
From: Kathy Ruemmler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 5:05 PM
To: J
Subject: Fwd: My edited version

Begin forwarded message:

From: =/b>Kathy Ruemmler [REDACTED]
Subject: =/b>My edited =ersion
Date: =/b>December 16, 2018 at 11:49:57 =M EST
To: =/b>J <jeevacation@gmail.com>

"Sweetheart deal! = So goes the attack on the resolution of a long-ago federal =nvestigation involving our former client -- and now-friend -- Jeffrey =pstein. The attack is profoundly misplaced, supported neither by =he law or the facts, nor by the structure of our constitutional =epublic. To the contrary, Jeffrey was subjected to an aggressive =ederal intrusion into what would typically be considered a =uintessentially local criminal matter in south Florida. His =ffense — at its core, sexual favors for =ire — has long been treated as a matter entrusted to =aws of the several States, not the federal government. His =onduct — while clearly unlawful and for which he has =ccepted full responsibility — was a classic state =ffense and was being treated exactly that way by able, honest =rosecutors in Palm Beach County. Nevertheless, far from =oing "soft" on the matter and without =nvitation from the state, the federal government intervened. =nbsp;Ironically, now many for their own opportunistic reasons are =riticizing the federal decision-makers at the time, including =ow-Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta (then the United States Attorney in =outh Florida), for not going far enough.

The critics are wrong on the =acts and the law.

Here are the true key facts: Jeffrey =pstein, a successful self-made businessman with no prior criminal =istory whatsoever, engaged in illegal conduct that amounts to =olicitation of prostitution. His conduct was wrong and a =iolation of Florida state law. Although no coercion, violence, =lcohol, drugs or the like were involved, some of the women he paid were =nder the age of 18. Those facts were carefully assessed by experienced state =rosecutors who aggressively enforce state criminal laws. No one =urned a blind eye to potential offenses to the public order. To =he contrary, the Palm Beach State Attorney's Office conducted an =xtensive 15-month investigation, led by the chief of the Sex Crimes =ivision. Mr. Epstein was then indicted by a state grand jury on a =ingle felony count of solicitation of prostitution. =nbsp;

During=that intense investigation, the state prosecutors extensively gathered =nd analyzed the =vidence, met face-to-face with many of the asserted victims, considered =heir credibility -- or lack thereof -- and considered the extent of =xculpatory evidence. After months of negotiations, the state =rosecutors believed they

had reached a reasoned resolution of the matter that vindicated the public interest -- a resolution entirely consistent with that of cases involving other similarly-situated defendants. The system worked as it should.

Then, came the feds. The United States Attorney's Office extensively and aggressively investigated whether Mr. Epstein had engaged in a commercial human trafficking ring, targeting minors. But that's not what this was, and the federal authorities ultimately acknowledged that, deferring prosecution to the state. But not without conditions. The federal prosecutors insisted on many nonorthodox requirements that Mr. Epstein's experienced defense team had never seen imposed on any defendant anywhere. Under the federally-forced deal, Jeffrey was required to request that the state prosecutors demand the imposition of a jail sentence and lifetime sex-offender registration, which would not have otherwise been required under the previously agreed-upon state disposition of this prostitution charge. Jeffrey accepted full responsibility for his conduct, complied with the feds' demands, served his sentence, and in the process was treated exactly the same as other state-incarcerated individuals. His conduct while in custody was exemplary, and so characterized by the state custodial authorities.

Our friend Jeffrey Epstein has paid his debt to society. He has also paid out millions of dollars to the asserted victims and their lawyers. For over ten years, he has lived a good and law-abiding life, including carrying on his wide-ranging philanthropies. Those of us who represented him in the Florida proceedings -- for customary professional fees -- now count him as a trusted friend.

Our nation faces vitally important challenges, many involving the treatment of women and basic human dignity. Voices are rightly being raised speaking truth to power, especially about women in the workplace. But Jeffrey, an exemplary employer, has long since been called to account by the criminal justice system for his misdeeds of yesterday. In the spirit of the bedrock American belief in second chances, that unhappy chapter in Jeffrey's otherwise-magnificent life should be allowed to close once and for all.

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