

March 23, 2023

Honorable Ben H. Brooks III

Mobile Government Plaza

205 Government St

Mobile, AL 36602

Judge Brooks,

This letter is being written to beg that you approach Dr. Jonathan Nakhla's sentencing with a spirit of mercy and compassion.

My name is Jennifer Ishler Noojin and I am the recent widow of Bert P. Noojin. I have known Jonathan Nakhla since December of 2019. You see, Jonathan was the neurosurgeon who saved my husband's life by identifying and removing cancer that no other Doctor could have done. This statement is no exaggeration. When we realized he had cancer in his thoracic spine, we contacted MD Anderson in Houston to ask which Doctor would be most skilled at treating this. We were told, "Stay in Mobile. Go to Dr. Nakhla, no one here has his talent or ability. In fact, we don't know why he isn't working at MD Anderson." His hands and skill gave my husband extra time on this earth. Bert used that time to help others and to be the most incredible husband I could have ever asked for. Not only was Jonny Bert's Doctor, he became a close friend. I know Jonathan Nakhla and he is no murderer.

In fact, Jonathan Nakhla's education, profession and even volunteer work are dedicated to saving lives. My deepest hope is that you will find it in your heart to provide a path back to practicing medicine that he so loves. I believe the evidence presented at the trial did not capture the essence of what a good doctor and human Jonny is. I know this because I saw it firsthand. He went out of his way to serve patients without knowing if he would be paid or even covered by insurance who would not otherwise have had life saving surgery. These are not anecdotes, this is *who he is as a human and a Christian*.

Judge Brooks, no one argues that Jonathan was in the wrong place at the wrong time, but punishing him for extended amounts of time only goes on to punish the people that he could be saving. Please allow him to be with his boys and his wife. Please, let him perform surgery -- if you want to make contingencies that he do it and donate the money to a charity -- I know he would gladly do it! He loves to save lives! That is his purpose and his calling.

Jonathan has changed since the accident in 2020. He has matured, he has reflected, he has taken responsibility. However, this accident did not take place in a vacuum and there were other circumstances. Please let the loss of one life be enough. Do not take another good doctor and human out of the community.

Warmest regards,

Jennifer Noojin

April 11, 2023

Honorable Ben H. Brooks III

Mobile Government Plaza

205 Government St

Mobile, AL 36602

RE: Jonathan Nakhla sentencing

Judge Brooks,

As the sentencing day quickly approaches, it is my hope that you are giving great thought and prayer to what will truly provide justice to the death of Samantha Thomas. Justice comes in many forms. There are times for punishment and there are times for mercy. THIS, Judge Brooks, is a time for mercy.

By harshly sentencing Jonathan Nakhla, you will cast a second death upon this already tragic situation.

Jonathan is no partier nor is he negligent about life. In fact, he is the absolute opposite. On the day of the accident, he had performed three major surgeries. Undoubtedly his adrenaline was high and later that day an unfortunate situation presented itself that seemed exciting and thrilling, he made the wrong choice to get in the car with Samantha. It is within your ability to make the damage to the lives of these two people and their families end.

Most humbly we request that you find in your heart to allow the time Jonathan has already been deprived of his freedom as part of his punishment and find a way to allow him to once again perform as a surgeon. This conviction was too harsh for the circumstances.

You can right this wrong, Judge Brooks. And, if you were ever a man inclined to show extreme mercy, Jonathan Nakhla is worthy of such extreme consideration.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and many that I'm sure you've read on both sides of this case. I am sure there is the same theme running through all the letters and sentiment, that this was a tragic accident. What has been done cannot be undone. I will tell you this, if someone you loved needed one of the surgeries that Jonathan can perform, you would want him to be available for that and not sitting uselessly in a cell. Please find it in your heart to mitigate this unjust conviction.

Many thanks,

Jennifer Noojin