

## Letter from Fred Wood to Norman Redlich, Esq.

COPY

Name: Norman Redlich, Esq.  
Street & No. N.Y. University School of Law, Washington, D.C.  
City New York 3, New York

Date: Jan. 25, 1963

Professor Redlich:

I am going to ask you a very special favor, viz.; to please cancel this court action which you have so undesirably instituted.

I have killed without compunction all my life, from age 15 and have the potential to do so again. I'm a man without remorse, my conscience being very thin. I feel naught but contempt and defiance toward so-called organized society. The only moral goodness I seem to have retained is a great and abiding regret over the way my life has affected the lives of my mother and dad. Mother is still living; it is she toward whom you should be directing your seemingly compulsive urge to help people. This, then, is the character picture of a criminal you are arbitrarily choosing to save from a doom which he richly deserves. Does it not make you culpable of performing a disservice to the decent segment of the community - at - large, in attempting to thwart, in my case, the enforcement of the judgment of the sentencing court!!! In my honest and studied opinion, criminal lawyers and "do-gooders", whether knowingly or otherwise, often work against the public interest.

I had made peace with God Almighty, after my own fashion, and was fully prepared to "ride the lightning" into eternity last night. This morning I awoke and felt as a man will who has been charted out of something precious beyond valuation, i.e., release from imprisonment. And you, Mr. Redlich, I have to "thank" for this. You know something? Even though I realize you neutrally (do-gooders' always mean well), still, if I had a gun and you were within distance, I'd blow your brains out. And I digress now.

CMY

Letter from Sing Sing death row inmate Frederick Charles "Killer" Wood to New York University law professor Norman Redlich, who was providing legal aid. Wood demanded that Redlich cease all court actions that would impede his execution.

### Identifier

NYSA\_B0145-80\_B26\_Wood\_letter1

### Alternate Identifier

DMS ID Number: 177247

### Date

January 25 1963

### Repository

New York State Archives

### Source

New York State Archives, Sing Sing Prison. Case files of inmates sentenced to electrocution, 1939-1963. Series B0145-80, Box 26, Frederick Charles Wood.

### Rights

This image is provided for education and research purposes. Rights may be reserved. Responsibility for securing permissions to distribute, publish, reproduce or other use rest with the user. For additional information see our [Copyright and Use Statement](#)

### More From This Series

Case files of inmates sentenced to electrocution

### Geographic Locations

New York (is associated with)