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BIOGRAPHY OF RANDY SCHAFFER

FAMILY

Randy and his wife, Mollie, have two sons. Randy III is a liver transplant surgeon in San Diego, California. Josh is a criminal defense lawyer in Houston.

EDUCATION

Randy graduated from St. John's School in Houston in 1967. He attended the University of Pennsylvania from 1967 to 1969 and received a BA with high honors from the University of Texas in 1970, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received a JD with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1973, where he was a member of the Chancellors (top eight students in his graduating class) and Order of the Coif (top ten per cent of law school graduates in the nation).

COURTS

Randy is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court; the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits; the United States District Court for the Southern, Northern, Eastern, and Western District of Texas; and the Texas state courts.

ORGANIZATIONS

Randy is a member of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers (ABCL), National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA), American Bar Association (ABA), and Houston Bar Association (HBA). The ABCL is a national legal honorary society for outstanding criminal defense trial lawyers, with admission by invitation only; eight criminal defense lawyers in Texas are currently members.

HONORS

Randy was recognized as one of the top seven criminal defense lawyers in Houston by Houston City Magazine in 1978 and one of the top ten by Inside Houston Magazine in 2003. He was recognized as the outstanding criminal defense lawyer with less than ten years of experience in a poll of the Harris County Criminal District Judges and Chief Felony Prosecutors in a 1980 Houston Chronicle article. He was recognized as the Outstanding Criminal Defense Lawyer of 1989 by the State Bar of Texas. He received the President's Award of Merit from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in 1989, the President's Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 1993, and the Texas Justice Alliance Award in 2003, all related to his representation of Randall Dale Adams. He was selected by his peers to be included in the publication, The Best Lawyers in America, and as one of Texas Super Lawyers in Texas Monthly Magazine. He is AV-rated by the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory.

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEECHES

Randy has written articles that were published in the Champion (NACDL), Voice For The Defense (TCDLA), and the Texas Bar Journal. He has written numerous papers for and spoken at seminars sponsored by the State Bar of Texas, NACDL, TCDLA, Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association (HCCLA), and the Criminal Defense Lawyers Project.

PUBLICITY

Randy represented Randall Dale Adams, whose case was featured in the movie The Thin Blue Line and the book Adams v. Texas; Kevin Byrd, whose case was featured in the book Actual Innocence, and Russell Furth, whose case was featured in the book The Great White Lie. Randy has been the subject of profiles in Texas Lawyer, Houston City Magazine, the Houston

Chronicle, and the Houston Post. His cases have been featured in People, Time, Newsweek, New Yorker, American Bar Association Journal, Texas Monthly, and D Magazine. He has been a guest on Nightline, Frontline, Crossfire, Larry King, Geraldo Rivera, Phil Donahue, Paula Zahn, Today, A Current Affair, P.M. Magazine, Burden of Proof, and Straight Talk.

CONTRIBUTION TO LEGAL EDUCATION

Randy endowed the Randy Schaffer Presidential Scholarship in Criminal Defense Practice at the University of Texas School of Law in 2001. This scholarship pays the tuition of law students who aspire to be criminal defense lawyers.

TRIAL COURT CASES

Randy practiced with the legendary Richard “Racehorse” Haynes from 1973 until 1978, when he established his own firm to focus primarily on the defense of criminal cases. Eighty per cent of his criminal trials have resulted in an acquittal. He has handled virtually every type of criminal case.

Capital Murder and Murder

- Randall Dale Adams was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death for murdering a police officer in Dallas. The Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the conviction, the State dismissed the charge, and Adams was released after serving over 12 years in prison.
- Frankie Williams was acquitted of the murder of a customer at a night club in Houston. Randy persuaded the jury that the bartender shot the customer in the mistaken belief that he had just stolen money from the cashier and fled from the club; once he realized what he had done, he falsely accused the thief of shooting the customer. As a postscript, after the criminal trial, the deceased’s widow hired Randy to sue the night club and the apartment complex in which it was located for wrongful death and to file a workers compensation claim. Ultimately, the widow and her children received a generous settlement from the apartment complex and an award of benefits from the State.
- Joseph Daniel Stewart was acquitted of a double murder after Randy persuaded the jury that the prosecution witnesses were not credible.
- Archie Jackson, an African-American produce manager in a grocery store, was acquitted of the murder of the elderly Caucasian owner of the store during an argument.

- Mr. Andrejczak, a dairy farmer in Brenham, was acquitted on the basis of accident and self-defense of the murders of his ex-wife and her lover in her home.
- Tyrone Price was acquitted of murder, convicted of involuntary manslaughter, and sentenced to seven years for shooting a man after a dice game outside a church.
- Harry Goss, a college professor, was acquitted of murder, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to seven years for shooting his neighbor during a noise dispute.
- Jesse Talamantez was acquitted on the basis of mistaken identity of murder in a drive-by shooting. A jury had previously convicted him and sentenced him to 99 years. Randy obtained a reversal on the basis of ineffective assistance of counsel and successfully represented him at the retrial.

