

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CO Inmate Files for Post-Conviction Relief & Vacation of Convictions; State Must Respond by Sep. 5

Imprisoned Animal Rights Attorney Jennifer Emmi Cites Misconduct, Medical Neglect, Major Constitutional Violations

Denver, CO – Jennifer Emmi, prominent Colorado attorney and animal rights advocate, has just filed a dramatic petition for post-conviction relief and a vacation of her convictions in Colorado court. This filing, made on August 15, 2024, challenges the legitimacy of her convictions and calls for immediate judicial intervention due to gross misconduct, constitutional violations, and the inhumane conditions of her confinement.

Judge Chantel Contiguglia has subsequently ruled that District Attorney Alexis King must respond to the petition by September 5th, 2024.

Through her attorneys, Ms. Emmi asserts that she is being held unlawfully on multiple grounds, claiming: that she did not enter a knowing and voluntary plea, that the District Attorney (DA) responsible for her conviction disguised a major conflict of interest, that the same DA withheld crucial exculpatory evidence, and finally that the conditions of Ms. Emmi’s confinement—including excessive solitary confinement and major medical neglect—are unconstitutional.

“This petition is about more than correcting legal wrongs; it’s about ensuring that justice is not denied by misconduct and that human rights are upheld even in confinement,” said G. Aaron Suazo, Ms. Emmi’s attorney. “Jennifer Emmi is being held unlawfully, subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, and her plea was not entered voluntarily due to the extreme conditions she was under.”

Ms. Emmi’s petition reveals significant new evidence of prosecutorial misconduct, including the Jefferson County District Attorney's failure to disclose a profound conflict of interest during her trial. The DA’s husband was employed by a law firm of which Ms. Emmi’s ex-husband, central witness against and alleged victim of Ms. Emmi, was a principal. This relationship, undisclosed at the time of her plea, directly compromised the fairness of her trial.

Additionally, the petition outlines how Ms. Emmi’s health has deteriorated severely while in custody due to inadequate medical care and unconstitutional confinement conditions. Ms. Emmi suffers from multiple autoimmune disorders, and the compounding effect of her brutal pre-trial confinement compromised her ability to knowingly consent to the plea bargain that cemented her conviction.

Post-conviction, Ms. Emmi was later transferred from a Colorado facility to the Fluvanna Correctional Facility in Virginia, a state where she has no ties, shortly after reporting a sexual assault by a Colorado corrections officer. While in Fluvanna Correctional Facility—a facility with a notorious record of unconstitutional health conditions—Ms. Emmi’s health has reached a critical state, to the point of endangering her life.

Ms. Emmi, who has been in custody since January 2021, is now asking the court to vacate her convictions and order her immediate release. The petition also demands the full disclosure of all communications and documents related to her confinement, particularly those pertaining to her transfer and the conditions she has endured.

The court's ruling on this filing, which not only questions the integrity of the original prosecution but also shines a light on the broader issues of misconduct and inmate treatment within the criminal justice system, will have major legal implications in Colorado and beyond.

For more information, please visit bruisedbehindbars.com.

About

Bruised Behind Bars is an advocacy website created by Jennifer Reba Edwards (also known as Jennifer Emmi), to raise awareness of the medical malpractice and abuse incarcerated individuals face in prison. Prior to serving time, Jennifer was an animal rights attorney and advocate, as well as a loving mother. She has worked variously as an author, teacher, mentor and national legal correspondent on radio and television. Jennifer founded the Animal Law Center, which operated as the only full-time Colorado law firm dedicated to animal law. Through Jennifer's work, [Senate Bill 226](#) was passed in Colorado, requiring law enforcement to conduct mandatory animal interaction training to reduce the number of police killings of innocent animals. Jennifer was featured in the documentary [Of Dogs and Men](#) that aimed to raise awareness about the high number of unjust dog fatalities from police shootings. Jennifer's advocacy work reached beyond animals to encompass voiceless populations everywhere, including children, veterans, the elderly and disabled people.

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