

## Petition Comments – A Sampling

"I have been following this case since the outset and outraged at the conviction of Marty Tankleff based on such a paucity of evidence. The fact that Jerry Steuerman was never even investigated has destroyed my faith in local government. I hope that the new evidence will be considered this time in a fair and impartial manner. How terrible to have sent an innocent young man to jail for 13 years to protect the system of criminal justice in Suffolk County. I am ashamed!"

- Ettie Taichman, Port Jefferson, NY

"I was represented in a similar case in Connecticut, 1973-1977, by Atty. Catherin Roraback and later appointed U.S. Court Judge Hon. T.F.Gilroy Daly. In the spirit of Judge Daly's ever vigilant quest for the truth I must say this. This District Attorney and these Police Officers are playing with a priceless commodity, the people's trust in our judicial system. Their behavior in this case has clearly surrendered the higher ground. The use of deception on Marty Tankleff by police only pales when compared with the deception attempted by this District Attorney upon The Court in these recent hearings. Due to the clear conflict of interest and the fact that this District Attorney failed to recuse himself, Marty Tankleff has been denied due process!"

- Peter A. Reilly, Tolland, CT

"This boy deserves a fair trial. I think it is time that we made the investigators responsible for their mistake or hastiness in trying to solve a case. Jim McCready was definitely too hasty in trying to solve this case and not going for all the evidence, and the result is a young boy spending half his life in prison for a crime he may not have committed. We need to be more careful and less anxious to commit. Why was Jerry Steuerman overlooked as a suspect, especially since he staged his own death. Doesn't that sound a little suspicious to most people?"

- Kathleen Rayfield, Shoreham, NY

"The details of this case are more than clear as well as the corruption on the part of the prosecution. I am not related in any way to this family but my heart goes out to them. Please deliver justice to Marty."

- Lauren Cona, Belle Terre, NY

"My family too has suffered under the injustice of the Suffolk County Judicial System. My daughter has been wrongfully found guilty by a corrupt system. The witnesses for the prosecution were all given immunity and were all proven criminals that were allowed to testify for their own gains. The worst one of all was to have gone to jail for 40 years and paid a 2,500,000.00 fine on Federal Indictments, yet because of his testimony he only has to serve 36 months. His sentencing has yet to occur.

I have compassion and understanding for the Tankleff family and now know that our judicial system is a farce and the proponents (police, DA's office, judges) are nothing more than political hacks who are only interested in their personal advancement and financial gains. If I can be of

any assistance please contact me. My family's fight will continue until my daughter is back home with her family and children."

- David Armanini, Carle Place, NY

"The Tankleffs were my acquaintances. There is no way that young man, (who, incidentally, was just recovering from facial surgery) could have committed that type of crime against his parents. Seymour was afraid of someone outside the home as he exhibited strange behavior when he was expecting me to deliver correspondence to him on my way home from work. The parents were both very large, strong people. Arlene was a strong tennis player, and put up tremendous fight. There was material under her fingernails which was not part of the evidence in the trial. Other people in the community seemed to "know" that Marty was innocent from the start, but whose lives were in danger also, and could not reveal the source of their knowledge."

- Lee Paige-Ekstrom, Belle Terre, NY

"The Tankleffs had a housekeeper named Maria who gave a statement about Seymour having an argument with Jerry Steuerman right before the murders—why wasn't she ever put on the witness stand???"

- Evelyn Windsor, Lake Grove, NY

"As a native of Long Island, I have followed this case literally from day one and have been appalled by Suffolk County's abuses of Marty Tankleff's judicial rights. I have never seen such corruption and cover-up in a system purporting to seek the truth. Unfortunately, the current DA, does not share the certain and obvious outrage of those who have supported Marty Tankleff through his battle to secure his freedom.

After fourteen years of wrongful imprisonment, Marty Tankleff has uncovered evidence that would easily change the jury verdict of his original trial. But Thomas Spota, with the same arrogance and disdain for justice as his predecessors, refuses to fix a broken system--the same system discredited by a state commission of investigation at the time of the murders.

The state government intervened about 15 years ago when Suffolk's justice system was so apparently off-course, and it should do so again now. The people of Suffolk deserve it, Marty Tankleff and his family deserve it, and the memory of his lost parents deserve it most."

- Rana Strazza, New York, NY

"As the number of DNA exoneration cases continues to mount, it is clear that nearly 25% had contained compelling but false confessions in evidence. As in the recent exonerations in the Central Park jogger case, the problem of police-induced false confessions taken without electronic recording is far more serious than had ever been anticipated. In far too many of these cases, the prosecutors who were personally involved refuse even in the face of defendant-excluding DNA to reconsider the possibilities. I wholeheartedly support the request for an independent prosecutor in the Tankleff case and others like it on the basis of the same core principles that underlie the right to a fair trial."

- Saul Kassin, Williamstown, MA

"Please appoint an independent prosecutor in the troubling Marty Tankleff case. Thank you!"  
- Lenore Skenazy, New York, NY

"From what I have seen in the New York Times and elsewhere, it seems more than likely that Marty Tankleff is innocent. Please do the right thing and make sure he gets a new trial that can look into ALL the facts."  
- Katha Pollitt, New York, NY

"I spent several years (1980-1981) investigating this same homicide squad and DA for a 2-part piece in NEW YORK Magazine. Doesn't seem much has changed—this DA is as dim-witted and intellectually corrupt as ever."  
- Jesse Kornbluth, New York, NY

"I beg you to look seriously and conscientiously into the matter. There is a matter of justice and more importantly, a young, innocent life in the balance. I am sure that you, being a public servant, want nothing but the best for the people you serve.

