

Dear Mr. Salseda,

My name is Dr. Sean Jasso and I am Cole Bartiromo's professor at University of California, Riverside. He is currently enrolled in "Organizational Behavior" BUS 107 which meets Tuesday and Thursday with a weekly mandatory discussion session with his TA (graduate teaching assistant).

Cole was also in my summer course "Ethics and Law in Business and Society" BUS 102 where I first met Cole. He performed well in the course.

I am aware of Cole's unique situation in which he lives in a half way house very far from campus and his terms of parole include his limited access to technology. During the summer course Cole completed all of his assignments in long-hand writing including a major research paper on a public policy analysis. As stated above, he earned a solid grade in the course.

I write to you regarding the recent news that Cole has been reincarcerated due to his apparent use of a cell phone in the half way house. I recall having a detailed discussion with Cole at the beginning of this current term (Fall 2009) in which Cole indicated that he continues to have no access to computer/internet technology and that the use of the cell phone is/was also inhibited. He did indicate that he was able to communicate to his TA and to me via text message which enabled him to receive important information regarding assignments and announcements - all of which are posted online.

I am not in the position to judge Cole's recent encounter with his parole challenge, however, what I can judge is Cole's character and commitment to fulfilling his job of finishing his degree with integrity - he was well positioned to accomplish this. What I can also attest is that any student in the University of California system who wishes to advance toward a degree must be connected to our "blackboard" announcement site in which readings, announcements, and other pertinent information is posted regularly. My TA's were informed and prepared to help Cole accommodate his inability to connect online and managed to arrange communication via text on a cell phone.

Knowing a person like Cole, a college student who is en route to serving his time and completing his parole while coming so close to finishing my course (we are now in week 6 of 10) and graduating is an inspiration to us all. Cole's level of maturity and sophistication is evident and is strengthened by his personal commitment to me of his situation and his goal of completing his program while under enormous constraints - he is literally approaching the finish line.

Learning of this court ruling that Cole has been removed from his half way house and remains behind bars due to essentially his mandatory need to stay in contact with his professor and TA is beyond arbitrary and capricious. As an ethicist and one skilled in the policy domain, from the information shared to me by Cole's father, this decision seems not only unjust, but morally repugnant.

I am confident that the judge will see that Cole's commitment to reforming his behaviors of the past by investing in higher education to essentially begin his life anew - Judge Walter will certainly see that the punitive decision cannot stand on any moral ground and that Cole needs to simply return to University, finish what he started and get on with his career.

I am happy to assist with any further details to support Cole's credibility as my student at UCR.

With great concern,

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