



CHAMBERS OF
MARVIN E. ASPEN
JUDGE

May 31, 2013

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President Barack H. Obama
c/o Office of the Pardon Attorney
1425 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 11000
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Petition for Commutation of Sentence of Robert Shipp, #05447-424"

Vincent Gmerek has recently informed me that he is representing Robert Shipp regarding a Petition for Commutation of Sentence. On July 14, 1994, under the mandatory sentencing guidelines in place at that time, I sentenced Mr. Shipp to life in prison without the possibility of parole for his role in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. At the sentencing hearing, I noted my disagreement with the mandatory life sentence:

[I]t should seem clear to anyone who's looked at the records in this case that both because of the disparity in the ages between Mr. Banks [a co-conspirator] and Mr. Shipp and the clear disparity in culpability between them, there should be a way to differentiate in their sentences.

And again, the unfortunate scheme of sentencing we have before us does not allow this Court to make that distinction, and for that reason the defendant is sentenced to life imprisonment . . .

Therefore, I do not oppose the commutation of his sentence.

Respectfully yours,

Marvin E. Aspen

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