

## Day of The Arrest.

04/13/2010 ; At 10:30 am Annabel presented herself for the <sup>mental</sup> fitness exam at 2610 S. California Ave., 10th floor. At around 11:00 am Dr. Markov, coming from behind, greeted her and they both proceeded to the examination room. Once there, Annabel's first remark was about the requested french translator. Dr. Markov replied that he wasn't aware of such a request. Nevertheless, he told her that she was well understood and if during the session she didn't understand something, she might ask him to repeat it slowly. Annabel agreed and asked the doctor to proceed. The first questions were pretty basic. There were about that day's date, her name then it gradually got to her education, ethnical background, courtroom proceedings, mental health. At the end of this first phase, Dr. Markov told Annabel that she was well-educated, calm, cooperative, had good eyes contact as well as good verbal skills.

After this verbal evaluation, the second phase started with questions about her pending charges specifically the judges and lawyers involved in her case. In the middle of the questioning, some police officers knocked at the door and Dr. Markov left the room for about 5-10 min. When he came back from his conversation with the police officers, his line of questioning shifted to the illinois/corruption.net website. He was curious to know who posted the messages on that site, who owned it and finally the meaning of the capitalized word 'SURPRISE' on the 03/03/2010 entry.

Annabel told him she wouldn't comment on her relationship with her previous lawyers due to the confidentiality nature surrounding it, that the illinois/corruption.net is owned by someone in France and that the website didn't present any threat to anyone nor was it involved in any illegal activity but merely displayed public documents and made observations regarding her case. <sup>and that 'SURPRISE' on the 03/03/2010 was about her hiring a new lawyer.</sup> Dr. Markov then asked her if she had further questions, she <sup>n</sup> may payed. He shook her hand and closed the session.

When Annabel proceeded outside the examination room, she was told by about 6 police officers, men and women, that an arrest warrant had been issued on her. They handcuffed her and her Miranda rights are never read. When she inquired about the nature of the charges, she's told they're unknown.

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## Court Summaries Since My Arrest.

04/09/2010: Nick Albuquerque, Annabel's new lawyer, filed a motion for leave to appear. Judge Brannan is not in court, motion is granted by judge Wilson. The case is continued to 04/20/2010.

04/13/2010 (Day of the Arrest): See attached document.

04/14/2010: The same police officers who brought her to the Maywood jail the night before, picked her up the next morning. Annabel is transported to 2610 S. California Ave. for a bond hearing. After she's released from police custody, she stayed in a waiting room for about 2 hours before appearing in front of the bond judge. Her computer tampering prosecutors, Podlonek and Gunnigle, were present. Her lawyer was not in court. The prosecutors requested a 30,000 bond for the new eavesdropping charges and asked the judge to have Annabel's passport surrendered. With no attorney to defend her, the bond request is easily granted. The case is continued to 04/15/2010. It became apparent to her that her computer tampering prosecutors were the ones who orchestrated her new arrest.

After the bond hearing, she's taken to a room with other female detainees. She stayed in that room about 5 hours before starting the procedures required to be booked at the Cook County jail. The procedures, among others, are being photographed, undergo a mental evaluation, a X-Ray session and finally to wear jail clothes. By the time she got to her cell, it was around 2.00 am. There, she wanted to cry, no tears came. The well of emotional tears has long dried out through the 4-yearlong legal drought. Then her thoughts shifted to her family and to the dream she once had about coming to America. In the darkness of that sleepless night, she realized, the dream has turned into a nightmare. The nightmare of hypocrisy in its ~~big~~ naked ugliness. With her dreams and hopes and aspirations buried and dead, she surrendered herself to the Almighty and became resolute to accept her condition as yet another episode in her challenging legal case.

