

PsychRights[®]
Law Project for
Psychiatric Rights, Inc.

July 19, 2010

Governor Chris Christie
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Jennifer Velez, Esq., Commissioner
Department of Human Services
222 South Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700

Paula T. Dow, Attorney General
State of New Jersey
P.O. Box 080
Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

Re: Mistreatment of Christopher Busche

Dear Governor Christie, Commissioner Velez, and Attorney General Dow:

This is to urge the State of New Jersey to release Christopher Busche, who is currently locked up at Clara Maass and being psychiatrically drugged against his will.

I am enclosing a copy of the most illuminating book, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*, by the award winning journalist, Robert Whitaker. I know you must have many books on your plate to read, but if you want to understand what is going on with America's mental health system, it is a must. From a fiscal perspective, the take-away is being very selective in the use of these drugs, rather than the current, unthinking, pervasive use, will reap huge financial rewards by dramatically decreasing those diagnosed with mental illness on the disability rolls. From a humanitarian perspective, the take-away is that many more people will recover if given a chance without being subjected to these brain and body damaging drugs.

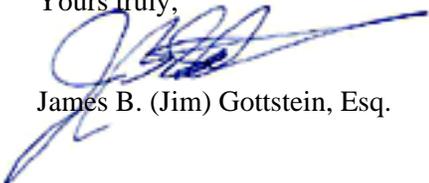
Recognizing the severity and seriousness of the type of treatment Mr. Busche is enduring at the hands of the State of New Jersey, the Special Rapporteur on Torture for the United Nations has issued a report, which at ¶63 states:

63. Inside institutions, as well as in the context of forced outpatient treatment, psychiatric medication, including neuroleptics and other mind-altering drugs, may be administered to persons with mental disabilities without their free and informed consent or against their will, under coercion, or as a form of punishment. The administration in detention and psychiatric institutions of drugs, including neuroleptics that cause trembling, shivering and contractions and make the subject apathetic and dull his or her intelligence, has been recognized as a form of torture. In *Viana Acosta v. Uruguay*, the Human Rights Committee concluded that the treatment of the complainant, which included psychiatric experiments and forced injection of tranquilizers against his will, constituted inhuman treatment. The Special Rapporteur notes that forced and non-consensual administration of psychiatric drugs, and in particular of neuroleptics, for the treatment of a mental condition needs to be closely scrutinized. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the suffering inflicted and the effects upon the individual's health may constitute a form of torture or ill-treatment.

(footnotes omitted).

I hope you will make sure Mr. Busche is released from confinement and cease to be subjected to forced psychiatric drugging without delay.

Yours truly,


James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.