Aggravated Robbery

- George Kinsel was acquitted on the basis of mistaken identity of robbing two cleaning establishments.
- Carl Govan was acquitted on the basis of mistaken identity of bank robbery. A jury had previously convicted him and sentenced him to eight years. Randy obtained a reversal on the basis of an evidentiary error and successfully represented him at the retrial.
- Christopher Norman was acquitted on the basis of mistaken identity of being the “Rolex Robber.” He had previously been sentenced to 50 years for this offense. Randy obtained habeas corpus relief on the basis of ineffective assistance of counsel and successfully represented him at the retrial.

Sex Offenses

- A physician was no-billed by a grand jury for allegedly sexually assaulting a patient during a sexual encounter that he asserted was consensual.
- Another physician had charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child dismissed after Randy demonstrated that the child and her mother had a motive to make false accusations.
- A businessman had a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child dismissed after Randy discovered a videotaped interview that the defendant’s son had given in another state in which he said that his mother told him to say that his father had molested him so he could live with her after they divorced.

Drug Offenses

- Craig Garrett, a fireman, was acquitted on the basis of mistake of fact and necessity of delivering three kilos of cocaine to an undercover DEA agent.

- Gertrude Glover was acquitted on the basis of duress of possessing with intent to distribute four kilos of cocaine in a bus station.
- Pablo Carranza was acquitted of aggravated possession of cocaine after the court granted a motion to suppress a kilo of cocaine seized as a result of his unlawful detention.
- A businessman was acquitted of possession of seven grams of cocaine found in the watch pocket of his blue jeans as he was on his way to board an international flight at the airport.

White Collar Cases

- A lawyer was acquitted of receiving stolen property from a client.
- A hospital administrator was acquitted of Medicare fraud.
- A lawyer had charges of employee theft and misapplication of fiduciary property dismissed after Randy demonstrated that he had permission from his supervisor to pay himself the money in question.
- A nightclub owner had charges of misapplication of fiduciary property dismissed after Randy demonstrated that he had properly accounted for the investor funds in question.

Personal Injury Cases

Randy has handled several significant personal injury cases. He was the first lawyer in Houston to successfully sue a premises for an injury to a patron caused by the criminal act of a third person. He obtained favorable jury verdicts and substantial settlements for women who had been sexually assaulted or otherwise injured by criminal conduct at apartment complexes, hotels, shopping centers, and parking garages. As a result, premises began to provide better security for patrons and/or ceased making false representations regarding security. He also resolved successfully the following unusual cases:

- Lawrence Utti, a customer at a Sav-On drug store in Houston, was beaten in the parking lot by a police officer working security, who suspected him of stealing store property. When the officer discovered that Utti had a receipt for the property, he filed a false charge of aggravated assault on a police officer. Randy represented Utti in the criminal case, which was no-billed by a grand jury. Thereafter, Randy sued Sav-On for assault and battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, and malicious prosecution. After Utti

rejected a \$3,000 settlement offer, a jury awarded him \$575,000. Sav-On paid the judgment and closed its stores in Houston.

- Sheryl Anspaugh and Marcia Rubin, the executive director and a staff member at the YWCA, were charged with theft for allegedly stealing jewelry from the desk of a staff member whom they were investigating for various improprieties. Randy represented them on the theft charges, which were dismissed. Thereafter, Randy sued the YWCA, the staff member, and her husband, a local judge who was instrumental in the filing of the false charges. A jury awarded Anspaugh and Rubin \$853,000 against the judge and his wife; thereafter, the YWCA settled.
- Jennifer Simpson, a four-year-old girl, was rendered quadriplegic after she was injured by defective equipment on a playground at a church. Randy persuaded the church to pay the maximum amount of its insurance coverage. Thereafter, he sued the governing body of the church in a lawsuit that raised liability issues of first impression; a confidential settlement was reached.
- Robert Vela, a customer at the Parkway Supermarket, was shot at by a store employee who observed his companion shoplift an item. The employee lied to the police that the companion pulled a gun on him outside the store and that Vela ran over him while driving away. Vela was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery. After the State dismissed the criminal charge, Randy and Josh sued the store for assault and malicious prosecution. A jury awarded Vela \$463,850 in actual damages and \$700,000 in exemplary damages.

MOTIONS FOR NEW TRIAL

Defendants represented at trial by another lawyer have hired Randy to file a motion for new trial after they were convicted and sentenced to prison. Randy has persuaded trial courts to grant new trials in numerous cases, including:

- Johnny Mac Moore was sentenced to 55 years for murder. A new trial was granted based on error in the jury instructions, after which he pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and was sentenced to three years.
- Sheila Richardson was convicted of the murder of her husband and was sentenced to eight years. A new trial was granted based on error in the jury instructions, and she was placed on probation.
- Ruth Ella Cumbo was sentenced to life as a habitual offender for possession of heroin. A new trial was granted based on flaws in the prior convictions, and she was sentenced to seven years.