A very short while ago a friend of mine sent me what was to be a "joke." It read, "The United States is concerned about establishing a Constitution for the government in Iraq. We have one written years ago by very wise and intelligent men. Why don't we give it to Iraq. We don't use it anyway."

Please read the case fully and help this young man. I am sure that after you have read the case completely you will know well that the balance of a young man's life is in your hands. Please. Once more I ask you to help in this matter."  
- Sister Angelene FMSC, Peekskill, NY

"Please appoint an independent prosecutor to hear this case. Please let the new evidence be heard. Personally, I never thought Marty did this; research this story and please do what's right for all involved. Thank you."  
- Suzanne Tunstall, East Islip, NY

"This boy was innocent from the beginning. He has lost the best years of his life. Let him go free now so he can get on with what is left of his life."  
- Susan Camenzuli, Port Jefferson Station, NY

"It appears that the facts of this case bear out what needs to be done. The great state of New York spends millions on numerous programs (more than half that don't work); bearing the expense of convicted felons; the County of Suffolk, the same—you know where this is going. What would the problem be in retrying this case? Votes? Money? Ego? How about the possibility of not seeing an innocent man spend the rest of his life in prison?"  
- Jerry L Adames, East Islip, NY

"This young man is innocent and certainly deserves a new trial. I have supported you in the past, and believe you will take the proper measures to right a wrong."

- michael fiorentino, Port Jefferson Station, NY

"I have thought from the start that Marty was innocent, and justice was not honest, and this new evidence reveals to everyone the TRUTH. An innocent man suffered all these years. Please help him by doing the right thing. What if it was your son?"

- patricia bartoszsk, Centereach, NY

"I am not a relative of Martin Tankleff, BUT I have followed his case from day-one. I followed & taped his court case proceedings & have clipped out any articles I have come across regarding his case. I simply can not understand why he was found guilty. His coerced, "under duress" confession was NEVER SIGNED BY HIM AND WAS IMMEDIATELY RETRACTED BY HIM. What is D.A. Spota afraid of? This young man should not have been sentenced in the first place. How can anyone in our justice system not see that this sentence is a wrong, mis-application of our system. PLEASE help Martin & his family AND his late parents find justice for him."

- Dorothy Valenti, Baldwin, NY

"He is blatantly innocent. Please dismiss the DA in this case and finally give Marty an unbiased chance at a FAIR trial."

- Karen McCormack, Bohemia, NY

"I personally know Marty Tankleff and like anyone who knows Marty Tankleff, I believe with all my heart and soul that Marty is innocent and should be a free man."

- Nancy Murray, Center Moriches, NY

"It's time to correct this injustice to Marty and his family."

- George Skadl, Lindenhurst, NY

"My office supports you, Marty. Hold your head up, my friend. Don't let the bastards bring you down! -"Illegitimi non carberendum!" Suffolk County is full of corruption that needs to be addressed."

- Stacey Hoffman, East Islip, NY

"I remember this case vividly. Never once reading about this did I think Martin was guilty. This boy was coerced into making a statement he had no idea he was making. There is no justice

for Arlene & Seymour with their son in prison."

- Bridget Lynch, Islip, NY|

"When are we going to stop wasting time and money convicting people who don't belong in jail? Let Martin out and put O.J. in. You will never be able to give Martin back what the government took from him, spending the years he spent in jail for a crime you and I know he did not commit. Frankly, skip the trial and pay Martin the money that would be spent on that so he can go on with his life. Why does it take so long to put the people you know are guilty away within a reasonable amount of time, rather than years?"

- Kathy Mansfield, Ronkonkoma, NY

"I have been following the Martin Tankleff case since 1988. I feel a great tragedy has occurred by convicting Mr. Tankleff and putting him in jail. I feel Thomas Spota should be taken off the case in light of all of the new evidence and circumstances."

- Debra Baker, S. Setauket, NY

"I truly feel with all my heart that Marty is innocent."

- Bridgette Nordenberg, Mastic, NY

"There is no greater sin then to imprison an innocent man. Spota must be removed from this case immediately, and criminal charges should be directed at Detective James McCready for his lying about not knowing Jerry Steuerman."

- Michael Vander Putten, Bohemia, NY

"I hope you will give this your utmost consideration. This man has spent 14 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit."

- Daniel R. Sammarco, East Northport, NY

"I have believed Marty was innocent from day one. I think its time to be fair to Marty. He has paid for the DA's mistake for too many years!!!"

- Karin Galea, Aquebogue, NY

"I have believed in Marty's innocence since this case first came to light! Please grant him a new trial! I am 44 and lived on Long Island all my life!"

- Barbara Besemer, Bay Shore, NY

"I believe that the Tankleff case needs to be re-opened. The lead detective in the case seems to have had a conflict of interest in the outcome of this case."

- Marie Sandefur, Levittown, NY

"What happened to justice? Growing up in Belle Terre myself, and knowing Marty, tells me that he is serving another man's time. Now all this new evidence, and Creedon's statement, should tell you that Marty is serving another man's time. It has been long enough, and it is unfair. Please give him a chance to be free, and to have a normal life."

