

William Samuel Patten, Jr.

Washington, D.C. 20002

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Amy Berman Jackson
United States District Judge
for the District of Columbia
E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse
333 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington DC 20001

Your Honor,

I am writing you in advance of your sentencing me in the event I should stumble or forget what I'd like to say.

The crimes that I committed are a source of great shame and regret for me. I acted as if the law did not apply to me and that was wrong. I am very sorry, and I should be punished for this.

In the eight months since I pleaded guilty before you, and more than a year since this journey began for me, I have changed. To an even more meaningful degree than the day the FBI came to my door, I have surrendered.

In my life, I have tried to do the right thing, but there have also been times that I have failed – none more poignantly than the circumstances that bring me before you. First I tried to justify and excuse my conduct, but now that's over. I accept complete responsibility for what I have done.

For me, the last year has been very dark. There has been the public humiliation that comes with the letter F stamped on your chest, financial disaster, grief for my family and many sleepless nights. But in admission and surrender, I have also come to know a certain peace. No matter how pervasive the darkness of the last year has seemed at times, I remind myself of the many times I have tried to serve the light, and hope that I might have additional chances of doing so. In this hope, I have found abiding comfort.

This has required me to reject the salve of victimhood, and its attendants: self-justification and self-righteous anger. That is not easy, especially in the environment in which we all inhabit today. But for me, it is an existential challenge. For me, slipping into the role of a victim means I am destroyed.

People have not done things to me. I could have registered under FARA for my Ukrainian client the moment my efforts to serve him triggered the registration requirement. Instead of withholding some emails from the Senate Intelligence Committee, I should have submitted all of them regardless of whether I thought I was telling them enough, or whom I sought to protect from their disclosure. I could have told my client "no," when he asked me to buy him tickets to the Inauguration party, but I was too eager to please and I broke a rule in doing so. These are all choices – wrong choices – that I alone made.

For me this has been a journey. Not a journey I would recommend to others, but one from which I have derived unintended benefit. Not profit, not glory, not, perhaps, freedom, in the immediate sense. Along this road, I have found renewed reverence for ownership, and an appreciation for the fact that responsibility is not a cousin who visits on holidays, but the quiet presence that is always there, even when no one is looking.

Respectfully yours,

I am sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam PATTEN". The "S" is large and stylized, and the "PATTEN" is in all caps.

William Samuel Patten, Jr.