04/15/2010: Annabel is called in front of Judge Brannan at around 11.30 am. When she entered the room, she's surprised that her lawyer wasn't

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in court. Judge Bronnahan made a recap of the case, then asked the Defendant if she submitted to her ordered psychological evaluation. Annabel answered in the affirmative. The judge then looked through her paperwork and said that no evaluation result was sent to her. The state prosecutor, Podlasek, went on to tell the judge that the Defendant caught a new case, Face-dropping, and as such her I-Bond conditions were violated and demanded a new bond for the computer tampering charges. Furthermore, he told the judge that the Defendant should surrender her passport. Annabel couldn't believe what she was hearing. Though she was no longer Pro Se, she felt the urgent need to step up and defend herself. She told the judge that the state prosecutor can't schedule a court hearing and make all these demands without notifying the lawyer assigned to the case. The judge asked who was the new lawyer and used Podlasek to notify the Defendant's attorney <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ the new developments. The case was continued to 04/20/2010.

04/20/2010: Annabel's lawyer is finally in court. After his initial presentation, Attorney ID and name, he made a summary of the case. He told the judge that since her client has been rendered indigent by the state, he requested to be appointed. Judge Bronnahan said she would take his request into advisement. The state prosecutor and Nick Albuquerque then argued the new bond on the computer tampering charges. After ~~presenting~~ <sup>having heard</sup> both arguments, Judge Bronnahan set the bond to \$50,000. Linda Shelton was also in court that day to argue her habeas on behalf of the Defendant. When Judge Bronnahan refused to let her argue her motion, Linda Shelton expressed her discontentment and the judge ordered her out of the courtroom. The case was continued to 05/05/10.

After the court hearing, Nick Albuquerque came to see the Defendant in a cell adjacent the courtroom. With tears in her eyes, she asked him not to withdraw. Worth noting, by that time, Nick hasn't received a dime yet from her. He promised he wouldn't withdraw but made it clear he needed to be paid for his services. He gave her his business card and asked her to call collect. He also volunteered to get a french translator so that Annabel's family can be notified of her arrest. She felt very relieved by the gesture.

05/05/2010: Nick Albuquerque argued his motion to have the excessive bond reduced. He said that Face-dropping wasn't a violent crime and that only few

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few states consider such an act a crime. The state prosecutor, Podlask, replied that the Defendant posted discovery and private information on her website, that her recordings of telephone conversations between her and Pamela Taylor and posting of the said conversations on the internet amounted to cyber-terrorism. After hearing both arguments, Judge Brombhan reduced the bond to 300,000, still excessive for the Defendant to bond out. The case was continued to 05/12/10.

05/12/2010: The state prosecutors demanded to quash all subpoenas issued by the Defendant when one was Pro Se. Nick Albuquerque replied that the state doesn't have the inherent power to quash a subpoena. Only a judge can do so, he argued. He also put the Defendant on record regarding transfer of funds from her former lawyer. The hearing was continued to 05/20/2010 although the Defendant had to be in court on 05/18/2010 to be arraigned a judge for the eavesdropping charges.

05/18/2010: As a matter of formality, Annabel went to room <sup>101</sup> ~~100~~ to have a judge assigned to the eavesdropping charges. Though her lawyer wasn't in court, he already knew that Judge Brombhan will be assigned the new charges. After room 101, she was then sent to that judge and the case was continued to 05/20/2010.

05/20/2010: In a grueling court hearing that lasted almost 3 hours, most subpoenas issued by the Defendant while Pro Se were withdrawn. This was the result of a decision between Albuquerque and his client to withdraw subpoenas irrelevant to the computer tampering charges and to keep only those that were relevant. For those subpoenas that were not withdrawn, Judge Brombhan ordered them to be stricken in their face and asked Nick Albuquerque to rewrite them. The Defendant was then arraigned on the eavesdropping charges and the case was continued to 06/14/2010.

06/14/2010: Nick Albuquerque told the judge that he was in the process of rewriting the Defendant's outstanding motion to dismiss as well as the subpoenas that weren't withdrawn. The hearing was continued to 07/26/2010 for an argument on the motion to dismiss.

After the hearing Albuquerque and his client also discussed filing a

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motion to dismiss the eavesdropping charges.

07/26/2010: By the time Annabel arrived in the courtroom, the hearing had already started. Nick Albuquerque made her signed the verified motion to reduce all bonds in front of the judge. In a surprising move, the state prosecutors decided to switch election to the eavesdropping case. See a pattern? The day Annabel was scheduled to argue her motion to dismiss, a psychological evaluation was ordered on her and when she submitted to it, she got arrested. Her new lawyer rewrote the motion to dismiss and the very day he was supposed to argue it, the state switched the election. The case was continued to 08/11/2010.