- Louis Hebert was sentenced to 90 years as a habitual offender for possession of marijuana. A new trial was granted based on perjured testimony by a police officer, and the charge was dismissed.
- George Raft Washington was sentenced to seven years for theft. A new trial was granted based on ineffective assistance of counsel, and he was placed on probation.
- Gary Wade was sentenced to ten years as a repeat offender for theft. A new trial was granted based on flaws in the prior convictions, and he was sentenced to ten months in jail.

APPEALS AND HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

A direct appeal in Texas is to a court of appeals and then to the Court of Criminal Appeals. An appeal in federal court is to the Fifth Circuit and then to the United States Supreme Court. A state habeas corpus application is heard by the convicting court, but the decision is made by the Court of Criminal Appeals; if relief is denied, the petitioner can proceed to federal court if his time limit has not expired. A federal habeas petition is decided by the district court, with appeals possible to the Fifth Circuit and the Supreme Court. Randy has obtained relief for numerous clients in state and federal post-conviction cases.

Innocence

Randy was the first lawyer in Texas to use DNA evidence to obtain the exoneration and release from prison of an innocent man. As a result of his work in this area, the Texas Legislature enacted legislation to require DNA testing in closed cases under certain circumstances and to increase the maximum compensation to wrongfully convicted prisoners from \$25,000 to \$500,000. He secured the release of the following innocent men on the basis of DNA testing:

- Kevin Byrd was pardoned after serving over 12 years of a life sentence for aggravated sexual assault.
- A.B. Butler was pardoned after serving over 17 years of 99-year sentences for aggravated sexual assault and aggravated kidnapping.

- Anthony Robinson was pardoned after serving over ten years of a 27-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault; he received compensation from the State of almost \$250,000.

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

Randy has obtained relief for clients who were not competently represented by trial counsel, including:

- Charles Murphy, sentenced to 40 years for several aggravated robberies, was represented by counsel who gave him incorrect advice regarding the consequences of pleading guilty.
- Baron Boyington, sentenced to 50 years for arson, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible evidence and improper argument.
- Cesar Riascos, sentenced to life for murder, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible evidence and improper argument.
- Charles Winn, sentenced to 50 years for murder, was represented by counsel who failed to investigate whether the deceased committed suicide.
- Evaristo Valencia, sentenced to 75 years for aggravated possession of cocaine, was represented by counsel who failed to object to the prosecutor's improper argument regarding the law of parole.
- Terry Thompson, sentenced to life for murder, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible evidence and improper argument.
- Edwin Drinkert, sentenced to 15 years for murder, was represented by counsel who failed to object to erroneous jury instructions and improper argument.
- Antoine Abdel-Sater, sentenced to 80 years for aggravated possession of cocaine, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible evidence and improper argument.
- Claudis Pryor, sentenced to 20 years for aggravated assault, was represented by counsel who failed to present the correct theory of defense.
- Jesse Talamantez, sentenced to 99 years for murder, was represented by counsel who failed to impeach prosecution witnesses with their prior inconsistent statements.
- Noe Beltran, sentenced to death for capital murder, was represented by counsel who failed to impeach prosecution witnesses with their prior identifications of another man as the killer.

- Ernest Lombard, sentenced to 65 years for aggravated robbery, was represented by counsel who failed to raise viable issues on appeal.
- Spencer Imoudu, sentenced to 17 years for felony murder, was represented by counsel who failed to investigate an insanity defense.
- Carrie Lane, sentenced to life for possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible testimony and improper argument that adversely impacted the sentence.
- Wendell White, sentenced to 40 years for murder and 20 years for aggravated assault, was represented by counsel who failed to object to inadmissible testimony that the deceased was pregnant and the fetus died and who allowed the prosecutor to question White about his post-arrest silence.

Prosecutorial Misconduct

Randy has obtained relief for clients who were convicted after the prosecution suppressed favorable evidence or knowingly used perjured testimony, including:

- Randall Dale Adams was sentenced to death for capital murder. The State failed to disclose to the defense prior inconsistent statements of prosecution witnesses and presented perjured testimony that a key witness identified Adams in a lineup, when in fact she had identified someone else.
- Rodney Muldrew was sentenced to life for murder. The State elicited perjured testimony that its key witness had not received compensation for his testimony.
- Navid Ghahremani was sentenced to 28 years for consensual sex with a minor after the State elicited false testimony suggesting that she had psychological problems as a result of their encounter.