- Carlene (Giuffrida) Lunn, Rocky Point, NY

"I believe that Marty did not get a fair trial, and that is what this justice system is based on. There is no way that the jury would have made the same decision based on the facts that we now know."

- Stephen Leuzze, Patchogue, NY

"Although I do not believe that Mr. Spota has been directly involved with the (what some call shady) proceedings over the past years, I do think that a new prosecutor should be appointed in the name of justice and vindication for Marty and, perhaps, for Mr. Spota, personally, as well."

- Edith E. Tilley, Mt. Sinai, NY

"Everyone deserves a fair trial. If Martin Tankleff didn't receive one in 1988 then he should be entitled to appeal it now. I hope it happens!"

- Lisa Franco, Seaford, NY

"From the day of the trial, which was broadcast live on News12, I always felt that Marty was innocent, especially during the testimony of Jerry Steuerman."

- Jeffrey Davis, Middle Island, NY

"This is the most disgusting outrage I have ever seen."

- James Dezego, miller place, NY

"This whole thing is an outrage and he should not be there all these years. They have ruined his life"

- Mary Balg, Sound Beach, NY

"This is not fair! This young man is not receiving justice!"

- Karen Reilly, Huntington, NY

"This case deserves another look, in the name of justice. If a man is spending his life in jail, we need to be sure that the truth was allowed the opportunity to be examined. I don't believe it was in this case. I ask that Marty be given a new trial."

- Lori McLinden, Holbrook, NY

"I have followed this case since the early days and always believed Steuerman got away with murder. Now more than ever, the evidence points to Steuerman. Martin Tankleff deserves an independent prosecutor to be appointed and not individuals who have something to gain or hide."

- Veronica Keegan, Huntington, NY

"Please allow Martin Tankleff a new trial, as the new evidence shows he is innocent, as I have always believed. You are letting out a self-admitted murderer from Shelter Island on technicalities. It is absurd that Martin isn't being given a fair chance."

- Debi Arthur, Shirley, NY

"This boy should never have been charged and this man should be released. I cannot believe the business partner who fled the next day so fast his car door was left open was not even considered to be interviewed, much less interrogated."

- John Batal, Rocky Point, NY

"Marty Tankleff should never have been convicted of killing his parents."

- Eleanor Weeks, Mastic, NY

"I have never believed for one minute that this young man killed his parents. For the life of me I cannot understand how he was ever convicted. Badgering a 17-year-old for hours & hours and then when he was totally exhausted, the police tricked him into confessing. There seems to be no other evidence against him. That, coupled with the fact that Mr. Tankleff Sr. was owed money from his partner, had an argument, and who just conveniently disappeared the day after the murders makes many people wonder what is really going on in this case."

- Susan Sylvester, Stony Brook, NY

"When this all started I watched the whole trial. Every day and every night. I don't think Marty had a choice of anything. He did not commit the crime. He loved his parents so much. He was only 17. How would you like it if you were 17 and your parents got killed and you had to go to jail for life and not be able to go to your parents wake? He needs to come out and see how others are living, and be able to be free. THIS IS AMERICA."

- Carol Tedla, Ronkonkoma, NY

"Appoint the Special Prosecutor already! Is it only the public that sees the cover up in the DAs office? Marty's case is only the tip of a very large iceberg!"  
- K. M. Murphy, Lindenhurst, NY

"In the spirit of justice, this case deserves to be reheard by an impartial Judge and jury."  
- Barbara Sturek, Brookhaven, NY

"He is not guilty!!!"  
- Allison Cody, Smithtown, NY

"I hope justice will be finally done and Mr. Tankleff will be free again. The truth is so obvious."  
- Jana Richterova, Holbrook, NY

"Please help Marty get a fair trial!"  
- Serena Boone, Levittown, NY

"I suggest that D.A. Spota be removed as it is a conflict of interest. It is evident that Marty should get a new trial, as I was at the hearing and can see that he certainly deserves it."  
- Anna Candella, Middle Island, NY

"Get to the truth. If there's a conflict of interest, then its NOT a fair trial."  
- John Snow, Baldwin, NY

"There are too many conflicts. Mr. Tankleff deserves a fair trial. The man has no mother and father. He shouldn't have to sit in jail for the rest of his life without a fair trial."  
- Stacey Hartline, Southampton, NY

"I think Martin Tankleff should be released from prison and given his young life back, if that is at all possible. Not only were his parents brutally murdered but he was tricked into confessing to the horrible crime. I hope the case is reopened and the real murderers found. DA Thomas Spota should be removed from the case!"  
- Joan Krohmer, Port Jefferson, NY



"The "Justice System" is a disgrace, and it in fact sickens me that Marty is still behind bars."  
- Regina Malfatti, Miller Place, NY

"You have the power to see that justice is done in Suffolk County by ensuring an independent prosecutor is appointed in the Marty Tankleff case. Marty is innocent and what is going on in Suffolk County is unconscionable. Please act now to restore a fair justice system."  
- Karen Parles, Setauket, NY

"A terrible injustice has been done, and a new unbiased trial should be granted."  
- Ron Rothman, Peconic, NY

"I have been following the case, and the evidence presented indicates that Marty Tankleff who was very young at the time of the murder was coerced in telling the investigator that he might have committed the murder. There is no true evidence that he committed the murder. There is more evidence indicating that he is innocent."  
- Robert Dessel, East Meadow, NY