08/11/2010: Really frustrating day for the Defendant. The state submitted its reply to Albuquerque's motion to dismiss the eavesdropping charges. Annabel asked him not to argue it that day, but he told the judge that he wanted to do so. In doing so, all the relevant documents showing her reasonable belief that a criminal activity was afoot were not attached or shown to the judge. After hearing both arguments, the judge denied the motion to dismiss. Nick Albuquerque then asked Judge Brannan to appoint him. He proposed a plan. He also informed the court that her client's motion to reduce her bond was denied. He ~~also~~ <sup>further</sup> took responsibilities for all misstatements present in his initial motion to reduce bond as well as on the affidavit regarding transfer of funds from his client's former lawyer. He acknowledged his client never had the opportunity to read the motion before ~~he~~ it was filed. The case was continued to 08/26/2010.

After the hearing, a discussion arose between Annabel and her lawyer. At the end of the discussion, she wondered why the once strong and unified defense team has now disintegrated.

08/26/2010; Nick Albuquerque argued the state's motion to eliminate the criminal activity defense during trial. The state obtained from arguing. The Defendant's lawyer argued that the case presented by the state is not only a civil case irrelevant to his client's situation, but also that it was a ruling from another jurisdiction. After agreeing in part with the defense, Judge Brannan nevertheless granted the state's motion stating that Pamela Taylor, manager

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at the Cook County Reporter's office, wasn't the court reporter having transcribed the June 18th, 2008 transcript and therefore couldn't be a party to the alleged criminal activity. Nick Albuquerque concluded in telling the judge that her decision was made on a fact, a responsibility given to a jury as a trier of facts. He told the judge that he would file a motion to reconsider and if denied, he would appeal her ruling.

Annabel also wanted to file her request demanding trial for the computer tampering case. Judge Bronkhan didn't allow her to do so, arguing that there was no need to demand trial on a case that was tolled, corroborating Nick Albuquerque's response to his client when she suggested the idea. The case was continued to 09/29/2010.

After the hearing, Nick Albuquerque met Annabel in her cell. He was very aggravated. He promised he would file a proper motion explaining his argument. He went on to say he didn't bother to write one such response to the state's motion because he thought it to be weak and that his oral argument would have sufficed.

09/29/2010: Nick Albuquerque came late. Not being able to make it on time, he called the state prosecutors and arranged a continuation date. When he arrived in court, a jury trial was ongoing. Annabel met the judge in his absence and the case was continued to 10/18/2010.

When Nick Albuquerque met Annabel in her cell, they discussed legal issues. Among them, a check to ~~need~~ ~~sign~~ sign for his services and Carol Spizzirri not picking up subpoenas sent to her.

10/18/2010: Nick Albuquerque told the judge that he hadn't been able to write the motion to reconsider due to being fired two times by the Defendant. He also told the judge that he hadn't been appointed nor been paid by the Defendant who gave him some conditions, among those a second motion to dismiss. Annabel then told the judge that her lawyer shouldn't discuss in open court confidential conversations between them. She confirmed that she gave her lawyer certain conditions and absent their fulfillment, she would ask him to withdraw. Annabel further told the judge that if she ever appoints Nick Albuquerque, she would hire a new lawyer and make that person her lead attorney. Judge Bronkhan replied that she couldn't go on firing lawyers and since she had no

6

other attorney had filed appearance, she allowed Albuquerque to remain her lawyer. Although Albuquerque went on record continuing the hearing for 10/25/2010, the actual continuance was 10/27/2010.