Fourth Amendment Violations

Randy has obtained relief for clients who were convicted after the police violated their right to be free from an unlawful arrest or search, including:

- Richard Berg was convicted of possession of cocaine after he was unlawfully detained and searched in an airport gift shop.
- Elvis Black was sentenced to 25 years for murder after the court improperly admitted his confession, which was obtained as a result of an unlawful warrantless arrest.

Other Constitutional Violations

Randy has obtained relief for clients who were convicted as a result of various constitutional errors, including:

- James “Sugarman” Russell was sentenced to 50 years for aggravated robbery after the court improperly admitted the deceased complainant’s testimony from an examining trial.
- Carl Davis was convicted of obscenity based on an unconstitutional statute that presumed a person’s knowledge that the content of certain material was obscene.
- Jack Franklin was sentenced to 75 years for theft, but the evidence was legally insufficient to prove an essential element of the offense.

Miscellaneous Errors

Randy has obtained relief for clients who were convicted as a result of various pretrial or trial errors, including:

- Stevon McCarter was sentenced to 15 years for delivery of cocaine after his lawyer was not given sufficient time to question the jury panel.
- Stevon McCarter was sentenced to 20 years for conspiracy and possession of cocaine after the court improperly refused to sever a felon-in-possession count (that enabled the jury to learn that he was an ex-convict) from drug counts.
- Carl Govan was sentenced to eight years for aggravated robbery after the prosecutor improperly elicited police testimony that a series of bank robberies in the area had ended after he was arrested.
- Frank McKoy was sentenced to one year for interstate transportation of stolen property after the court improperly admitted opinion testimony regarding the strength of the government’s case.
- James Perryman was sentenced to 99 years for aggravated sexual assault after the court improperly admitted police opinion testimony that he was a “power reassurance rapist.”
- Sue Miller was sentenced to 10 years for kidnapping after the court failed to instruct the jury on the defense of mistake of fact.
- Leon Sanders was sentenced to 50 years for murder after the court allowed the prosecutor to argue that a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity would result in him being “cut loose” on the streets.

TESTIMONIALS

Lawyers and Judges

Randy's work has been recognized by lawyers and judges, as reflected by the following letters:

- State District Judge Ted Poe (and later a United States congressman) wrote in recommending Randy for admission to the American Board of Criminal Lawyers:

“Randy Schaffer is a superb criminal defense attorney. His preparation for trial is unsurpassed and it has made the difference. He fights for his clients with zest. He has superior knowledge of the law. He has unimpeachable ethics. He is a formidable foe in the courtroom and is easily one of the ten best criminal defense lawyers I have ever known. He has a reputation among the defense bar and the prosecution as an excellent trial and appellate lawyer.”

- State District Judge Miron Love wrote in recommending Randy for admission to the American Board of Criminal Lawyers:

“Mr. Schaffer has represented many clients before me and, without exception, has conducted himself in the highest professional manner. It is my considered opinion that he is among the top two per cent of the trial lawyers in Harris County that appear in criminal court. He is zealous in his practice, with sensitive concern for the welfare and rights of his client as well as strict compliance with the highest professional standards. He is not only skilled in trial, but he is unexcelled in perfecting appeals.”

- State District Judge Joe Kegans was quoted in a Houston Post article profiling Randy:

“He is probably the best prepared lawyer I have ever seen in my courtroom.”

- John Hannah, Jr., Secretary of State (and later a federal district judge) wrote the following letter to Randy about the Randall Dale Adams case:

“I happened to read Adams v. Texas last night. I knew of your heroic efforts in that case and of your success against huge odds. I didn't know the details. Thanks again from those of us who value justice and freedom. You were magnificent.”

- Randi McGinn, a criminal defense lawyer in New Mexico, wrote the following letter to Randy after hearing him speak about the Adams case at a NACDL Seminar:

“Your talk and your work in that case exemplified the very best qualities of lawyering. Without self-promotion or self-aggrandizement, you inspired those of us in the audience to persevere in our fight for those wrongly accused by the government. I am glad there are people and lawyers like you left in the world.”

- Jan Fox, a criminal defense lawyer, wrote the following letter to Randy after he came to her aid when an appellate court had criticized her conduct in a published opinion:

“I got back in town today to find your letter and was touched beyond my ability to tell you. I couldn’t imagine a more eloquent statement of the facts, and I couldn’t want a better champion for my profession or myself. That you made the effort at all makes me proud. That you did it so well reminds me of what real lawyering is all about.”

Clients

Randy has enjoyed a special relationship with his clients over the years, as reflected by the following letters:

- Freddy Gonzalez wrote the following letter to Randy after he received a copy of his application for a writ of habeas corpus:

I must confess that I am beyond astonishment. I cannot express my gratitude enough. I thank you and extol you for your great services. I now know that I made a great decision by having my family retain you after I had already given up and lost hope.

