

White, Andrew R.

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ORIGINAL

From: Merche Medina <merchemedina34@gmail.com>
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To: sctclerk@mssc.state.ms.us
Subject: Request for Rehearing and a New Trial for Carly Madison Gregg Case No. 2024-KA-01178-SCT

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

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To the Honorable Supreme Court of Mississippi

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT
COURT OF APPEALS

Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Mississippi Supreme Court:

I respectfully write to you from Cuba, a country where access to the internet is extremely difficult and limited. Despite these challenges, I have been able to follow some of the news concerning the case of Carly Madison Gregg, a young girl who was only 14 years old when the events for which she was tried and convicted took place.

Although the laws of my country are different from those of the United States, I cannot help but be deeply surprised that a child of only 14 years of age received such a severe sentence, one that could keep her imprisoned for a substantial portion of her life.

I do not intend to justify the terrible crime for which she was convicted, nor do I wish to minimize the suffering of the victims and their families. I understand that this is an irreparable tragedy. However, I believe that behind these events, it is also necessary to examine the life of a minor, her childhood experiences, the possible trauma she may have endured, and the psychological and emotional circumstances that may have influenced her behavior.

In my opinion, Carly should never have been judged by the same standards as an adult.

This case has led me to speak with psychologists in my country, who have explained that although a 14-year-old adolescent can distinguish between right and wrong, the brain is still undergoing an important stage of development. At that age, the ability to control impulses, evaluate long-term consequences, and regulate emotions has not yet reached the maturity of an adult.

For this reason, I believe that justice must recognize the difference between an adolescent and an adult, especially when imposing a sentence that may determine the course of an entire lifetime.

In Cuba, I have personally known cases of young people who displayed very negative behavior during adolescence and even committed serious crimes. Some served prison sentences that were not as lengthy as those that may be imposed in the United States. Over time, many were able to reflect on their mistakes, change their behavior, and successfully reintegrate into society.

I have witnessed how some of those young people, who seemed to have taken the wrong path during adolescence, later became responsible adults, hardworking individuals, and good parents. Today, they have families of their own, raise their children with strong values, and strive to teach them not to repeat the mistakes they themselves once made.

These experiences have taught me that a person does not necessarily remain, throughout their entire life, the same person they were at the age of 14.

A sentence must acknowledge the seriousness of a crime, but it should also leave room for rehabilitation, remorse, and the possibility of personal transformation.

It deeply saddens me to think that a child could lose practically her entire life in prison without sufficient consideration being given to her age, emotional development, and the circumstances that may have shaped her childhood.

I am not asking for Carly to be relieved of all responsibility. I am asking that it be recognized that she was a minor and that she deserves a judicial process in which her youth, mental health, and potential for rehabilitation are fully and fairly considered.

For all these reasons, I respectfully request that this Honorable Court reconsider the case of Carly Madison Gregg and consider granting her a new trial, in which she is treated in a manner that appropriately recognizes her status as a minor at the time of the events.

Furthermore, I wish to express my concern regarding the uncertainty surrounding her eligibility for parole.

Based on the information I have been able to obtain, there appear to be questions regarding how the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) has interpreted or recorded her status concerning the possibility of parole in the future.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Court to clearly and officially clarify whether Carly is eligible to be considered for parole, under what conditions, and at what point she may become eligible under the applicable laws.

I also respectfully request that this clarification be formally communicated to the Mississippi Department of Corrections to prevent any possible misinterpretation of her sentence from denying her an opportunity for review or parole to which she may legally be entitled.

I believe that no person, especially someone convicted for acts committed at only 14 years of age, should have to live with uncertainty regarding such an important aspect of their future.

I firmly believe that justice does not lose its authority when it offers a second chance. On the contrary, it demonstrates its greatness when it is capable of combining accountability for one's actions with an understanding of the human condition.

Carly cannot change what happened, but she can still change the person she will become.

I sincerely hope that one day she will have the opportunity to demonstrate that an adolescent who committed a terrible act can, with time, become a woman capable of making a positive contribution to society.

Thank you sincerely for taking the time to read these words, sent from Cuba with respect for the laws and judicial institutions of the United States, and with the hope that justice will also consider the possibility of rehabilitation for those who committed crimes while still minors.

Respectfully,

Mercedes Hernández Medina
Villa Clara, Cuba
October 8, 2026