10/27/2010: Nick Albuquerque filed his motion to reconsider the ruling made by the judge on August 26th, 2010. Before arguing his motion though, he told the judge that his client asked him to withdraw and consequently, didn't know if he should proceed with the argument. The judge asked Annabel why she wanted Albuquerque to withdraw. She answered she wouldn't discuss those issues in open court. As to whether the motion to reconsider had to be argued, she said, she wanted to read it first. The judge then let her read it in the room adjacent the court room. Nick Albuquerque and a female officer were also present in that room. When she finished reading the motion, she was very please with it and asked him to proceed. Nick Albuquerque however told her he just wouldn't go on and argue the motion, he wanted to know if he was still her lawyer. In that instant, Annabel really felt bad about everything she had made Albuquerque go through the past weeks. The excellence of his motion was undeniable and the meekness with which he asked that question really touched her. She confirmed that he was still on board as her lawyer. After that, they both went in front of the judge. Albuquerque brilliantly argued his motion stressing the fact that the case presented by the state prosecutors, In re Marriage of Almqvist, 299 Ill. App. 3d 732, was a civil case out of jurisdiction, that the judge was depriving his client of a fair trial by making a factual determination reserved to a jury and finally that Pamela Taylor, the Cook County Court Reporter Manager, was in fact a party to the alleged criminal activity. To stress this point, he used the analogy of someone hiding a criminal to prevent him/her of being caught. The state, on the other hand, argued that Pamela Taylor didn't transcribed the alleged falsified transcript and as such couldn't be part of the criminal activity. After few other questions urging Albuquerque to clarify Pamela Taylor's involvement in the alleged criminal activity, Judge Blomahan told him he presented his case better than the last time and consequently she overturned her ruling barring the criminal activity defense during trial. Thereafter, Albuquerque brought up the issue of a check belonging to her client stemming from a refund from her previous lawyer and the fact that he still wasn't paid. Judge Blomahan urged the Defendant to resolve the financial issues with her lawyer and that lawyers were not her puppets. The case was continued

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to 11/16/2010.

After the hearing, Nick Albuquerque met Annabel and told her he had urging issues but urged her to call him later that day. When Annabel called, she confirmed that she would sign the check so that he would be fully funded for the Eavesdropping case. Additionally, she praised him for his argument. Later, while reflecting on that day's event, she commended Albuquerque's social skills thanks to which, a mega tsunami in her legal case was dodged.

11/16/2010: Nick Albuquerque updated his witnesses' list to include Peggy Anderson, a manager at the Cook County Clerk office. He also told the judge that he would submit a second motion to dismiss. Thereafter, he set the trial date on the Eavesdropping case for 12/13/2010.

Later, when Annabel and Albuquerque met after the hearing, she asked him about the subpoenas sent to the Illinois Attorney General office regarding documents on any investigation on Love-A-Life foundation. Before the midterm election, the Illinois Attorney General requested additional time to comply with the subpoenas. However, once the election was over, the state prosecutors moved to quash the subpoenas.

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to them. Handcuffed and accompanied by police officers, she's led outside the building, put in a Chicago Police car and brought to CIU (Central Intelligence Unit). She's given a chair and remained seated for about 2 hours wondering about everything; specially, given the impressive amount of gang leaders' names and their members on the walls, she wondered if she now considered a gang leader, if not a member. She started having acute headaches. She requested to go to a hospital, she's told someone would take care of her health's issues.

She became weaker and forced herself to lean on the chair while waiting for God knew who. She stayed in that condition approximately 2 hours. Finally, a police officer came and informed her that she was charged of Eavesdropping. He then asked her if she had a computer and where she lived for the purpose of a search warrant. Annabel ~~told~~ told him she wouldn't say anything in the absence of her lawyer. The same officer came sometimes later and told her that two gentlemen wanted to talk to her and he wanted to know if she was willing to move to another room to talk to them. Again, Annabel told him she wouldn't say anything without her lawyer. Some minutes later, the two gentlemen in question came to where she was seated and presented themselves as U.S. Marshalls. One even showed her a picture ID. Due to her weakness though, Annabel was unable to see the name on the ID. They asked questions about her case and wanted to know why she wanted to be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney. Annabel told them that she made a complaint and was called by a FBI agent and told the agent everything on her case. Therefore, if they wanted to know something, she urged them to go to the FBI headquarters on Harrison Street. After that remark, she told them she had nothing else to say. They said that's the first time in their careers that they see someone who would rather be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney instead of the State County. She gave them her lawyer name and told them to contact him for further details on her case. They noted his name and left.

