

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Florence Laurel Anderson

In April 2001, Florence Anderson went to Bruce James' motel room. She was accompanied by her pimp Michael Lane, who planned to rob Mr. James because he thought Mr. James had large sums of cash. In the hotel room, Mr. Lane stabbed Mr. James, killing him. Mr. Lane, Ms. Anderson, and two others then took \$49, credit cards, jewelry, and clothing from the room. On July 3, 2002, the Humboldt County Superior Court sentenced Ms. Anderson to 25 years to life for first degree murder plus 2 years for second degree burglary.

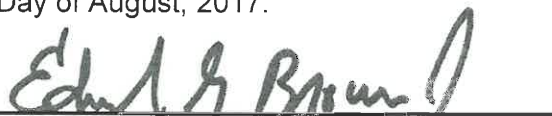
In her application for clemency, Ms. Anderson describes her battle with addiction and her history as a victim of abuse. According to Ms. Anderson, "I did not know what addiction was or understand how out of control my life had become." An investigation revealed overwhelming evidence that Ms. Anderson was suffering from Intimate Partner Battery at the time of her crime and that she "endured severe physical abuse at the hands of her codefendant, Michael Lane." Mr. Lane was interviewed as part of the investigation and reported that there was no plan to murder Mr. James. He explained, "But my anger took over and things went downhill. After things went downhill, I threatened her and told her she couldn't say nothing. She didn't come forward because of me and my threats. ... She took my words as gold. ... She was afraid of me. Actually she was terrified of me. ... She didn't do anything. ... She doesn't deserve all this time." While the current District Attorney of Humboldt County has written to oppose clemency and takes the position that there is nothing "exceptional" about this case, the former District Attorney said that he "found it was very plausible that she was truly a victim of domestic violence and that her involvement in the crime was due to that fact." He said, "Provided she has done well in prison, it makes sense for the Governor to cut her some slack...if she is doing well in prison, I would not oppose it. I would support it."

In her 16 years of incarceration, Ms. Anderson has shown a determination to overcome her struggle with drugs and a genuine commitment to rehabilitation. She has been certified as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor by the Addiction Counselor Certification Board of California, has created and taught substance abuse prevention curriculum, and has an internship offer to continue this work upon her release. Ms. Anderson has not been disciplined for any misconduct while in prison and has participated in numerous self-help groups, including Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, Relapse Prevention, Co-Dependents Anonymous, and Restorative Justice. She has been housed in the honor dorm for several years, worked on the executive body of the Canine Support Team, and works as a hospice volunteer for terminally ill inmates. Her family has offered her housing and other support. A correctional officer described her as a "model for real change." Two additional correctional officers in 2011 supported Ms. Anderson – one stating, "It is in my opinion that she would pose no threat if released... and will live a productive and successful life in the community."

I do not discount the gravity of Ms. Anderson's offense, but I also cannot overlook the violent abuse she endured and her limited role in this crime. Since Ms. Anderson has been incarcerated, she has maintained her sobriety and helps fellow inmates who also struggle with addiction. She deserves an earlier opportunity to make her case before the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can determine whether she is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute Florence Laurel Anderson's sentence to a total of 16 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Christopher Edwin Asay

In 1987, Gerald Gauthier worked for an armored car service and regularly picked up money from the convenience store where Christopher Asay worked. On February 18, Mr. Gauthier was driving his own station wagon because none of the armored cars were available. Mr. Asay approached Mr. Gauthier on a freeway on-ramp and shot him multiple times in the chest, killing him. Mr. Asay stole \$16,000 from the car and fled. On February 24, 1989, the San Bernardino County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Asay to life without the possibility of parole for first degree murder plus a 2-year firearm enhancement.