"Please give this family a fair turn to present the new evidence without any conflict from the District Attorney. Let our justice system do its job without any hints of conflict."  
- Maryann Buquicchio, East Hampton, NY

"What is wrong with the Suffolk County District Attorney. He should step down and let Marty live a life that he deserves. Investigate the real killer."  
- Rona Gothelf, Nesconset, NY

"I have believed from day one that Martin Tankleff was innocent. I stand by that today."  
- Jacquelyne Zelonski, West Islip, NY

"After following the case for a short time, it is clear to me that Martin Tankleff is an innocent man. 14 years of his life have already been taken from him. Don't let it be one more day. Set an innocent man free. Let the justice system do just that, justice."  
- Lauren Lemp, Middle Island, NY

"Why is the DA putting up such a fight to remain on this case? Isn't the strong appearance of a conflict of interest a sufficient reason to recuse himself? There seems to be a personal vendetta going on here, and someone needs to do something."  
- Jennifer W. Hochberg, Hauppauge, NY

"Marty not only lost his parents, but also too many years of his life. Give him a chance for the future. What is wrong with searching for the truth?"

- Patricia Probst, East Moriches, NY

"Whether Marty is guilty is not the question at this point, but to determine the truth and be positive that the real killer is behind bars!"

- Linda Baumann, Lindenhurst, NY

"Marty was like a second brother to me growing up – it is (and was) impossible to believe that he was capable of this act. That is not the Marty that we all knew and loved in our home."

- Stephanie Estevez, Tampa, FL

"It's okay to be wrong; it's criminal on your behalf not to allow another look."

- Valerie Clemons, Columbus, OH

"This is obviously a miscarriage of justice. This boy needs to be freed and the case re-opened. His parents have been taken from him, and half his life is over. Don't let this continue out of stubbornness."

- Elizabeth Madigan, Swampscott, MA

"I've read about this case with great interest and without question wholeheartedly believe in Martin Tankleff's innocence. True, at first I, too, felt that a false confession is nearly an impossibility, however, with further research I've come to understand that it actually is a human phenomena that shouldn't shock or surprise us. With that in mind, and the evidence at hand, there can be no justification for disallowing a new trial. I can envision nothing more horrific than being committed to jail erroneously, struggling to be heard, over and over again begging for the chance to end the nightmare and ultimately ignored. With due respect, I think it would be a grave travesty to allow this injustice to continue any longer. Martin unequivocally deserves the right to freedom that can only be accomplished by allowing a new, untainted trial. My hope for him is for the people who have the power to make this happen recognize what an egregious situation this is and to have the courage to correct it."

- Lynne Turner, Buffalo Grove, IL

"I am appalled that Marty is still in jail after everything that has come to light over the past year. Isn't there a tremendous amount of "doubt" here about who actually killed the Tankleffs? There is no evidence linking Marty to the crime!

How come it seems so obvious to everyone except the Suffolk County Justice Department? Please grant Marty the justice he deserves."

- Ellen (Calabrese) Ford, The Woodlands, TX

"I have known the Tankleff family for over 40 years. I followed the case during the trial and since Marty's unbelievable incarceration. It seems no matter how many experts investigate over the years, the powers that be in Suffolk County are stuck in their own mud. Someone needs to take an unbiased look at this case, and truly investigate the REAL guilty party in this horrible crime, which not only took the lives of two innocent people, but has stolen the youth of Marty Tankleff, an innocent man."

- Nancy Valene, Boca Raton, FL

"This young man deserves a new fair trial. Truly not all the facts have been presented. If in fact he has been incarcerated for this amount of time and has been convicted unjustly, someone must answer for that. Politicians ignoring such facts as stated are not doing Suffolk County or the State justice, they are running from a mistake. Correct it."

- John Connolly, Glen Cove, NY

"Please give this young man the justice he deserves. Seems to me today, as it did at the time, that he was not treated fairly. Our tax dollars pay for this and I wouldn't mind your using mine to give this case another look."

- Tina Cuccia, Sayville, NY

"The corruption must stop."

- Elaine Simonson, Philadelphia, PA

"I went to school with Marty, and from September 7, 1988 (the first day of school that year), I have believed in his innocence. I would venture to say that I know of only two people who doubt Marty's innocence – and both of those people were present at the Tankleff poker game on the night of September 6th."

- Emily Fruchter, Port Jefferson, NY

"As a neighbor watching Marty grow up, I never believed that he had anything to do with what he was convicted of."

- Mel Kravitz, Belle Terre, NY

"We demand that an independent prosecutor be appointed to the case: justice has not been served. Marty, we miss you and have always known in our hearts that you're innocent."