- David Holford, serving a life sentence for capital murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received a copy of his application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“Needless to say, Mr. Schaffer, not only does your reputation precede you, but this is the most subtly forceful, elegant piece of legal reasoning that I have ever read. Bravo, bravo. My dearest mother is forever in your debt.”

- Steven Logan, serving a life sentence for capital murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after receiving the application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“In the year that you have been my counsel, you have shown me

nothing but the utmost responsibility and professionalism. For that, words cannot explain my appreciation. My respect and loyalty to you is undying.”

- Charlie Bradley, serving 75-year sentences for aggravated robbery and aggravated kidnapping, wrote the following letter to Randy after the habeas corpus hearing:

“Randy, you are talked about a lot, meaning people love you. It’s a lot of respect for you in the system. I want you to know I thank God for an attorney like you to fight for people like me who don’t understand the law.”

- David Donovan, serving a 45-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault, wrote the following letter to Randy following the habeas corpus hearing:

"Thank you very much for your time, interest, dedication, and hard work in my case. Thank you for your patience with me and for your understanding. I really appreciate all of this from the bottom of my heart. Please tell Mr. Hayter that I appreciate all of his time and dedication as well. There has not been a day that has gone by since our first meeting that I don't wish that I had had you as my lawyer back in 1997. I know I would have never ended up in this situation. I don't know if this will mean anything, but I believe that every individual who goes to law school with the desire and drive to defend criminal cases should want to strive to be like you."

- Henry Molina, serving a 60-year sentence for murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after habeas corpus relief was denied despite the trial court's recommendation that it be granted:

"I was honored to sit by you in that courtroom and have you representing me. It is hard to find people like you who have a heart and integrity for people and the intelligence and know how to somewhat even the playing field in a very unfair system. You did all you could. You and your amazing staff and co-workers. I am forever grateful. Keep doing what you do, Mr. Schaffer. You and your staff do make a difference. Your name is a legend here. You give us hope."

- Tim Myers, serving a 50-year sentence for aggravated robbery, wrote the following letter to Randy after habeas corpus relief was denied:

"Even though I'm so sick of the judicial system, how it has done us, I'm very satisfied and appreciative of everything you have done for me. You have went above and beyond the call of duty to fight for my innocence and I want to thank you from the bottom of my

heart. You did everything you possibly could. I couldn't ask for more."

- Lee Tollefson, serving a 50-year sentence for murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received his brief in the Fifth Circuit:

"I wanted to express my appreciation to you personally because of your show of loyalty and perseverance in my case. You truly are one of a kind."

- Dana Contreras, who had served 15 years of a 40-year sentence for murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after the Court of Criminal Appeals granted a new trial on punishment because the State used false testimony, and the State agreed to reduce her sentence to 20 years:

"I was excited to receive your letter saying the DA has gone down to 20 years! It's what I've hoped for, but didn't expect. I'm more than pleased with your representation of me. It's hard to express the gratitude, hope, and opportunity your work has given me. You do much more than a job, you're bringing life to someone who would not have otherwise had it. I hope it's returned to you a thousandfold. Please know that at the end of your day, you've brought joy into the lives of many people. Surely the feeling for you must be victorious and it's well deserved I could never express my gratitude adequately. You did an outstanding job. I've recommended you to everyone I know. Thanks so much."

- Zac Hernandez, appealing his conviction for manslaughter, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received his Petition For Discretionary Review:

"Wow! I am speechless. I owe you a 'Big Thanks' and am indebted to you. My family agrees that there is finally a feeling of support and backing. So many of the points made we have been trying to make along the way and, to top it off, you put them very eloquently. Our thanks again in following through with your professional experience and expertise."

- Donnie Ducksworth, serving a 60-year sentence for aggravated robbery, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received his habeas corpus application and brief:

"I just want to say thanks, buddy! You are the best. I hear nothing but positive things about you. You are a very hardworking man."

- Huy Bui, serving a life sentence for capital murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after the conclusion of his habeas corpus proceeding:

“I wanted to write to thank you for all your efforts on my behalf during the course of the writ proceedings. Although the result wasn’t what I was looking for, I do know that I had the best in there fighting for me, and that you gave it your best. You, sir, are what I can only describe as a real ‘trench fighter,’ and your reputation is very much deserved!”

- Max Moussazadeh, serving a life sentence for murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received habeas corpus relief and was resentenced to 30 years:

“I want to thank you for all your help and for getting me to where I am now. I know that I could not have done it without you. Over the years I lost hope and never thought I would make it to this point. You made all of this possible for me and once again I want to thank you.”