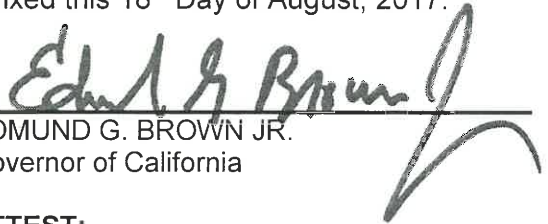
Mr. Asay is now 55 years old and has been incarcerated for 29 years. In his application for clemency, he wrote, "I know that I cannot change the past, but I can and have done everything within my power to repent and improve myself. I have learned and I have grown as a person so if given the privilege of a second chance, I can and will be a productive member of society." Mr. Asay has no prior convictions and has never been disciplined for misconduct during nearly three decades in prison. He has furthered his education by earning a bachelor's degree and graduating *magna cum laude* from California Coast University with a master's degree in business administration. Mr. Asay has been housed in a Utah correctional facility since 2001, has worked as a reader for the blind since 2011, and routinely earns excellent work ratings. He has participated in self-help programs, including Anger Management, Relationships, and Victim Empathy. In 2015, a correctional lieutenant reported that Mr. Asay was a "model inmate" who was assigned to an honor dorm as a result of his positive behavior and programming.

Additionally, Mr. Asay has significant support from his family, who have pledged to provide him with housing, a job, and the support he needs to integrate back into the community. Bishop Henriksen of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints recently wrote, "I can think of nothing in this world I would like to see more, than for Mr. Asay to have his sentence commuted to 'life with the possibility of parole.'" He said, "There is not a better man in our branch. ... He was paid one of the highest compliments I have heard from other inmates. They all say he is the same person in the chapel as he is on the blocks. He is a good man and they all know it." Governor Gary Herbert of Utah also wrote to support Mr. Asay's request for commutation. He remarked that "Mr. Asay has taken advantage of the time in prison to reflect on his actions and their effect on the victim's family," and agreed to allow him to be supervised in Utah in the event he is released on parole.

Despite his sentence of life without the possibility of parole, as soon as he entered prison, Mr. Asay began turning his life around and helping others. I believe he has earned the opportunity to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings to make his case so they can determine whether he is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Christopher Edwin Asay to a total of 25 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Hamid Basil Bashir


In November 1998, 18-year-old Hamid Bashir and several friends planned to rob a store. During the course of the robbery, the store manager, Paul Lee, was shot and killed by one of Mr. Bashir's friends. Mr. Bashir struggled with Jose Angulo, a security guard on duty, and shot him in the hand. On May 2, 2002, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Bashir to 15 years to life for second degree murder plus a 10-year firearm enhancement – a total term of 25 years to life.

Mr. Bashir has now been in prison for almost 17 years and has demonstrated his commitment to transforming his life and his deep remorse for his participation in this crime. He stopped associating with gang members and has only been disciplined once in nearly two decades of incarceration. He earned his GED, a paralegal certificate, vocational training, and positive work ratings. Mr. Bashir has participated in numerous self-help programs and has facilitated groups for other inmates, including Anger Management and Victim Impact Education. He is currently enrolled in a college-level seminary program and is an active church member. He counsels at-risk youth and plans to continue participating in an urban ministry program if released. Mr. Bashir has also earned respect from the staff members who interact with him on a daily basis. In 2016, a correctional officer commended Mr. Bashir for his "exemplary behavior" and wrote, "In my view, [Mr.] Bashir has given himself the tools to evolve into becoming a productive citizen." A chaplain noted Mr. Bashir's contributions to the ministry and applauded his "exemplary behavior, humble attitude, and service to others." Mr. Bashir has the support of his wife, other family members, and former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who offered Mr. Bashir a job, a scholarship to further his education, and housing upon his release from prison. Mayor Riordan wrote that he would guarantee Mr. Bashir's "good behavior and that he will be a positive asset to society."

Based on his age at the time of this crime, his excellent conduct in prison, and his commitment to serving others if released, I believe Mr. Bashir has earned an earlier opportunity to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can determine whether he is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Hamid Basil Bashir to 17 years and 6 months to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

Paul Carrillo

In February 1981, Paul Carrillo and a friend were heavily intoxicated and came up with a plan to call a taxi, knock out the driver, and use the taxi for the night without paying. They called a taxi driven by Stanley Pace and around midnight, Mr. Carrillo and his friend struck him multiple times in the head with a 2x4 with nails, killing him. After a jury trial, on September 7, 1990, the Riverside County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Carrillo to life without the possibility of parole for first degree murder.