She stayed for about two more hours in her handcuffed condition and her headaches became worse. She wanted to throw-up but couldn't do so due to an empty stomach. She decided to lay on the floor to appease herself. A police officer came and asked her to rest back on the chair and reassured her that she would be taken to the hospital. About one hour later, her handcuffs are taken away and she's fingerprinted and photographed. After

3

that, she's again handcuffed and two police officers, a man and a woman, took her to a police car and she's told she would spend the night at the Maywood Jail. En route to Maywood, they passed the Loyola Hospital Center and Annabel asked the officers why they didn't stop at the hospital. At first they responded that her medical problems would be taken care of at the Maywood jail. However, when she started crying and complaining about her acute headaches, in a rare gesture of kindness, the man officer turned around and drove her to the hospital.

They stayed in the Loyola Hospital waiting area for about 2-3 hours and when she met the doctor, Annabel told her about her headaches and asked for some Tylenol. The doctor made basic examinations of her condition, gave her two pills along with water. Annabel is then taken to the Maywood jail. In Maywood, she learned that she wasn't charged of anything but was still under investigation. Due to that status, the privilege of letting her make a phone call is denied. She spent the night at the Maywood jail on a bare mattress unable to sleep.

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## The Death of Hope

Hope. The audacity of hope. Dear President, as a faithful follower volunteering during your presidential campaign, everything in my background truly believed in the triumph of that hope that empowers one individual to transcend, if only for a fleeting instant, a struggling reality and get lost, through the power of imagination, in dreams of a better world, a better living reality.

The audacity of my hope started in Cameroon, a French speaking Western African country. Back then, wandering through the jungle and listening to the song of birds and running water, I dare to dream of coming someday to America, though at the time, I didn't know how and when. That hope and dream became the leitmotiv of my life.

After high school, I was lucky enough to earn a scholarship to study mechanical engineering in Germany. Once in Germany, I learned German and devoted myself to studying. My curriculum requested to take certain computer classes. The first time I sat in front of a computer, I knew my calling was not engineering but computer science. It was a revelation so overwhelming that I did the unthinkable. Short of one class of production, I worked hard one summer, packed my stuff and came to America, the land of IBM and Microsoft and Google. I was thrilled.

With a strong belief in hard working, I enrolled in a public university in Kansas City. Circumstances there were such that I had to move to Chicago. There, I became a student at Roosevelt University. To finance my education, I started with unskilled jobs. Gradually, as I gained knowledge in my field of study, I got better paying offers in the Information Technology field. In my senior year at Roosevelt, I was lucky enough to get a job as a computer professional at Save-A-Life Foundation, a Schiller Park based not-for-profit organization. While working there, I actually had the privilege to shake hands with Dick Durbin, then a state senator. Though initially thrilled with the opportunity, my discontent grew bigger as I rubbed shoulders with Carol Spizzirri, a fraud, as revealed by an ABC investigative report. Her connections with Dick Devine, former Cook County District Attorney and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, helped her forge yet another fraud, this time a legal one. In a letter sent to Dick Devine, she accused me of deleting crucial files in her organization.

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I was later indicted on perjured statements made by Detective Martin of Schiller Park Police. From then on, tampered transcripts and biased judges and prosecutors slid my case through the throat of Illinois legal system, with one goal, to wash clean shady dealings that the organization once entertained with politicians as well as state and federal agencies. Four years in the case, instead of my intended American Dream, I'm experiencing the nightmare of Cook County Corrupt system at its worst.

From the depth of my despair in the Cook County Jail, I hope my cry will reach the most powerful man in America, if not the world. I dare believe that the ideals of integrity you once stood for will bring light to my challenging legal case. I'm not only physically and emotionally exhausted by the disproportional forces against which I have to fight, but also the audacity I once had in exposing those forces has been my misfortune. I always thought audacity meant courage, the deep belief in something to be fought for against odds such as threats, fear and persecution. Putting a lightbeam on a shady organization and a corrupt legal system amounted to such an audacious act.

A Greek philosopher once said, we sometimes forgive children who are afraid of darkness, but it's humanity's greatest tragedy when adults are afraid of the light. In fact, it's not only an Illinois but an American tragedy as well to politicize, tolerate, ignore, look away for legal abominations taking place in Cook County. I dare to hope.

Respectfully,

Annabel Meloges