- Cynthia Kravitz, Belle Terre, NY

"It is horrifying to think that justice is being blocked by those who are supposed to uphold it."  
- Kimberly Wilders, Rexford, NY

"I support an independent prosecutor and new trial for Marty Tankleff. I have a personal interest in the case because my wife's family knows Marty and has been following the case for years. I have a professional interest because I am a police sergeant. If the information at [www.MartyTankleff.org](http://www.MartyTankleff.org) is true, a monumental injustice has occurred and needs to be corrected immediately. Please do what you can to restore justice to the Suffolk County criminal justice system."  
- Richard W. Gallipeau Jr., Middletown, RI

"As a student of the law, this case cries out as an absolute miscarriage of justice and police misconduct. I realize retrying this case may be time and resource consuming and the airing of some dirty laundry for you, but this is someone's life we are talking about here. There is nothing more disappointing for future lawyers than to see the system fail, and then not have the integrity to right itself. Mr. Tankleff's case should be retried for the reasons listed on the petition, but also for the intrinsic value that a fair and balanced justice system has to a society."  
- Cassie Taylor, Colbert, WA

"Mr. Spota's efforts to carry on the charade of Martin Tankleff's guilt are a disgrace to the justice system of Suffolk County and New York State. Please redress the horrible injustice done."  
- William Strockbine, Portsmouth, RI

"An innocent man is spending his life in jail while the true murder(s) walk around free."  
- P. Nicolosi, Glen Oaks, NY

"While there are those who argue for "finality" and a blind faith in the justice system, I believe that in these times the greater part of the American people knows better. Mistakes are made. Corruption occurs. The shame is in refusing to acknowledge this. To turn a blind eye is cowardly. To allow an innocent man, such as Marty Tankleff, to remain imprisoned in the light of these overwhelming facts is immoral. Marty's friends and supporters are not a "fan club" for an alleged murderer, nor is what we ask extreme. We simply seek justice for a decent, modest guy who is in many ways average and in some ways extraordinary. This, I would like to believe, is what any reasonable, decent people would want for any person, family, friend, or stranger."  
- Robert Stoesen, Washington, DC

"Please send to prison the right people this time."  
- Michael Urban, Santa Cruz, CA

"Stop wasting time – especially his. He's innocent. Set him free."  
- Paul Finnegan, Brooklyn, NY

"I have known Marty for the better part of 23 years and was shocked at the allegations against him in 1988. My family along with others carpooled with Marty and Mr. and Mrs. Tankleff to Hebrew School at North Shore Jewish Center. Although I was away at college when the murders occurred, I remember saying to myself and friends that there was no way that Marty could have committed them! I am truly sorry that he has spent such a long time in prison wrongfully convicted and hope that he will soon be vindicated. I hope that the DA's office will get their act together and stop worrying about their own political careers and aspirations and do justice to Marty who has already suffered enough."  
- Lisa Allen D'Angelo, ELVHS class of 1987, Roswell,GA

"Justice should not be blind to the truth."  
- Sara Needleman, Seattle, WA

"I find it absolutely overwhelming that logic cannot be seen by elected officials and members of the judiciary in this case. I support the idea that this case and the circumstances surrounding every aspect of the investigation, trial, hearing and legal submissions should be scrutinized by an impartial outsider; I am sure they will notice the glaring inconsistencies in the case."  
- Emma Beals, Wellington New Zealand

"This case needs a prosecutor who is far enough removed from the Suffolk County Justice system to (be able to safely) ask the question: "how much of a coincidence is it that Detective McCready just happened to be in the Belle Terre vicinity early that September morning, off duty but ready to respond to the 911 call from the Tankleff residence ..."  
- Robin Varrone, Manchester, MD

"I support the Tankleff family's request to have an independent prosecutor appointed to the case of Martin Tankleff. Even though I believe the presiding judge should independently release Martin Tankleff from his erroneous conviction and sentence, this appointment is the least that he could do to show that true, impartial justice is in the interest of the Suffolk County DA's office and judicial system."  
- Robert W. Sauer, Bethpage, NY

"Mr. Tankleff must be set free."  
- Madeline Montrose, Long Beach, NY

"It is so clear that the District Attorney and the Police in this case have something they are hiding. Please, let an independent prosecutor bring the truth to light."

-Donnie Elliott, San Jose, CA

"Marty Tankleff is innocent and deserves to have a fair and unbiased trial. This can NEVER happen as long as Thomas Spota is involved."

- Patricia Boone, Westbury, NY

"After the murder of Seymour and Arlene Tankleff, I had the pleasure of getting to know Marty Tankleff. If anyone took the time to really get to know this person for who he is and what he stands for, they would know he had nothing to do with these murders and has been behind bars for a crime he did not commit.

I honestly think that Marty deserves a chance to prove his side of the story, which is the truth. He has been in jail long enough, so please help an innocent man out."

- Candice Bottjer, Westbury, NY

"Is this about lawyering—or justice? Someone needs to step forward and correct this wrong!"

- Daniel Cooney, San Francisco, CA

"Please help New Yorkers in general see justice served and an innocent man get his life back. This is not about which team wins based on semantics. It is about one man's freedom."

- Janet Olsen, Williston Park, NY

"We live in America where truth used to be important. Everyone knows the truth about Marty. Set him free. Let him have his life back."

- Amy Clark, Absecon, NJ

"Please open your eyes to the overwhelming evidence that is before you! It is so obvious that a huge injustice has been done to Mr. Tankleff! Instead of turning the other way, please take notice of and action against the inappropriate actions of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. This young man has suffered enough—he has lost his parents, is wrongfully imprisoned, and will, I'm sure, lose faith in the criminal justice system, as will many others, if someone does not take the time and resources available to correct this horrible injustice!"

- Rebecca Nanna, St. Louis, MO

"It appears that the facts of this case bear out what needs to be done. The great state of New York spends millions on numerous programs (more than half that don't work); bearing the expense of convicted felons; the County of Suffolk, the same—you know where this is going.

What would the problem be in retrying this case? Votes? Money? Ego? How about the possibility of not seeing an innocent man spend the rest of his life in prison. You only need to read Martin Tankleff's confession to know that a 17 year old boy had no business writing such a thing without representation. Do the right thing."

