3/4/15

Subject: Juvenile Resentencing Committee.

To the Ct. State Legislature,

The following letter is from Elaine Cluny's former student and reflects how my wife affected and changed her life. This letter is one of multiple letters I have received.

Please read this letter and try to imagine how the magnitude of the loss of my wife and fifteen year old son affected not only myself but the community.

This is why any remodification of the original sentence handed down by the court would be unjustified and unwarented.

John Cluny

JOHN CLUNY

February 19, 2015

John Cluny
346 Plain Hill Road
Norwich, CT 06360

Dear Mr. Cluny,

My name is Kimberly Noëlle Charles. I live in San Francisco, CA and was a student of your wife Elaine Cluny, or as we loved calling her, *Madame* Cluny. I've wanted to write you for some time, ever since my 30th Ledyard High School reunion in 2011, but I wasn't sure how to reach you, so I do hope this letter makes it to you. First of all, please let me say how terribly sorry I am at the tragic loss of your wife and son. When I was at the reunion, my first with Ledyard High School since I'd graduated and moved away in 1981, I was devastated to hear of her passing and the senseless way in which it happened.

What I wanted to express to you, which I did in 1983 upon returning during college to speak at the high school in Madame Cluny's class, was how incredibly instrumental she was in shaping my life and igniting an undiscovered passion for and talent with the French language. I'll never forget our first day of class where she spoke not one word of English to a group of freshmen whose mouths dropped open when we knew we'd be completely immersed in the language with very little English spoken save for translations and key learnings. She made the culture come alive by taking us to Quebec (I won ambassador of the class for that trip), singing French Christmas carols, learning how to make a buche de Noel, memorizing poems and fables. I must say she was my favorite teacher *ever*--- high school or college. I loved her joy and her zest for teaching. My family was a military family so by the time I reached Mme. Cluny's class, I had been in six schools so I'd had many teachers.

She changed my life. My love of France has never wavered, my ability with the language has shaped my career in many ways, I studied Foreign Service at Georgetown and took the proficiency in French as part of my degree. Today, I own a marketing agency with a focus in the wine business. As a marketer, I have worked with many leading French families and wineries. All of them remarked at how un-American and native my French is. I have her to credit and I am forever grateful.

When my high school friend told me of what happened, I sobbed instantly. So very senseless. I read about your dedicated work to change the law with respect to minors who commit heinous crimes and murder. I feel 100% the same way and truly hope that this case can be a landmark one that has the punishment align with the crime. I am pulling for you and I would appreciate knowing how it's progressing as agonizingly slow as I know the legal process is. If you're so inclined, please feel free to reach out either by email chrulee@gmail.com or phone 415-730-0064. My business card is enclosed as well.

I hope that this letter brings you some happiness considering the circumstances. My intention was to share with you her profound effect on me as well as many others.

Meilleurs sentiments,
Kimberly Noëlle Charles

Kimberly Noëlle Charles