

Katie [REDACTED]
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March 5, 2024

To: The Honorable John L. Sinatra, Jr.
United States District Court, Western District of New York
Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse
2 Niagara Square
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Case #1:22-cr-00035, USA v. Luke Marshall Wenke

Your Honor:

This letter is in reference to a letter from Luke Wenke to the court which was uploaded to Pacer on March 4, 2023 (document #116). To be clear, I think it's extremely important to react to Luke's correspondence as little as possible, because he enjoys the attention, but it feels necessary in this case. Here are my main points:

- In his many rambling diatribes to the court, Luke has repeatedly claimed that I met someone from his defense team named Marianne Mariano, and that she deemed me untrustworthy. This is completely untrue. To my knowledge, I've never met or even spoken with someone named Marianne Mariano.
 - The only person involved in Luke's defense that I ever met was a man in his 50s or 60s who dropped Luke's car keys off at my home in late January or early February 2022. I believe he was a secretary, and I'm almost 100 percent confident he wasn't an attorney.

It was below-freezing out and, just days after Luke's arrest, I was already frustrated with him treating me like an errand slave, so I was not interested in speaking with this man beyond the formalities of greeting him and thanking him for the keys. In keeping with my goal to interact minimally, I stepped outside without a jacket to accept the keys.

The man remained in his car and questioned me about my employment. Given my firsthand knowledge of Luke's tendency to try ruining people's

livelihoods (and, in some cases, succeeding), I refused to disclose anything about my job beyond the very basic details of what I was doing for a living at the time. Our conversation lasted two minutes, tops, and I went back inside.

- When I officially ended my friendship with Luke in April 2022, he kept calling me from the Niagara County Jail despite my clearly stated desire for no contact. At the time, I had blocked one of the jail's phone numbers but kept receiving calls from at least one other number, and I was unaware that the jail's phone system had a feature for blocking all calls.

Desperate to be left alone, I text messaged the man I coordinated the key exchange with and begged him to ask Luke's attorneys to try persuading him to leave me alone. I was uninterested in receiving a response from the man involved in Luke's defense, so I blocked the number and hoped they could talk some sense into him.

- I had zero interaction with anyone involved in Luke's defense between then and February 12, 2024, when I received a phone call from (716) 551-3341 at 12:40 PM. A man and a woman on the other end identified themselves as Luke's defense lawyers. I'm not sure if one of them was Marianne Mariano, but if she was, this conversation was my *only* contact with her **ever**. By then, Luke had repeatedly claimed in his letters to the court that I had met Mariano at the beginning of his case, and that she found me to be of poor character.

Luke's attorneys asked if I was willing to answer questions. I said that they could ask, and that I'd answer if I wanted to, but that I would first like to address Luke's repeated claims that I had met Marianne Mariano when I had never met her or spoken with her. They said they would clear up the misunderstanding, but based on Luke's most recent letter to the court, they failed to do so.

In a haughty tone, the lawyers told me they had a copy of my letter to the court (I knew it would be on the public record and that they'd probably receive a copy, but based on their demeanor, I think they believed I would be surprised that they were able to get their hands on it). The attorneys asked why I wrote to the court and if something "new" happened with Luke.

All my letters to the court clearly state, in the *very first sentence*, the

letter's purpose. Aware that the lawyers were most likely trying to lead me into a trap and feeling disrespected by their condescending tone when I had no obligation to even speak with them, I decided I was done entertaining their games.

By then, I had already heard that the lawyers had called [REDACTED] and tried claiming that Luke has consistently been in jail since May of 2023, so I made a snarky remark to the effect of "What's next? Are you going to try convincing me Luke has been locked up since May?"

The female attorney responded to the effect of "So you *have* been talking to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]," as if she were calling me out on a big, dirty secret. I felt no need to defend my friendship with another victim, because Luke's other victims are the only people in the world who understand what it's like to go through this. Knowing I'm not alone has helped me get through my worst, most difficult moments and has given me the strength I need to keep fighting for the peaceful life I deserve.