Mr. Carrillo was recommended for a commutation of sentence by the Warden of Ironwood State Prison, who noted that granting a commutation in this case "inspires those who think there is nothing to gain by doing the right thing" and "gives inmates hope."

Mr. Carrillo has been incarcerated now for more than 36 years and he is 61 years old. Rather than succumbing to gangs, drugs, or violence in his decades in prison, he has been committed to changing his life. He has not received a rule violation since 1985. Despite having no incentive of possible release, Mr. Carrillo has participated in self-help programs, including Anger Management, Alternatives to Violence, Creative Conflict Resolution, Addiction Counseling, and Narcotics Anonymous. He serves as an assistant to Protestant and Catholic chaplains on matters related to the administration of Native American spiritual practices, and he was also designated as the Inmate Native American Spiritual Advisor at his prison. He has routinely received satisfactory to above average work ratings from his supervisors. In 2014, Mr. Carrillo was one of a handful of inmates selected to speak at the first California prison TEDx conference held at Ironwood State Prison.

Mr. Carrillo came to prison for committing a terrible crime more than three decades ago. Since that time, he has demonstrated a sincere commitment to living without drugs or alcohol, mentoring others, and being a Native American spiritual leader. I believe that he deserves an opportunity to make his case before the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can determine whether he is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Paul Carrillo to a total of 25 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State



# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Travielle Craig

On the night the Rodney King verdict was issued, 18-year-old Travielle Craig and some friends asked Victor Medina and Elias Garcia for money to support Mr. King's cause. Mr. Medina gave Mr. Craig \$2. Mr. Craig asked for more money and Mr. Medina said he didn't have any more. Mr. Craig tried to take Mr. Medina's wallet, chased both men, and hit them in the head with a piece of wood. Mr. Medina received stitches and survived his injuries. Mr. Garcia later lost consciousness, underwent brain surgery, and ultimately died. On October 25, 1993, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Craig to life without the possibility of parole for first degree murder, plus a 1-year deadly weapon enhancement, 3 years for assault with a deadly weapon, and a 3-year great bodily injury enhancement.

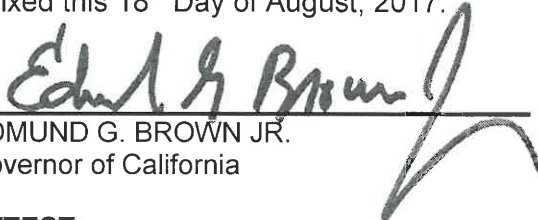
Mr. Craig has now been incarcerated for 25 years. He told an investigator, "When I came to jail, I was young and immature. I have matured now and I feel that I can be an asset to whatever community I am in." He reported that his life was very turbulent when he committed this crime; his father was murdered, his grandmother died, and he was unable to appropriately handle his emotions. Mr. Craig now accepts responsibility for his actions and has demonstrated genuine remorse for his past choices.

Mr. Craig has dramatically changed his life while in prison. He stopped associating with gangs, avoided drugs and alcohol, and has not been disciplined for any misconduct for nearly two decades. Mr. Craig earned his GED and multiple degrees from a Bible college, and regularly preaches at church services. He has lived on an honor yard since 2007 and participated in numerous self-help programs, including Victim Offender Education, Alternatives to Violence, and Rehabilitation and Reentry. He mentors at-risk youth, is certified as a Bible counselor, and contributed to a literary journal. Mr. Craig has also earned the support of many staff members, including a chaplain and a correctional sergeant who have known him for 17 years. In 2017, the chaplain wrote, "I have seen [Mr. Craig's] positive reactions to negative situations and have seen him mentor others on how to respond to adverse situations. He is a valuable mentor for me to look to for help...It is my professional opinion that he has demonstrated that he has been rehabilitated in his attitudes, character and lifestyle." The sergeant concluded that Mr. Craig has "demonstrated sincere progress toward his self-rehabilitation and...will be a productive citizen in society if he were released." Mr. Craig was also commended by an associate warden for his "extraordinary conduct" in caring for rescue dogs displaced by a fire. Mr. Craig has a job offer, housing, and support from his wife and other family members.

