

April 30, 1998

Mr. Charles Gaines
Branch Chief
Mental Health/Mental Retardation Branch
Room 4475
D.C. Superior Court
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Gaines:

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency of the U.S. government that was created pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (as amended).

Our agency is now preparing a memorandum to the President of the United States regarding issues related to the assassination of President Kennedy that involves, in part, persons in the 1960s who may have suffered from mental disabilities. I would like to request your providing assistance to Kim A. Herd, Esq., the Senior Attorney on our staff, who is conducting research on this issue in preparation for our briefing to President Clinton.

I would like to emphasize for you that we are requesting access *only* to information that is a part of the "public record." I would very much appreciate any cooperation or assistance that you can provide to Ms. Herd.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director and General Counsel