

April 16, 2008

The Honorable Michael Mukasey
United States Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable Mary Beth Buchanan
United States Attorney for the
Western District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Suite 400
Seventh Avenue and Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: The Re-Trial of Dr. Cyril H. Wecht

Dear Attorney General Mukasey and U.S. Attorney Buchanan:

We, the undersigned citizens of the Western District of Pennsylvania, ask that you reconsider the publicly announced decision to re-try Dr. Cyril Wecht following the declaration of a mistrial as a result of a deadlocked jury – a deadlocked jury whose majority voted to acquit Dr. Wecht. (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, April 9, 2008, Headline)

Dr. Wecht and his family have endured a great deal. A second trial of this man would certainly not be in the interest of justice. The Department of Justice investigated Dr. Wecht for over three years, bringing to bear all of the resources of the federal government – the power of the grand jury, the FBI, as many as three Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and perhaps other undisclosed resources.

After such a focused effort by the federal government, Dr. Wecht was indicted on 84 counts and eventually tried on 41 of these counts to a group of 12 citizens of Western Pennsylvania.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys from the Western District of Pennsylvania conducted that trial over seven weeks, calling 44 witnesses and introducing over 10,000 pages of documents. Dr. Wecht did not put on a defense other than through the cross-examination of

government witnesses. The jury of his peers, representing the numerous counties of the federal district of the Western District of Pennsylvania, deliberated for 53 hours in what we believe to have been a conscientious and responsible effort and announced to all of us that they were not convinced that Dr. Wecht was guilty of even one of these counts.

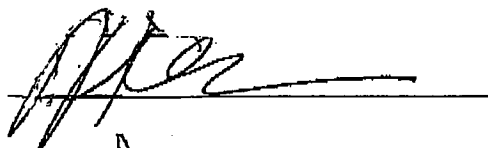
The jury system has spoken. A system of a jury judging all of us as citizens is the bedrock of our justice system. Your office amassed documents, witnesses and the law. A jury evaluated that with which they were provided and passed judgment. Justice requires in this case that their judgment be honored.

The Department of Justice's investigation effectively removed Dr. Wecht from public office. He is 77 years old and has done untold good works for our local community, and other communities at large, and worldwide activities that have brought great credit to Allegheny County. He has assisted in countless homicide investigations and prosecutions. Now, in the twilight of his career, he is dedicating his time and his resources to passing on those accumulated skills to generations following in his profession through programs at Carlow University, The Wecht Institute at Duquesne University School of Law, and elsewhere throughout the country.

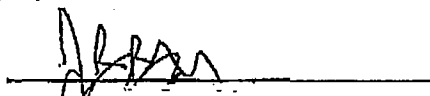
Our views are shared by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editors. Noting that while they are "no great fans of Cyril Wecht," they state that a re-trial, ". . . would be a travesty, not to mention a waste of public dollars." Moreover, the editors correctly note that a second prosecution ". . . will be seen as a persecution . . . that will tarnish the integrity of the U.S. Attorney's Office . . ." (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, April 9, 2008) The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review editors also weighed in on April 10, 2008, and came to the same conclusion. Noting the Department of Justice's right to re-try Dr. Wecht, but stating, ". . . in this case, the feds would be damn fools to do so." The article went on to note that the allegations against Dr. Wecht do not rise to a federal crime. The editors further state that ". . . the greater crime may be a second prosecution that smacks of government persecution." (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, April 10, 2008)

You brought your case to the people. The people have spoken. You have discharged your duty. Do not now summarily dismiss the findings of this jury, but rather dismiss the indictment.

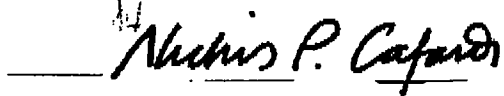
Respectfully submitted,



Edward Abes
Treasurer, Allegheny County Democratic Party



James Burn,
Chair, Allegheny County Democratic Party



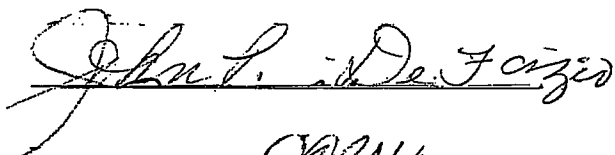
Nicolas Cafardi
Dean Emeritus and Professor of
Duquesne University School of Law



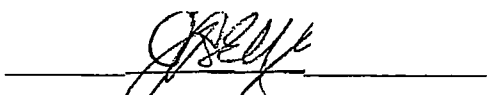
Joan Cleary
Allegheny County Council



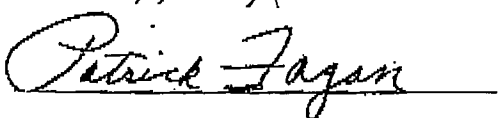
Ronald Davenport, Sr.
Chairman, Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation



John P. DeFazio
Allegheny County Council



James R. Ellenbogen
Allegheny County Council



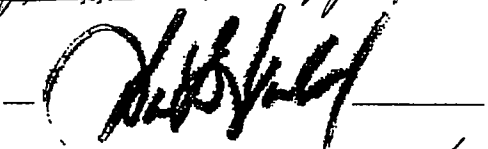
Patrick Fagan
Executive Secretary, Allegheny County Labor Council



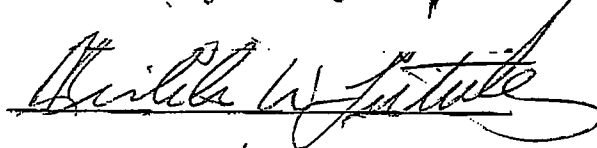
Michael J. Finnerty
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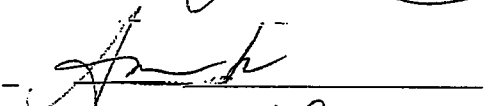
Richard Fitzgerald
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Elsie H. Hillman

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Elsie Hillman
Former Chair of Republican Party
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Jerry Johnson

Billy Jackson
Filmmaker

Jerry Johnson, Esquire
U.S. Attorney, Western District of Pennsylvania
(1981-1989)

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Louis Kendrick
Former Pittsburgh City Councilman

Bob Macey

Bob Macey
Allegheny County Council

John McIntire
Tom Murphy

John McIntire
WQED-TV commentator

Tom Murphy
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh (1994-2005)

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William Russell Robinson

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Allegheny County Council

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