

April 12, 2007

Dear Judge Emslen:

This is a hard letter for me to write. I never thought I would be standing before a federal judge with my freedom in jeopardy.

I want to begin by taking full responsibility for my actions. I made bad choices. I have no one but myself to blame for the situation that I face.

My choices were motivated by an unreasonable fear of unemployment.

I have been unemployed from time to time. There was one time where I was out of work for almost two years. This occurred during a down market and at a time when my wife & I had three children in college. During this time, our savings were depleted. My wife and I had to sell our home and we went into debt.

Because of my age, it became harder and harder to find a good job. When I got the job at Cybernet, I was grateful because I hoped that my wife and I could find stability.

Working for Cybernet became a nightmare. The owners of Cybernet ran their business through fear and intimidation. Displease Barton Watson, and you were terminated on the spot. I observed him

tormenting an employee for weeks before firing him. An e-mail was then sent to all employees berating the fired employee as a miserable failure. Barton Watson threatened employees with lawsuits if they disparaged him or otherwise did not go along with his decisions.

I personally experienced Barton Watson's wrath on more than one occasion. He called me late one Sunday night and yelled about why I had paid a bill late. His harangue continued until his cell phone battery died. Another time, he tracked me down on vacation to question me about the 401K plan. When he did not like my answer, he incessantly brow-beat me.

All of this left me emotionally drained and fearful. I know now that I should have left and taken my risks on the employment market. But, I stayed because I was grateful for the paycheck.

None of this is an excuse for my poor choices. I made the decisions and I must take responsibility for them.

I now work for a company based in Newport News, Virginia. The company is open, supportive, team-oriented and honest. Shortly after I started that job, I discovered irregularities that made it likely that my

predecessor had embezzled approximately \$500,000. In order to be certain, I spent several weeks gathering internal and external information. When the investigation confirmed my earlier discovery, I took the information to my bosses. They were supportive and receptive. I worked with the forensic accountants in order to build a case. The embezzler was federally charged and convicted.

I have fully disclosed my current criminal problems to my employer. They have transferred me to a job where I do not have contact with financial matters. Depending on the Court's decision at sentencing, they are willing to let me keep my job even though I am a convicted felony.

I respect the fact that the Court must make a difficult decision, and I will accept whatever punishment the Court deems appropriate.

I do ask the Court for whatever consideration and leniency is possible. I was not in trouble before Cybernet, and I will never be in trouble again.

Thank you for listening to me

Sincerely,  
 Paul M. Rogke