Mr. Craig has distinguished himself by his conduct and dedication to self-improvement during his incarceration. Rather than succumbing to drugs, gangs, and violence, he turned away from those negative influences and has worked hard to educate himself and encourage others to pursue their own rehabilitation. Mr. Craig has earned an opportunity to make his case before the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can determine whether he is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Travielle Craig to a total of 25 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State



# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### DeAngelo McVay

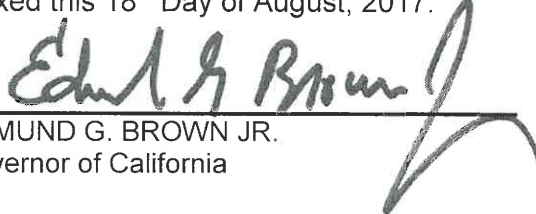
On September 28, 1998, DeAngelo McVay called two others to ask for their help handling a drug-related dispute he had with James Miller, who was staying at Mr. McVay's mother's home. The other two men beat Mr. Miller and at some point, forced him into a car and drove him to a garage, where Mr. McVay hit Mr. Miller in the face with a radio speaker. Mr. McVay left, and the other two men forced Mr. Miller to remove his clothing and burned him with a hot butcher knife and iron. Mr. Miller told them that he could take them to some drugs, and Mr. McVay and the others drove Mr. Miller to an apartment complex, where he escaped while pretending to retrieve the drugs. Mr. Miller was treated for his injuries and survived. On August 23, 1999, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sentenced Mr. McVay to life without the possibility of parole for kidnapping for ransom plus a 1-year enhancement for use of a firearm.

Mr. McVay has been incarcerated for nearly 19 years and is currently living in the honor yard at Lancaster. His Warden has recommended him for a commutation of sentence. She told an investigator that Mr. McVay is a "poster child for rehabilitation" and wrote, "I believe in rehabilitation and McVay has taken every opportunity to rehabilitate himself. He has worked hard to become an individual who should be considered for a commutation of sentence." She noted, "In my career I have not seen an inmate with more positive words from CDCR staff." Indeed, Mr. McVay has earned the respect and support of many correctional staff members. A facility captain spoke of Mr. McVay's "dedication and commitment" to rehabilitation through self-improvement. Multiple staff members commended him for notifying staff when a chaplain was experiencing a medical emergency. An associate warden commended him for outstanding service in his long-term position as the chairman of the Men's Advisory Council and for maintaining "a positive program while encouraging others to do so as well." Mr. McVay has been disciplined for misconduct only once in nearly two decades in prison. He has avoided gangs and drugs, and has no previous criminal history. Mr. McVay volunteers as a rescue dog trainer and was certified as a Biblical counselor. He has a job offer and options for housing upon release. A chaplain supported commutation and wrote, "I am confident that Mr. McVay, through years of effort and persistent commitment to inner reform, has made the kind of abiding change that will endure." A correctional sergeant who has known Mr. McVay for 15 years wrote, "I have seen the man that Mr. McVay has transformed into. He is hardworking, honest and devoted to his own rehabilitation. He has proven time and time again that he is worthy of being released back into society so that he may begin to have the same positive impact he has made here."

I weighed the serious nature of Mr. McVay's crime, but in light of his remarkable transformation in prison, he deserves an opportunity to make his case before the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can determine whether he is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of DeAngelo McVay to a total of 20 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### John Paul Rodriguez

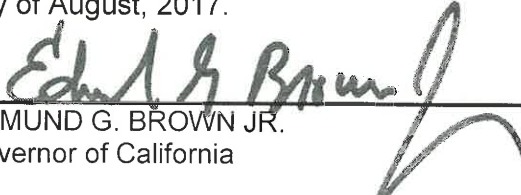
In 2009, 17-year-old John Rodriguez picked a fight with Enrique Evangelista at a nightclub, then shot at Mr. Evangelista several times outside the club later that night. Mr. Evangelista was hit once in the back but survived his injuries. On July 7, 2010, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Rodriguez to 9 years for attempted murder, plus a 10-year firearm enhancement and a 3-year great bodily injury enhancement – a total term of 22 years in prison.