- Jerry L. Adames, East Islip, NY

"Hopefully the Suffolk DA will realize how many mistakes they have made over and over and try to change the way they do things. For the amount of taxes residents pay I would think that they would expect to get what they pay for."

- Christopher Armanini, Boynton Beach, FL

"This case is the worst example of a case gone bad.

Shame on Thomas Spota for not recusing himself and letting this kid (wait, he's an adult NOW) get a new trial.

What Suffolk County has to offer in the way of "criminal justice" is scary!"

- Bonnie Mulieri, Holbrook, NY

"Based on the new evidence Marty Tankleff should be released and the investigation should be focused on Jerry Steuerman."

- Revonda Towe, Newton, NC

"Misconduct by the Suffolk County Police Department is has been going on for as long as I can remember. The police beat suspects and coerce confessions, many from innocent people. I have witnessed this and I know people who were beaten in order to get them to confess. Many detectives are nothing more than criminals with badges.

The District Attorney's office apparently supports their actions as they do not prosecute police officers who commit these crimes. Several weeks ago detectives in the Sixth Squad beat a suspect severely. They didn't realize that the suspect had dialed the telephone and left the receiver off the hook. His family heard the beating as it was taking place.

- Dennis Meehan, Middle Island, NY

"I cannot believe the miscarriage of justice that is taking place in this day and age. Is getting and keeping a conviction more important than getting the right conviction? Are political aspirations or social connections more important than a man's life? Admitting that you are wrong then making it right is much more admirable than fighting tooth and nail to defend a clearly wrong position. I am amazed and appalled that this man is still in jail. I am sure there are many people who claim innocence, but not with such overwhelming evidence in support of their case. I am only one person, but you represent me and many others like me who know Marty is innocent. You have the power to see that justice is served. Please do anything you possibly can to bring this innocent man home to his family where he belongs and return to me my faith in the American justice system."

- Lisa Maksymkow, Ronkonkoma, NY

"Marty didn't do it!"  
- Jesse Friedman, New York, NY

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"It is outrageous that Suffolk County DA Thomas Spota has not excused himself from the Tankleff case so that an Independent Prosecutor could be appointed, and more outrageous still that such a blatant disregard for truth and justice is allowed to go on—and on and on and on—in the face of such obvious and overwhelming evidence. Does no one care about justice anymore? For the sake of what's left of Martin Tankleff's life, and for his family and those of us who simply want to believe in our justice system, someone please intervene and DO SOMETHING! For if ever there was a time for a politician or elected official to get involved, this is it."  
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"My wife and I both graduated from Port Jefferson High School. My grandfather, Dominick Frances, lived next door to the Tankleffs. We followed the case from start to finish; we NEVER believed Marty was guilty! This is such an injustice and I can't believe with all the new evidence and conflicts of interest that he is not free. You need to restore the people's faith in our judicial system. Please help this man who has already lost so much."

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"This is an incredible miscarriage of justice. This young boy, in the state of shock over finding both of his parents murdered, was abused by Detective James McCready and coerced into falsely incriminating himself. There are way too many factors here to be "coincidental" and I can't understand why no one can use their power of authority to proclaim that this is a travesty. Martin Tankleff did NOT murder his parents. LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE!"

- Diana D. DePalma, Hicksville, NY

"Marty was like a second brother to me growing up – it is (and was) impossible to believe that he was capable of this act. That is not the Marty that we all knew and loved in our home."

- Stephanie Estevez, Tampa, FL

"It's okay to be wrong; it's criminal on your behalf not to allow another look."

- Valerie Clemons, Columbus, OH

“This is obviously a miscarriage of justice. This boy needs to be freed and the case re-opened. His parents have been taken from him, and half his life is over. Don't let this continue out of stubbornness.”

- Elizabeth Madigan, Swampscott, MA

“I've read about this case with great interest and without question wholeheartedly believe in Martin Tankleff's innocence. True, at first I, too, felt that a false confession is nearly an impossibility, however, with further research I've come to understand that it actually is a human phenomena that shouldn't shock or surprise us. With that in mind, and the evidence at hand, there can be no justification for disallowing a new trial. I can envision nothing more horrific than being committed to jail erroneously, struggling to be heard, over and over again begging for the chance to end the nightmare and ultimately ignored. With due respect, I think it would be a grave travesty to allow this injustice to continue any longer. Martin unequivocally deserves the right to freedom that can only be accomplished by allowing a new, untainted trial. My hope for him is for the people who have the power to make this happen recognize what an egregious situation this is and to have the courage to correct it.”

- Lynne Turner, Buffalo Grove, IL

“I am appalled that Marty is still in jail after everything that has come to light over the past year. Isn't there a tremendous amount of "doubt" here about who actually killed the Tankleffs? There is no evidence linking Marty to the crime!

How come it seems so obvious to everyone except the Suffolk County Justice Department? Please grant Marty the justice he deserves.”

- Ellen (Calabrese) Ford, The Woodlands, TX

“I have known the Tankleff family for over 40 years. I followed the case during the trial and since Marty's unbelievable incarceration. It seems no matter how many experts investigate over the years, the powers that be in Suffolk County are stuck in their own mud. Someone needs to take an unbiased look at this case, and truly investigate the REAL guilty party in this horrible crime, which not only took the lives of two innocent people, but has stolen the youth of Marty Tankleff, an innocent man.”