- Ramy Hozaifeh, serving a life sentence for capital murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after a prison visit during his state habeas corpus proceeding:

“Thank you for your last visit. As always, it is an amazing thing to me to see the impact a person such as you can have on people’s lives. I know a lot of the men you represent on this facility, and it is a sobering thing to see the power God has given men of authority. After one of your visits, if it’s good news...woohoo, men are on top of the world. You do a great job balancing reality and understanding. That must be an art in itself! And I thank you for your honesty and convictions in what you do. Your zeal is unmistakable! Thank you also for your work on my behalf. What makes you such an impact in these men’s lives is your unmistakable familiarity with the cases. Not just cursory knowledge of the facts, but real-time knowledge of details. It personalizes your work, and more so, it makes your every word a thousand times more taken to heart. Your ability to know so much about the cases (personally), and to convey that confidence...you make it real, my friend! In the end, I would like to just shake your hand and say thanks.”

- Tim Alley, serving a five-year sentence for aggravated assault, wrote the following letter to Randy after the evidentiary hearing in his habeas corpus proceeding:

“Regardless of the outcome of the hearing, I want to sincerely thank you for everything you have done for me. You have fought a battle for justice on my behalf with integrity and honor and for that I am truly grateful. My wife and I will always feel indebted to you for your tremendous effort to help us, and may God bless you always.”

- A lawyer wrote the following letter to Randy after his felony charges were dismissed:

“Please, let me thank you for your kind and courteous representation in my case. As stressful as this case was to my family and me, I could always rely upon you to calm me down and keep me going. There are, unfortunately, lawyers who will not communicate with their clients. You are certainly not one of them, as you ALWAYS return calls, send correspondence, and otherwise communicate promptly. This is so beneficial to a worried client.”

- Jerry Green, serving an 80-year sentence for murder, wrote the following letter to Randy after learning that there would be an evidentiary hearing in his habeas corpus proceeding:

“I thank you so much for all that you are doing for me. I owe you everything for getting me back into the courts. And I will never stop showing you my appreciation. You are a blessing to this world and to my family. Just wanted you to know that me and my family appreciate you very much.”

- E.B., serving a 70-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault, wrote the following letter to Randy after the evidentiary hearing in his habeas corpus proceeding:

“I have for some time wished to convey to you my great respect and admiration for the extremely professional, well-planned and executed attack against my trial attorney and prosecution at my evidentiary hearing. I have told many that it was like watching the closing argument of Perry Mason in one of his better scripted series. In fact, the two constables who escorted me from the courtroom after the hearing expressed how impressed they were with your presentation, and they see many. Your arguments and objections have all shown the same degree of high caliber capability and professionalism.”

- Cynthia Simpler, serving a 35-year sentence for aggravated assault on a public servant, wrote the following letter to Randy after receiving a copy of her application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“Thank you, thank you, thank you so much for your super, outstanding work you have done for me. I am proud to say you are on my team and fighting for my freedom. My writ is so professional, and you didn’t miss a thing. You waste no time at all and have answered all my questions. I can write a page and you answer in one sentence and it’s complete. Once again, thank you.

“Remarkable! You are the top #1 lawyer in the state of Texas. Just four months ago, I had no hope God bless you and

yours.”

- Christopher Norman, serving five 50-year sentences for aggravated robbery, wrote the following letter to Randy after receiving a copy of his application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“I have always heard that you were an excellent lawyer. Now, I can speak from experience that you are not just a lawyer but a professional. I have dealt with a multitude of lawyers in my past and have been lied to on many occasions. At this point in my life I didn’t think I could ever trust a lawyer again. But you have changed my mind. I can say that there is one professional law office I can trust and it is your office.”

- Christopher Norman wrote the following letter to Randy after he was acquitted at the retrial:

“Mr. Schaffer, I want to thank you, your son, and your staff for digging me up from the graveyard! Mere words cannot express how grateful I am. You exceeded my expectations. You and Josh are very skilled appeal and trial lawyers with superior knowledge. Your law firm is in a class by itself. There isn’t a stone in my case you didn’t turn over. I want to thank you again from the bottom of my heart!”

- Carlos Coy (a.k.a. “South Park Mexican”), serving a 45-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault, wrote the following letter to Randy after receiving a copy of his application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“I just want to say that it looks very good, so to the point and direct. I feel you’ve done an excellent, excellent job. I just want to say thank you for your hard work and great work.”

- Mark Robertson, a death row inmate, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received a last-minute stay of execution:

“I hope everyone at the office will have a joyous holiday season. For me, this one is extra special, for if it were not for your hard work, I could not enjoy it with my family and friends. So thank you for being who you are.”

- Darwin Erwin, serving a 50-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault, wrote the following letter to Randy asking for advice regarding his teenage daughter, who expressed interest in studying law:

“The reason I am asking for your advice is because I trust, respect,

and think of you as a man of integrity, one I would like my daughter to pattern herself after should she proceed in being a lawyer. Your advice would mean a lot to her and me, and I would be extremely grateful.”