In prison, Mr. Rodriguez reflected on his violent adolescence and decided to make a radical change. He immediately dropped out of his gang, avoided drugs, and left violence behind. He has never been disciplined for any misconduct. He earned his GED and three A.A. degrees and made the President's List for his excellent grades. Mr. Rodriguez participated in self-help programs and volunteered as a literacy tutor. He has also earned accolades from the staff members who interact with him on a daily basis. A staff member praised Mr. Rodriguez for his "selfless commitment and dedication in ensuring those around him live a healthy lifestyle." A college coordinator commended Mr. Rodriguez for his work ethic and participation in a youth offender mentorship program, writing, "By serving as an example for the Youth to emulate, Mr. Rodriguez has helped countless Incarcerated Youth in their recovery, and to prepare them to live successful and meaningful lives." Mr. Rodriguez has prepared for his release by securing housing and a scholarship to pursue his education. He also has the support of his family and his former teacher, who has become a valuable mentor.

It is clear that Mr. Rodriguez understands the seriousness of his crime. He has discussed the consequences of his past violence, displayed considerable empathy, and acknowledged, "I can never take back what I did." He said that he applied for a commutation because he was "ready to be of help to those I have hurt in my past by aiding people with internal struggles and helping the community by reducing recidivism." In light of his age at the time of the crime, his exceptional conduct in prison, and his genuine commitment to serving his community when he is released, I conclude that it is appropriate to reduce his sentence.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of John Paul Rodriguez to a total of 9 years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Mary Elizabeth Stroder

Mary Stroder and her boyfriend Charles Rountree stole her father's car and drove from Missouri to California. Once in California, they ran out of money and decided to rob someone. Mr. Rountree ordered Ms. Stroder to get Diana Contreras, who was shopping at a mall, into their car. Mr. Rountree and Ms. Stroder drove Ms. Contreras to several ATMs to withdraw money, then Mr. Rountree drove out to an isolated area and shot Ms. Contreras three times, killing her. Mr. Rountree and Ms. Stroder took Ms. Contreras' car and used her ATM card to withdraw money in the subsequent days. When interviewed by detectives shortly after their arrest, Mr. Rountree advised that Ms. Stroder had nothing to do with the homicide and they had only planned to rob Ms. Contreras. On August 17, 1995, the Kern County Superior Court sentenced Ms. Stroder to life without the possibility of parole for first degree murder, plus a 3-year firearm enhancement.

This is an extremely serious crime, but there are circumstances that warrant consideration for reducing her sentence. A 2009 psychological evaluation described Ms. Stroder's "lifetime experience of neglect, devaluation, and abuse" and concluded that she suffered from Intimate Partner Battery at the time of her crime. Ms. Stroder witnessed frequent violence between her parents in her earliest years. There is a "strong suggestion" Ms. Stroder was sexually abused by her parents, and she reports that both parents beat and neglected her. Ms. Stroder recalled being kidnapped and raped by a friend of her mother's at 16. She also described a series of extremely abusive relationships. One boyfriend routinely physically abused her. Another was extremely controlling. Yet another beat her until she pretended she was dead, regularly woke her up in the middle of the night and forced her to run miles, and chased her around the house with an AK-47 with a retractable bayonet. By the time she met Mr. Rountree, the psychologist noted, "Liz Stroder was already a very passive, timid, desperate to please young woman." Mr. Rountree was "a violent and disturbed young man" whose "unbalanced mind, unpredictability, and his enjoyment of violent images was sufficient to cause fear and submission." He "physically isolated her from her family, controlled her movements, controlled the money, and dominated her sexually." Ms. Stroder reported feeling "safer" and "relieved" when she was arrested and believed it was "a matter of time before he killed me." The psychologist concluded, "Testimony about the dynamics of a batterer and a battered woman's response would have helped the jury understand why she was with Mr. Rountree, and had not escaped, to understand the crime was not the product of shared intent, but that of a murderous and mentally ill man and a fearful, passive woman, to decide if she truly 'aided and abetted' the murder, or simply was too immobilized to resist Mr. Rountree."

