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The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer

Governor of Michigan

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Respectful Request for Review -- Conduct of Judge Yvonna C. Abraham, Third Circuit Court, Wayne County

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am writing to you respectfully, as a citizen of Michigan, a disabled veteran, and a father, because I believe you are one of the few people in a position to help my family, and because you appointed the judge whose conduct I am describing here.

My name is Gregory Charles Jones. I am rated 50% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and I am currently living with lung cancer. I have three children -- Bilal, Jameel, and Maryam -- and for the last two years, I have watched a Wayne County courtroom take my family apart, piece by piece, in ways I do not believe our laws or our Constitution were ever meant to allow.

Why I am writing to you specifically

You appointed Judge Yvonna C. Abraham to the Third Circuit Court in July 2021. I do not say that to blame you for her conduct -- I know a governor cannot supervise every ruling a judge makes years after taking the bench. I say it because I believe you have a legitimate interest in knowing what has happened in a courtroom that carries your appointment, and because your office may be one of the few with the standing to ask that it be looked into.

What has happened to my family

In 2020, my son Bilal was strangled by his mother. Michigan's own Child Protective Services investigated and confirmed it happened. In 2024, he was strangled a second time, by his mother's boyfriend, while his siblings watched. When I tried to bring this evidence before Judge Abraham, she told me, on the record, that she was “not a mandated reporter” and did not have to allow it into her courtroom.

On December 19, 2024, Judge Abraham terminated a Personal Protection Order that had been protecting my son Jameel from the man who strangled his brother, ruling that Jameel “is not the alleged victim.” The next day, she ordered a raid on my home. I was arrested and jailed for six weeks without a trial, over missing a single court date. My children were placed with the same two people they had just watched commit a strangulation. While I was in that jail cell, I was denied phone access for two and a half weeks -- the same weeks I was diagnosed with lung cancer.

At a later hearing, when the weight of everything caused me to have a panic attack in her courtroom, Judge Abraham ordered me jailed during the panic attack, without a medical evaluation.

My daughter Maryam, who is twelve, has been documented by two separate licensed therapists as experiencing suicidal ideation with a specific plan, tied directly to the possibility of being sent to live with her mother. I sent that documentation directly to Judge Abraham's courtroom myself. On December 1, 2025, while I was hospitalized and unable to attend, she held a hearing anyway, suspended my parenting time, and ordered law enforcement to locate and remove Maryam -- despite that documented risk already being in the record.

I have not seen my son Jameel, or heard his voice, in about a year and a half. My other two children are not permitted contact with him either. The only version of their brother they have is a screen name on a video game that they believe might be him.

I say this as a Black father

I want to be honest with you about something else. My family is Black. I have alleged in a federal complaint that Judge Abraham's treatment of my case involved repeated racist and discriminatory treatment, and I believe what has happened to us fits a pattern this country's Black families have lived through before -- children taken, families separated, by people with the power to do it and very little accountability for how they use that power. My ancestors lived through that under slavery, four hundred years ago. I did not expect to be describing something that still rhymes with it, in Michigan, in my children's lifetime. I share this with you not as an accusation I expect you to adjudicate, but as context for why this has cost my family and me more than most people will ever have to understand.

What I am asking

I am not asking you to overturn any ruling -- I understand that is not within a governor's power, and I am pursuing that separately through the courts and through a formal complaint I have filed with the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission. What I am asking is simpler: that your office look into this,

that someone with the authority to do so takes seriously what has happened to my children, and that Michigan does better by families like mine going forward.

I want to be direct with you, respectfully, about one more thing. I do not say this as a threat, and I hope you will not read it as one -- I mean it only as the truth of where I am. If the system does not find a way to make this right, I intend to run for Governor of Michigan as an independent candidate in 2030. Not because I want a career in politics, but because I have come to believe that the only way families like mine get taken seriously is when our stories are told publicly, by people who lived them, in front of the people who can change the system. I would rather that not be necessary. I would rather see my son again.

Closing

I have every document referenced in this letter -- court orders, the CPS investigation report, my children's therapist records, and the federal complaints I have filed -- organized and ready to share with your office at any time. I would welcome the chance to speak with someone on your staff.

Thank you for reading this. I know your office receives many letters. I am asking you to let mine be one you remember.

Respectfully,

Gregory Charles Jones