- Dale Hill, serving a 12-year sentence for aggravated assault, wrote the following letter to Randy after receiving a copy of his application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“I want to thank you for your excellent service. I have noted that you are one of the best, if not the best, in the state of Texas and perhaps in the United States. It is well known throughout the system that the name of Randy Schaffer is a light at the end of a dark tunnel and brings hope to many.”

- Orin Lee Molo, serving a life sentence for aggravated robbery, wrote the following letter to Randy while his habeas corpus proceeding was pending:

“With you as my attorney, I have learned to respect and believe that there are caring people in the world. From you I have learned to help others to achieve their goal whenever I can and at the same time learned to be honest about my approach toward my fellow man.”

- Kenneth West, serving cumulated 60-year sentences for two murders, wrote the following letter to Randy after he received a copy of his appellate brief:

“I want to thank you for the effective professional job you have done on my appeal. I know that it was without hyperbole when it was stated that you and your firm are in a professional class of their own.”

- A nightclub owner wrote the following letter to Randy after charges of misapplication of fiduciary property were dismissed:

“The sense of relief and freedom has finally sunk in. I want to thank you for representing me and your invaluable judgment in dealing with my otherwise insurmountable problem. Regardless of the circumstances, I always felt that you treated me with dignity and respect, which was so important for me to get through my nightmare.”

- Evaristo Valencia, serving a 75-year sentence for aggravated possession of cocaine, wrote the following letter to Randy after learning that his conviction had been reversed on appeal:

“I cannot find the words to tell you how grateful I am. I can only hope that you will realize the depth of my heartfelt thanks. The smile just won’t come off my face. The rude and disrespectful mannerisms of the guards have no effect on me now. I know that it must be driving them up the wall that I can’t quit smiling. I will never forget your amazing patience and kindness that you have shown me.”

- A lawyer wrote the following letter to Randy after his cocaine charge was successfully resolved:

“Before I ever stepped into your office I had heard excellent things about you. Often times, people do not live up to their reputations. You exceeded my expectations. Thank you.”

- Ricky Morrow, a death row inmate, wrote the following letter to Randy at the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing in his habeas corpus proceeding:

“I only wish that I had the ability to verbally chronicle facts in the eloquent and potent way you did at the end of the hearing. You were excellent, the most focused and skilled lawyer I have ever seen in a courtroom. Thanks so much for the dedication you gave the case. I am exhausted.”

- Clay Chabot, serving a life sentence for capital murder, wrote the following letter to the family of another inmate recommending that they hire Randy:

“Randy Schaffer has been working on my case for several years. No matter what happens, I will always be satisfied with the representation he gave me. I just don’t think it’s possible to get any better. One of the biggest factors I had in mind when I hired him was that I would not question myself for the rest of my life about whether I hired a lawyer who did everything that could have been done. Schaffer fights for his clients with a vengeance and pays attention to the little things too, like writing to answer a client’s questions. Every time I have written Randy, he writes back within a few days. Every time. Like clockwork. This in itself tells a great deal about him. He is punctual, meticulous, and highly intelligent. He does not play politics or bow to the good old boy system. I found him to be a compassionate man with high values, morals, and ethics. My strongest recommendation to you is to do your own research and make your own decision. However, when all the votes are in, I believe you’ll find Schaffer wins by a landslide.”

- Martin Weinberg, a lawyer in Boston, wrote the following letter to Randy after the prosecutor withdrew a federal grand jury subpoena for his financial records regarding a client:

“You taught me by your wisdom and judgment the truth to the saying that when a lawyer represents himself he has a fool for a client. You taught me a second indelible lesson; that instead of distancing themselves from their clients, lawyers need to continuously communicate and share not just the final decisions but also the process by which they are reached. You were, to me, a loyal advocate in my time of distress.”

- Ernest Lombard, serving a 65-year sentence for aggravated robbery, wrote the following letter to Randy after his aggravated robbery conviction was reversed and the charge was dismissed:

“I ain’t no homosexual but I damn sure love you! Thanks for everything. I’ll never forget you!”

- Jack Franklin, serving a 75-year sentence for theft, wrote the following letter to Randy after he was acquitted on appeal:

“Well, it might interest you to know that your name, when mentioned, brings smiles and high praise from all that you have dealt with in the past. A rare tribute to any attorney dealing with the criminal element for long.”

Family Members of Clients

Randy has received praise from the families of clients, as reflected by the following letters:

- Brennan Murphy sent Randy the following letter after receiving a copy of the reply brief filed on behalf of his friend, Heath Stoneman:

I had to re-read this again to be sure I was right about how good it is. I was right. It is awesome. This filing turns the prosecutor and defense counsel into punching bags. Every section has a solid pop to the head. I loved it! Thank you! This is the defense I wanted for my friend. Great job.

- Darla Whisenant, the defendant’s sister, sent the following letter to Randy after receiving a copy of the application for a writ of habeas corpus:

“Reading your work is exhilarating. I am amazed by your depth of

knowledge on this case and your ideas and applications. We are very grateful for you.”

