

Conclusion

Shea Dease's sentence was excessive when it was imposed and remains so. When people hear of Shea's sentence and the age he will be upon his release from prison they become confused by the excessiveness when there are people who have committed homicide and will serve less time than Shea's sentence on the embezzlement charge alone. Shea deserved to be given some time for the seriousness of his crimes, which he has now spent 20 years--nearly half his life--in prison for crimes that did not physically injure anyone. His near 20 year's time served is enough to punish him for what he did and enough for him to be rehabilitated. The immature 21 year-old who committed these crimes close to two decades ago has proven he is worthy of a second chance. Shea poses no risk to society, has done his time, and has support available to him as he reintegrates into society. We ask he be given mercy, and by doing so, that he be granted a conditional pardon.

The public welfare, fairness, and the Constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment will be better served by granting Shea P. Dease a conditional pardon, allowing him to serve a sentence of incarceration comparable to his codefendant (13 to 16 years), and further allow Shea to serve out such sentence in a minimum-security Virginia penitentiary, close to his family, where he may partake of all the programs and educational opportunities offered by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

A Governor may grant this conditional pardon or may order the Virginia Parole Board to investigate Shea's request for clemency and to report any recommendations.

Shea P. Dease is willing to strictly abide by any and all conditions the Governor may place on a pardon. He humbly requests an opportunity to hope and believe that he will not spend the majority of his life in prison, surrounded by hardened and violent criminals, for participating in a crime where he physically hurt no one.

Thank you.