

State of Florida, and not federal authorities, without doubt, the treatment that he received while in state custody undermined the purpose of a just sentence.

Some may also believe that the prosecution should have been tougher in verification of the defendant's tactics. The defense, especially, often failed to negotiate in good faith. They would create conversations as part of a negotiation and agree to proceed, only to change their minds, and repeat the victim's position in Washington. The investigations into the family lives of individual prosecutors were, in my opinion, uncalled for, as were the accusations of bias and I've associated against individual prosecutors. At times, some prosecutors felt that we should just go to trial, and at times I felt that I was being misled. What was right in the first meeting, however, remained right (regardless of defense tactics). Individuals have a constitutional right to a defense. The aggressive exercise of that right should not be punished, nor should a defense counsel's exercise of that right to appeal a U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. Prosecution must be careful not to allow frustration and anger with defense counsel to influence their judgment.

After thought, I recall receiving several phone calls. One was from the FBI Special Agents in Charge. He called to offer congratulations. He had been at many of the meetings regarding this case. He was aware of the tactics of the defense, and he called to praise one prosecutor for holding firm against the State of Missouri, West, Denbowitz, Lofkowitz and Stone. It was a great moment. I also received calls or communications from Messrs. Denbowitz, Lofkowitz and Stone. I had known all three individuals previously, from my time in law school and at Radford & Ellis in the mid 90s. They all wanted to make peace. I agreed to talk and meet with each of them after Katsaris pled guilty, as I think it important that prosecutors better define attorneys in a case and move forward. I have read, yet I wonder how has been difficult to do fully in this case.

The bottom line is this. Mr. Jeffrey Epstein, a defendant, served time in jail and is now a registered sex offender. He has been required to pay his victims restitution, though restitution clearly causes competence for the crime. And we know much more today about his crimes because the victims have come forward to speak out. Some may disagree with the prosecutorial judgments made in this case, but these individuals are not the ones who at the time reviewed the evidence available for trial and assessed the likelihood of success.

Respectfully,
R. Alexander Acosta
United States Attorney
Southern District of Florida