

January 2016

# An Appeal to Our Readers: Justice for Reynolds Wintersmith

Journal for Social Justice Editorial Board

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## Recommended Citation

Journal for Social Justice Editorial Board, *An Appeal to Our Readers: Justice for Reynolds Wintersmith*, 5 DePaul J. for Soc. Just. 1 (2011)  
Available at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/jsj/vol5/iss1/2>

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## An Appeal to Our Readers: Justice for Reynolds Wintersmith

*By denying the defendant the right to reenter the community, the State makes an irrevocable judgment about that person's value and place in society. This judgment is not appropriate in light of a juvenile nonhomicide offender's capacity for change and limited moral culpability.*

*Graham v. Florida*, 130 S. Ct. 2011 (2010).

In 2010, the Supreme Court in *Graham v. Florida* held that it is unconstitutional for juveniles to be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole for non-homicide offenses. Because *Graham* does not apply retroactively, this ruling offers no relief for Reynolds Wintersmith. He is the only known juvenile, first-time offender in the United States currently serving a mandatory federal life sentence for a non-violent drug offense. Reynolds has remained behind bars for nearly two decades. He has since been fighting from inside federal prison to convince higher courts that his sentence is unjust. These efforts have been without success. Reynolds's only recourse now lies in presidential commutation.

The DePaul Journal for Social Justice supports Reynolds Wintersmith in his fight to gain freedom, and we encourage you to join us.

For more information,  
visit <http://www.justiceforwintersmith.blogspot.com>.

For questions or to learn how you can help secure justice for  
Reynolds Wintersmith, please email  
[justiceforwintersmith@gmail.com](mailto:justiceforwintersmith@gmail.com) or call 312-880-9013.

Express your solidarity with Reynolds Wintersmith  
by signing his online petition, available at  
[http://justiceforwintersmith.blogspot.com/p/sign-petition\\_12.html](http://justiceforwintersmith.blogspot.com/p/sign-petition_12.html).

