

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
ROBERT MITTELSTAEDT # 060359
JENNIFER STARKS # 215130
50 Fremont Street, 14th Floor
Post Office Box 7880
San Francisco, CA 94120-7880
Telephone: (415) 983-1000
Facsimile: (415) 983-1200

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
FRANK CLEMENT
[See Page 2 for additional
counsel representations]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

FRANK CLEMENT

Plaintiff,

vs.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 00-1860 CW

**DECLARATION OF SHEILAH
GLOVER IN OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Date: August 9, 2002

Time: 10 a.m.

Before: Hon. Claudia Wilken

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ADDITIONAL COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

Ann Brick # 65296
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
1663 Mission Street, Suite 460
San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: (415) 621-2493
Fax: (415) 255-8437

Donald Specter # 083925
Heather Mackay # 161434
PRISON LAW OFFICE
General Delivery
San Quentin, CA 94964
Telephone: (415) 457-9144
Fax: (415) 457-9151

1 I, Sheilah Glover, declare the following:

2 1. I am a resident of Mill Valley, California since 1997 and have been living in
3 the Bay Area since 1973. Since approximately 1995, I have been corresponding on a
4 regular basis with Larry Stiner, also known as Watani, who is incarcerated at San Quentin
5 State Prison. I submit this Declaration in support of plaintiff Frank Clement's Opposition
6 to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. Unless otherwise indicated, if called upon
7 to do so, I could competently testify of my own personal knowledge to the facts set forth
8 herein.

9 2. I first met Larry Stiner on July 5, 1994 when I was called for jury service in
10 a case in which he was the defendant. Although I was quickly excused from jury service, I
11 became very interested in Mr. Stiner's case and history.
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13 3. In the 1970s, Mr. Stiner escaped from prison, and traveled to Surinam where
14 he settled down and had six children. He lived there for many years, but when times
15 became tough economically, he decided to turn himself in to American authorities in the
16 hopes that they would allow his children to come to the United States to get an education.
17 The American Embassy in Surinam took Mr. Stiner into custody and promised him that his
18 family would be brought to the United States. That promise was not fulfilled. When I met
19 him in 1994, Mr. Stiner was on trial for his escape from prison.

20 4. Mr. Stiner was convicted and sent to San Quentin. In a newspaper article
21 about the case, he said that if people wanted to help, they could send books to his children
22 in Surinam. So I did. Then, at Christmas time, I called a friend who heads the Art
23 Department at San Quentin to obtain Mr. Stiner's prison number so that I could send him a
24 Christmas card.
25

26 5. Mr. Stiner wrote me a letter back, thanking me for sending books to his
27 children. We began a correspondence for about 6 months. He introduced himself as
28

1 Watani and we developed a friendship. He obviously was intelligent and kind and had a
2 great sense of humor.

3
4 6. I decided to visit him in September of 1995. Since then I have visited him
5 an average of once every 4-5 weeks. I have introduced him to my partner, Elaine Belle, and
6 she now visits him independently several times a month. We have taken an active
7 involvement in the welfare of his children in Surinam, sending money to the eldest on a
8 regular basis to help take care of the younger children. Now the younger children are in a
9 Christian foster home, and we send money every month for their housing.

10 7. Watani is well-liked by everyone, his reports from the counselors are
11 excellent, he is an A student, but his case is unusual, and in this current environment it
12 seems unlikely that he will be released anytime soon. He must try to maintain his
13 relationship with his family and plan for their long-term welfare from hundreds of miles
14 away.

15 8. The woman who watches over Watani's children in Surinam, Kesje de
16 Miranda, sends me four to five email letters every month with questions, concerns and news
17 about the children. I download the emails and send them in a letter to Watani. If the letters
18 were sent from Surinam to California, they would take at least a month to arrive. When
19 they email me, it only takes a few days from the time they send the email until the time Mr.
20 Stiner receives it at San Quentin. On several occasions, San Quentin prison staff have
21 refused to forward these emails to Watani due to the prison's ban on Internet-generated
22 materials.

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24 9. On one occasion, Watani's eldest daughter, Kishana, wrote him a real heart
25 to heart email when she was considering running away. She emailed the letter to me and I
26 attempted to send it on to Watani by enclosing it in a letter to him. This letter was kept by
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1 prison mailroom staff and mailed back to me. The lag time before Watani got the contents
2 of the letter was over a month.

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4 10. In my experience, it is especially vital for Watani to be able to receive email
5 from his children and their caretakers in Surinam. We have had to make a number of hasty
6 decisions about their welfare, and it has all been done through email and a few phone calls.
7 It is unfortunate for him not to be included in this loop of communication, because he
8 desperately cares about his children, but I can't always take the time to rewrite and mail the
9 letters to him.

10 11. I would have to say, also, there have been times when I have sent letters
11 containing a number of emails to Watani and they have gone through the mailroom and
12 right up to him. In my opinion, the regulation is arbitrarily enforced.

13 12. For Watani, the only meaningful way to participate in decisions concerning
14 his children's welfare in Surinam is for him to receive information regarding parental
15 decisions through email. Surinam is a poor country, and mail takes forever. The telephone
16 is unreliable and expensive. Being able to receive email from the childrens' caretaker has
17 been invaluable. For me to have to retype the letters, when they are sometimes coming
18 every few days, is time-consuming and tedious. It is my hope that email communication
19 can be seen as key to his responsibilities as a father and not at all as a danger to the prison.
20

21 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America
22 and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this ___ day of
23 June, 2002, at Mill Valley, California.

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Sheilah Glover

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