- Nancy Valene, Boca Raton, FL

“This young man deserves a new fair trial. Truly not all the facts have been presented. If in fact he has been incarcerated for this amount of time and has been convicted unjustly, someone must answer for that. Politicians ignoring such facts as stated are not doing Suffolk County or the State justice, they are running from a mistake. Correct it.”

- John Connolly, Glen Cove, NY

“Please give this young man the justice he deserves. Seems to me today, as it did at the time, that he was not treated fairly. Our tax dollars pay for this and I wouldn't mind your using mine to give this case another look.”

- Tina Cuccia, Sayville, NY

“The corruption must stop.”

- Elaine Simonson, Philadelphia, PA

“I went to school with Marty, and from September 7, 1988 (the first day of school that year), I have believed in his innocence. I would venture to say that I know of only two people who doubt Marty's innocence – and both of those people were present at the Tankleff poker game on the night of September 6th.”

- Emily Fruchter, Port Jefferson, NY

“As a neighbor watching Marty grow up, I never believed that he had anything to do with what he was convicted of.”

- Mel Kravitz, Belle Terre, NY

“We demand that an independent prosecutor be appointed to the case: justice has not been served. Marty, we miss you and have always known in our hearts that you're innocent.”

- Cynthia Kravitz, Belle Terre, NY

“It is horrifying to think that justice is being blocked by those who are supposed to uphold it.”

- Kimberly Wilders, Rexford, NY

“I support an independent prosecutor and new trial for Marty Tankleff. I have a personal interest in the case because my wife's family knows Marty and has been following the case for years. I have a professional interest because I am a police sergeant. If the information at [www.MartyTankleff.org](http://www.MartyTankleff.org) is true, a monumental injustice has occurred and needs to be corrected immediately. Please do what you can to restore justice to the Suffolk County criminal justice system.”

- Richard W. Gallipeau Jr., Middletown, RI

“As a student of the law, this case cries out as an absolute miscarriage of justice and police misconduct. I realize retrying this case may be time and resource consuming and the airing of some dirty laundry for you, but this is someone's life we are talking about here.

There is nothing more disappointing for future lawyers than to see the system fail, and then not have the integrity to right itself.

Mr. Tankleff's case should be retried for the reasons listed on the petition, but also for the intrinsic value that a fair and balanced justice system has to a society.”

- Cassie Taylor, Colbert, WA

“Mr. Spota's efforts to carry on the charade of Martin Tankleff's guilt are a disgrace to the justice system of Suffolk County and New York State. Please redress the horrible injustice done.”

- William Strockbine, Portsmouth, RI

“An innocent man is spending his life in jail while the true murder(s) walk around free.”

- P. Nicolosi, Glen Oaks, NY

“While there are those who argue for "finality" and a blind faith in the justice system, I believe that in these times the greater part of the American people knows better. Mistakes are made. Corruption occurs. The shame is in refusing to acknowledge this. To turn a blind eye is cowardly. To allow an innocent man, such as Marty Tankleff, to remain imprisoned in the light of these overwhelming facts is immoral.

Marty's friends and supporters are not a "fan club" for an alleged murderer, nor is what we ask extreme. We simply seek justice for a decent, modest guy who is in many ways average and in some ways extraordinary. This, I would like to believe, is what any reasonable, decent people would want for any person, family, friend, or stranger.”

- Robert Stoesen, Washington, DC

“Please send to prison the right people this time.”

- Michael Urban, Santa Cruz, CA

“Stop wasting time – especially his. He's innocent. Set him free.”

- Paul Finnegan, Brooklyn, NY

“I have known Marty for the better part of 23 years and was shocked at the allegations against him in 1988. My family along with others carpooled with Marty and Mr. and Mrs. Tankleff to Hebrew School at North Shore Jewish Center. Although I was away at college when the murders occurred, I remember saying to myself and friends that there was no way that Marty could have committed them! I am truly sorry that he has spent such a long time in prison wrongfully convicted and hope that he will soon be vindicated. I hope that the DA's office will get their act together and stop worrying about their own political careers and aspirations and do justice to Marty who has already suffered enough.”

- Lisa Allen D'Angelo, ELVHS class of 1987, Roswell,GA

“Justice should not be blind to the truth.”

- Sara Needleman, Seattle, WA

"I find it absolutely overwhelming that logic cannot be seen by elected officials and members of the judiciary in this case. I support the idea that this case and the circumstances surrounding every aspect of the investigation, trial, hearing and legal submissions should be scrutinized by an impartial outsider; I am sure they will notice the glaring inconsistencies in the case."

- Emma Beals, Wellington New Zealand

"This case needs a prosecutor who is far enough removed from the Suffolk County Justice system to (be able to safely) ask the question: "how much of a coincidence is it that Detective McCready just happened to be in the Belle Terre vicinity early that September morning, off duty but ready to respond to the 911 call from the Tankleff residence ...".

- Robin Varrone, Manchester, MD

"I support the Tankleff family's request to have an independent prosecutor appointed to the case of Martin Tankleff. Even though I believe the presiding judge should independently release Martin Tankleff from his erroneous conviction and sentence, this appointment is the least that he could do to show that true, impartial justice is in the interest of the Suffolk County DA's office and judicial system."

- Robert W. Sauer, Bethpage, NY

"Mr. Tankleff must be set free."