- The wife of a lawyer whose felony charges were dismissed wrote the following letter to Randy:

“On this joyous day, I want to take this moment to thank you for your patience, steady hand, and wisdom during these difficult years. I know at times we have been impatient, but you have always guided us with your decisions. I am grateful to you for your representation of my husband. Neither of us has yet felt free of the 2,000 pound elephant sitting on our shoulders, but I know that in the coming days the reality will set in and we will begin the process of recovery from what can only be described as three years of post-traumatic stress and anger. With sincere appreciation for all you have done and said.”

- Bonnie Drew wrote the following letter to Randy during his representation of her son, serving a life sentence for murder, in a habeas corpus proceeding:

“We appreciate your thorough investigation and the detailed report you provided us today. The way you presented it was extremely helpful to us--all based on the facts and relevant points of law. Most of all, it gave us a sense of calmness. Of all the lawyers we have worked with, we have never seen anyone so thorough and well organized and totally focused. We appreciate that more than you can imagine.”

- Lisa Threet wrote the following letter to Randy during his representation of her son, serving a 20-year sentence for manslaughter, in a habeas corpus proceeding:

“It’s only two small words but they are said with BIG heartfelt thanks for all that you have done for Brandon. We received our paperwork and Thank You for everything. It all looks and sounds great. We are jazzed about his case! Thank you for all of your hard work and for taking on Brandon’s case. If not for you we wouldn’t even stand a chance. So again Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!”

- The Campos family wrote the following letter to Randy during his representation of their son, serving a life sentence for murder, in a habeas corpus proceeding:

“As a family we recognize that our involvement with the justice system is far from over. However, we already desire to express how truly grateful we are for you not only deciding to take our case but moreover for your highly professional work and your

seemingly exhaustless tenacity in your representation. There were several things we took note of and from the very beginning you distinguished yourself. Especially during your argument before the court, where you enumerated the issues which require an evidentiary hearing, we commonly felt as though you held our very own convictions. You even stood up to “his honor” in asserting your views when he dissented. That said and meant a lot to us. For all your efforts...as a family, we thank you.”

- Wanda Powell wrote the following letter to Randy after observing him present argument at a habeas corpus hearing for Gary Lewis, serving a 12-year sentence for murder:

“You could see from the demeanor of the judge as well as the other judge who stayed to observe the hearing that they knew they were in the presence of a well-recognized specialist in criminal cases. I loved it! Good job Randy and Josh! Thank you again for all your expertise!”

- Carlos Bounds wrote the following letter to Randy after the evidentiary hearing in her son’s habeas corpus proceeding:

“You handled yourself in such a way that I wanted to just call everyone to see you at work. There was not a stone that you didn’t turn to prove the case. It is a fight to the finish. I have the attorney that I know can get the job done. I am very proud of your professionalism, demeanor, attitude, and your heart for justice.”

- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas wrote the following letter to Randy after he persuaded a juvenile court not to transfer their son from a juvenile detention facility to state prison:

“We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the enormous efforts of you and your staff in defense of our son. Words cannot express the gratefulness that we feel toward your personal involvement and care.”

- Jim McCloskey, the president of Centurion Ministries, an organization that investigates the wrongful convictions of innocent prisoners, sent the following letter to Randy during his representation of A.B. Butler (later proven to be innocent) in post-conviction proceedings:

“I want you to know that not only does A.B. and his family thank God you are on this case, but so do I. Your experience, skill, and patience are vast and without equal. As I know you will, please keep up your unflagging efforts on behalf of A.B. to assure his freedom as soon as possible, and his pardon as soon as practicable. Neither of us can rest until he is free and clear.”

- Mr. McCloskey also sent the following letter to Randy during his representation of Juan Chavez in post-conviction proceedings:

“I just read your brief on behalf of Juan. BRAVO! Your words are so direct and unequivocal. They ring with clarity. Thank you for being such a strong advocate.”

- Mr. and Mrs. Evans wrote the following letter to Randy after he favorably resolved their son’s aggravated sexual assault charge:

“We are sending our heartfelt thanks for your expert knowledge and help in getting all three of us through a heartbreaking, heart-stopping ordeal. We shall be eternally grateful for your guidance and work. We will always consider you a dear friend who lent a helping hand when we needed one so badly. God bless you always.”

- Mrs. Belin wrote the following letter to Randy after her son was acquitted on a drug possession charge:

“Just a quick note from a grateful mother. You were so diligent in preparing everything for us and so reassuring that you really were a help to this harried mother. As you conducted yourself and I saw how competent and well-spoken you were, I felt myself relaxing. I am sure you will have many years of helping heartsick, frightened people through many agonizing hours. They will be grateful to you too, but for this moment, please know how much we appreciate you!”