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Quotations

*"Size matters not." Yoda
(from Lucas's Star Wars)*

-- George Lucas

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Diebold whistleblower fired AGAIN



Posted by : [ilyana](#) on Saturday, April 01, 2006 - 11:42 AM PST



I was emailed the following diary by a friend and fellow KOSsack, (participant in the "Daily KOS" blog sphere)..

It is an open letter from the wife of Stephen Heller, the man who was brave enough to expose Diebold's deception in CA. It was posted for her by 'Six Things on My Mind'.

Excerpt:

Steve actually even liked his new job. Really, truly liked it. Then, wham - he was indicted on 3 felony counts. Then on March 23, Steve lost his new job. Someone sent the March 18, 2006 L.A. Times article to his employer. He was called into HR and let go.

I posted another diary by 'Six Things on My Mind' about this case (1) exactly one month ago (March 1, 2006). At that point, the DA was only considering indictments. This letter confirms that the indictments have happened. I don't know how much public support he received before the indictments, but there was a letter and phone campaign asking that he not be prosecuted. Now he and his family need material support as well.

His first firing was from the Law Firm that is the legal counsel for Diebold and while dispicable, was probably expected. Being fired from his second job **because of the indictments**, is pure sewer sludge. Especially covering whoever sent the LA Times article to his new boss. This is an intentional attempt to destroy his life, and the plight of many brave enough to stand up for principals against corruption.

Every cognizant person who learns of this, and allows him and his family to suffer this alone, is silently complicit to the system which makes 'an example' of real heroes.

"Speak up, and this is what will happen to you."

This sucks the marrow of courage from the bones of society. Without such courage, we fall prostrate, without immunity, before diseases like injustice and greed. The marrow of courage creates the life blood of our humanity. Without it, we die at our core.

I hope Black Box Voting.org is helping him and his family, also. If my memory serves me, it was the information he exposed that inically put the national spotlight on BBV.

Diebold Whistleblower Fired; His Wife Speaks Out

by [6 Things On My Mind](#) [Subscribe]
Fri Mar 31, 2006 at 05:34:14 PM PDT

Hello Kossacks. I've written about Stephen Heller, the Diebold whistleblower, here. **Now his wife** has written about her thoughts regarding her husband and the situation they find themselves in. Since she doesn't have a kos account, I am posting this on her behalf.

Please visit the Stephen Heller Defense Fund website.*

* 6 Things On My Mind's diary :: ::

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Married to Citizen Steve

By Michele Gregory

I've been in love with my husband since I first laid eyes on him - I still remember the exact moment we met. He's a good man. The kind of man who takes off his gloves on a frozen Chicago winter day and gives them to someone huddled in a doorway. The kind of man who makes his wife a birthday cake every year. He's the guy you can trust to do what is right. He's your loyal friend to the end. Hell, he's even kind to animals and children.

We've held each other's hands through good times and bad, helped each other through losses of loved ones, career setbacks and personal disappointments. So when the police came to our door a year and a half ago, we did what we do best: stood by each other. (Technically, we sat down on the sofa, but you get the idea.) It's a completely surreal experience to be guarded by men in bullet proof vests while they search your home. They confiscated cell phones, computers, address books . . . and, come to think of it, I haven't seen my favorite shoes since that day either . . . hmmm . . .

My first thought was that there was some mistake and that this was just one of those odd things that no one will believe actually happened to you. Then I realized they had my computer with all the scripts I'd written for my theatre company. If the DA puts on a talent show - they better not use any of my material!

Steve lost his job and it was difficult for me to be the sole breadwinner. Thankfully, we don't have expensive tastes and are used to making do. 18 months passed and nothing happened. We both got new jobs and were getting back on top of our finances. Steve actually even liked his new job. Really, truly liked it. Then, wham - he was indicted on 3 felony counts. Then on March 23, Steve lost his new job. Someone sent the March 18, 2006 L.A. Times article to his employer. He was called into HR and let go. We knew it was a possibility, but so is being struck by lightning . . . you just stay away from golf courses in the rain and try not to worry about it.

So back I go to earning the sole income for our family - but it's only a matter of time before someone jumps at the chance to hire a highly principled employee who's been fired from his last 2 jobs and has 3 felony charges hanging over his head. Now if we can only get the dog to earn his keep - wouldn't want to interrupt the flow of kibble.

You have to have a sense of humor when your world is crumbling all around you and you can't seem to stop it. Luckily, Citizen Steve makes me laugh a lot. He's the funniest man I know. He's smart - he thinks about things. He reads. He has deeply embedded principles and he believes deeply in truth, justice and the American way. Especially the truth part - never ask how you look in your new dress - he won't lie.

Honestly, this situation just plain sucks. Sometimes I feel like I've been run over by a bus, or by a steamroller - or by a well-oiled political machine.

I could have married a more successful man. I could have married a man who would never get in a fight; who'd never stick his neck out for anyone. Who'd never let what was right get in the way of what was safe or easy. Instead I married a man I continue to be proud of. I married a man who continues to surprise me.

Someone to grow with as we grow old together. The kind of man you wish there were more of in this world.

Deep down I believe it will all be fine in the end - after all, sometimes the good guy does win. >p? Doesn't he?

Stephen Heller Legal Defense Fund:

*<http://www.hellerlegaldefensefund.com/>

go to original diary for active embedded links and to post comments if you are a KOSsack:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/3/31/193414/510>

(1)This was the article with the plea to write or call in support for Stephen Heller:

Excerpt with suggested "talking points". **It is too late to ask the DA not to indict Stephen Heller, but continued letters of support may well help.** :

Now of course, BE POLITE. Remember you are writing, calling and emailing the office of the Los Angeles District Attorney, which is a branch of law enforcement. Being harassing, rude, or threatening to cops would be very dumb; it will only get you in legal trouble of your own, and it won't help Steve Heller, the whistleblower. So BE POLITE!

Talking points:

* Don't prosecute Stephen Heller. He's a whistleblower, not a criminal, and he should not be prosecuted.

* Diebold is the criminal here. If a person exposes their criminal activity, that person is a whistleblower and should not be prosecuted.

* Diebold's election malfeasance strikes at the very heart of our democratic republic. Without clean elections, we don't have democracy anymore. Those who expose such crimes are whistleblowers and should not be prosecuted.

* America has a long history of whistleblowers exposing criminal activity, and prosecuting them is wrong; it puts a chilling effect on others who might see criminal activity and want to expose it.

Email the Los Angeles District Attorney's office at lada@co.la.ca.us.

A good old fashioned snail mail letter is very powerful tool:

District Attorney's Office County of Los Angeles 210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

And of course, phone calls:

Telephone (213) 974-3512 Fax (213) 974-1484 TTY (800) 457-7778 (8:30am - 5:00pm M-F)

<http://www.choicechanges.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=429>

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