- Madeline Montrose, Long Beach, NY

"It is so clear that the District Attorney and the Police in this case have something they are hiding. Please, let an independent prosecutor bring the truth to light."

-Donnie Elliott, San Jose, CA

"Marty Tankleff is innocent and deserves to have a fair and unbiased trial. This can NEVER happen as long as Thomas Spota is involved."

- Patricia Boone, Westbury, NY

"After the murder of Seymour and Arlene Tankleff, I had the pleasure of getting to know Marty Tankleff. If anyone took the time to really get to know this person for who he is and what he stands for, they would know he had nothing to do with these murders and has been behind bars for a crime he did not commit.

I honestly think that Marty deserves a chance to prove his side of the story, which is the truth. He has been in jail long enough, so please help an innocent man out."

- Candice Bottjer, Westbury, NY

“Is this about lawyering—or justice? Someone needs to step forward and correct this wrong!”  
- Daniel Cooney, San Francisco, CA

“Please help New Yorkers in general see justice served and an innocent man get his life back. This is not about which team wins based on semantics. It is about one man’s freedom.”  
- Janet Olsen, Williston Park, NY

“We live in America where truth used to be important. Everyone knows the truth about Marty. Set him free. Let him have his life back.”  
- Amy Clark, Absecon, NJ

“Please open your eyes to the overwhelming evidence that is before you! It is so obvious that a huge injustice has been done to Mr. Tankleff! Instead of turning the other way, please take notice of and action against the inappropriate actions of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. This young man has suffered enough—he has lost his parents, is wrongfully imprisoned, and will, I'm sure, lose faith in the criminal justice system, as will many others, if someone does not take the time and resources available to correct this horrible injustice!”  
- Rebecca Nanna, St. Louis, MO

“It appears that the facts of this case bear out what needs to be done. The great state of New York spends millions on numerous programs (more than half that don't work); bearing the expense of convicted felons; the County of Suffolk, the same—you know where this is going. What would the problem be in retrying this case? Votes? Money? Ego? How about the possibility of not seeing an innocent man spend the rest of his life in prison. You only need to read Martin Tankleff's confession to know that a 17 year old boy had no business writing such a thing without representation. Do the right thing.”  
- Jerry L. Adames, East Islip, NY

“Hopefully the Suffolk DA will realize how many mistakes they have made over and over and try to change the way they do things. For the amount of taxes residents pay I would think that they would expect to get what they pay for.”  
- Christopher Armanini, Boynton Beach, FL

“This case is the worst example of a case gone bad. Shame on Thomas Spota for not recusing himself and letting this kid (wait, he's an adult NOW) get a new trial. What Suffolk County has to offer in the way of "criminal justice" is scary!”  
- Bonnie Mulieri, Holbrook, NY

“Based on the new evidence Marty Tankleff should be released and the investigation should be focused on Jerry Steuerman.”

- Revonda Towe, Newton, NC

“Misconduct by the Suffolk County Police Department is has been going on for as long as I can remember. The police beat suspects and coerce confessions, many from innocent people. I have witnessed this and I know people who were beaten in order to get them to confess. Many detectives are nothing more than criminals with badges.

The District Attorney’s office apparently supports their actions as they do not prosecute police officers who commit these crimes. Several weeks ago detectives in the Sixth Squad beat a suspect severely. They didn't realize that the suspect had dialed the telephone and left the receiver off the hook. His family heard the beating as it was taking place.

The cops are either stupid or just extremely sure that they can get away with anything. They beat him up after the mug shot was taken and they left the photo in the file. There are before and after photos. When the judge heard the story from the family and saw the condition of the suspect, he looked at the photo taken shortly before the beating & he then referred the matter to the District Attorney and Police Commissioner for action against the detectives. I'm quite sure that the Commissioner and the DA will try to sweep this under the rug. They will settle the lawsuit out of court in order to avoid the publicity.

The District Attorneys Office employs retired detectives as investigators. A retired Homicide Detective, now an investigator in the District Attorneys Office, intimidated a witness for the defense. He shouldn't have been allowed near the witness as he was connected to the detective in the Tankleff case. Many years ago I asked this detective and his partner if they had beat and intimidated a suspect to get his confession. Their reply was, “What difference does it make? He's guilty.” I testified against that suspect. He was guilty but he should not have been beaten and threatened with a gun to his head and told that he would die while trying to escape unless he signed the confession.

Marty Tankleff was framed by the police. The District Attorney has at the very least a conflict of interest. Someone has to put a stop to this injustice. Appoint a Special Prosecutor and investigate both the Police Department and the District Attorney's Office. We need a Civilian Complaint Review Board with the power to remove and bring charges against Police Officers who abuse their authority.”

- Dennis Meehan, Middle Island, NY

“I cannot believe the miscarriage of justice that is taking place in this day and age. Is getting and keeping a conviction more important than getting the right conviction? Are political aspirations or social connections more important than a man's life? Admitting that you are wrong then making it right is much more admirable than fighting tooth and nail to defend a clearly wrong position. I am amazed and appalled that this man is still in jail. I am sure there are many people who claim innocence, but not with such overwhelming evidence in support of their case. I am only one person, but you represent me and many others like me who know Marty is innocent. You have the power to see that justice is served. Please do anything you possibly can to bring this innocent man home to his family where he belongs and return to me my faith in the American justice system.”

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