Despite her extraordinarily difficult past, Ms. Stroder came to prison and changed her life. She has been actively involved in self-help programs, including Breaking Barriers, Victim Awareness, Co-Dependents Anonymous, the Power of Positive Thinking, and Conflict Resolution. She has been disciplined only once and has avoided all drugs, violence, and gang activity in prison. She has no prior criminal convictions. Ms. Stroder has completed a number of vocational training programs and routinely receives exceptional work ratings. Family and friends have offered her places to live and a job. Ms. Stroder has been commended by correctional staff for her diligence and commitment to rehabilitation, mentoring

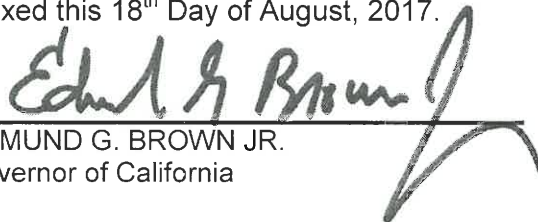
her peers, and demonstrating a good work ethic. She has served on the Women's Advisory Council and was elected Unit Representative for her honor dorn in 2016.

Ms. Stroder has garnered significant support in the community – nearly 7,000 individuals have signed a petition advocating for a “chance of freedom.” A legal advocate from the California Coalition for Women Prisoners wrote to share her support for Ms. Stroder, saying, “I have come to know Liz as one of the most self-aware, respectful, accountable, and thoughtful individuals whom I have met; not only in her particular circumstance, but in general. ... We have no doubt that she would thrive if released from prison and believe that society stands to benefit tremendously from the ways in which she would give back upon her release.”

For all of these reasons, I find that Ms. Stroder deserves a chance to make her case to the Board of Parole Hearings so that they can decide whether she is ready to be released from prison.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Mary Elizabeth Stroder to a total of 25 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State



# Executive Department

State of California

## COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

### Raul Zarate

In June 2009, 17-year-old Raul Zarate was intoxicated and walking home from a party when he got into an argument with a group of people standing outside of a house. He went home to retrieve a firearm before returning to the house. He then drew his gun and fired once, hitting two individuals who were later transported to a hospital and treated for their injuries. On April 28, 2010, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Zarate to 9 years for attempted murder, plus a 4-year firearm enhancement and a 3-year great bodily injury enhancement – a total sentence of 16 years in prison.

Since his incarceration, Mr. Zarate has never been disciplined and has avoided involvement in gangs, drugs, and violence. He has fully participated in numerous self-help programs, including Alternatives to Violence, Criminal Thinking, Victim Awareness, Inside Out Writers, the Urban Ministry Institute, Anger Management, and Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous. He earned a GED and high school diploma before graduating *magna cum laude* with four A.A. degrees. Mr. Zarate has been certified as a Braille transcriber by the Library of Congress. He is also a Master Inmate Peer Educator and works with youth offenders at Ironwood State Prison to steer them towards education and self-help opportunities. He has been commended by correctional staff for his work ethic and constant effort to help other inmates improve their lives. Mr. Zarate has been guaranteed housing, therapy, life skills programs, and scholarships to continue his education. He has a full-time job offer upon his release. A therapist who met Mr. Zarate when he was initially incarcerated wrote to support an early release for him, saying, "I see Raul as one of the unique individuals who not only wants to change their life, but has changed their life. I am hopeful that others also consider his remarkable progress and the amazing opportunities he has begun to create for his future."

Mr. Zarate committed a serious crime, but he has done exactly what we ask of inmates – fully commit to rehabilitation and prepare for success upon release.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Raul Zarate to a total of 9 years.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2017.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State