CAN READ FOR THEMSELVES WHAT'S GOING ON. 😎

RACHAEL, I OWE YOU. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE BEFORE LONG.

YOUR FRIEND,

WESLEY FOX

"IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE,
ONE MUST ATTEMPT THE ABSURD."

— MIGUEL DE CERVANTES