I said something to the effect of "why would I talk to you when everything you do is for my stalker's benefit? He's had chance after chance after chance to clean up his act, at his victims' emotional expense and at the risk of our physical safety. Goodbye." I then hung up the phone.

This is the full extent of my interactions with Luke's defense team since his arrest in early 2022. I want no further contact with them and if they call me again, I will consider it harassment.

- Luke has repeatedly claimed in his letters to the court that I falsely reported his license plate number to the [REDACTED] police in connection with an alleged crime.
 - I have never spoken with the [REDACTED] town *or* village police regarding Luke. The only time I've spoken with the [REDACTED] police at any point in the last five or more years was in the spring of 2023, when I called to report that there were two poodles running freely in the middle of McKinley Parkway. I was worried that the dogs would be hit by a car.
 - I have never reported Luke's license plate number for any reason whatsoever. I don't know his current license plate number or any of his past license plate numbers, and have never had a reason to make a report of this nature.

- The only non-federal law enforcement agencies I've spoken with regarding Luke are the New York State troopers and the Olean Police Department. I have encouraged federal authorities and the state troopers to get in touch with one another on multiple occasions because I think it would help everyone understand that I am being bounced back-and-forth between agencies in what amounts to a jurisdictional limbo that leaves me mostly on my own to deal with Luke's crimes against me. So far, both agencies have refused to interact with one another regarding my involvement in this case.

For Luke to insinuate that I'm pitching inconsistent narratives to different law enforcement agencies is bogus. It implies that I wouldn't want these agencies to interact with one another out of a fear that they would discover any alleged discrepancies in my accounts of Luke's crimes. I absolutely wish these agencies would interact and compare notes. I think it would clear up a lot of confusion about who is supposed to help me escape the hellish torment Luke has inflicted upon me for several years and counting.

- For Luke to imply that I make unnecessary or baseless reports to law enforcement is ludicrous. Unlike him, I don't meddle with the authorities as a hobby, nor do I enjoy immersing myself in these matters. I would have never contacted law enforcement about Luke if he would have just left me alone, because I prefer to interact with them as minimally as possible.

Talking with people who tend to automatically downplay or dismiss the gravity of my stalker's actions and the danger my stalker poses to my safety (and the safety of others) isn't fun. In this regard self-advocacy is emotionally taxing, frustrating, and, at times, humiliating. It has also had a draining effect on my finances due to the amount of time I am required to dedicate toward fighting for the peaceful life I deserve.

Simply put, **if Luke stopped obsessing over me and bothering me, my interactions with law enforcement would no longer be necessary and would stop.**

- In his most recent letter to the court, Luke suggested speaking with various men I dated many years ago to learn about my character. One of them, [REDACTED], I dated for less than two months in 2013 (over a decade ago). Pat and I have had no contact since 2014, and Luke does not know any reliable or accurate information about our extremely short-lived relationship (if you even want to call it that).

I dated the other man, [REDACTED], over five years ago. We remain good friends and I'm a longtime friend of his family, whom I've known since 2007 (years before [REDACTED] and I dated) and briefly lived with during my late teens. I'm sure Ian would be happy to testify to my character, but I think Luke is forgetting that I'm not the one under legal scrutiny.

- With all due respect to the court, it would be unconscionable to blame Luke's behavior wholly (or mostly, or even halfway) on mental illness. His recent letter to the court proves, once again, that he is driven primarily by evil and that his actions are premeditated and deliberate.

Some people are unfit to participate in free society, and he is one of them. I respectfully urge you to impose maximum prison time for the one probation violation that Luke pleaded guilty to, out of the five and counting that he has been accused of since his release from federal prison.

Luke will not stop stalking, harassing, and violating contact bans even if you discipline him. His behavior will escalate no matter what. But he is guaranteed to become more brazen and dangerous, in an exceedingly short amount of time, if the court fails to impose consequences for his behavior. Luke's victims deserve a meaningful level of protection and help, especially in the absence of other law enforcement agencies taking action, and **I respectfully urge the court to show that stalking will not be tolerated.**

As always, I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter. I'm including one last thing, which I think will help give a fuller picture of who the court is dealing with.