

EDDY ZHENG PROFILE

Eddy Zheng came to the United States from China as a legal immigrant with a green card when he was 12 years old.

He pled guilty to crimes associated with a robbery he participated in when he was 16 in 1986. He was sentenced to 7-years-to-life. He ended up serving more than 19 years as a model prisoner before being granted parole in March 2005, at the age of 35.

Zheng taught himself English, earned his GED and a college degree in prison.

He has worked with at-risk youth, developed a curriculum for at-risk youth and has several job offers to implement his youth program. He won his parole by demonstrating to the parole board and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger that he was a model inmate and was rehabilitated.

The judge who sentenced Eddy, the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted him, a former director of the California Department of Corrections, and 12 state legislators wrote letters of support for his parole. These include the Senate President Pro Tem, the Senate Majority Leader, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety, and the Senator, Assemblymember and County Supervisor representing the district to which he would return.

After finally winning his parole and ready to serve the community, he is facing deportation to China based on convictions from 20 years ago.

This could have been completely avoided if Eddy's public defender had merely asked the sentencing judge in 1986 to order the immigration authorities not to deport Eddy when he finished his prison sentence. Since she failed to do so, Eddy Zheng now faces deportation to a country he left as a child. He has several job offers to make positive contributions to the community and has extensive community support.

Zheng has been featured in the San Francisco Weekly and has written for AsianWeek and other publications, while incarcerated.

Contact

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EDDY ZHENG is a Chinese American who came to the United States as a legal resident with a green card and is now facing deportation for twenty-year old criminal convictions.

Eddy and his family immigrated to Oakland from China when he was 12 years old in 1982. As immigrants with no English skills, his parents took low-wage jobs to support their family; his father worked at the local Burger King, and his mother worked as a live-in babysitter for another family. When he was 16 years old, Eddy and his friends participated in a robbery; he was arrested and pled guilty to all counts. Charged as an adult, Eddy was sentenced to seven-years-to-life in 1986.

While in prison, he was a model inmate. Eddy could barely speak English when he was sentenced; in prison, he learned to speak, read, and write English fluently. He earned his GED and is one of the few inmates in California to have graduated from college while in prison, by earning his Associate's Degree in the San Quentin College Program.

Eddy worked with at-risk youth in crime prevention workshops at the prison, has written an entire curriculum for working with at-risk youth, and has received several job offers at youth organization. He has written and published articles on his experience as an Asian American inmate, the

importance of Ethnic Studies classes, and Buddhism. He has also published his poems, and he even organized the first poetry slam at San Quentin State Prison.

EDDY ZHENG IS FACING DEPORTATION FOR HIS CONVICTIONS FROM 1986, EVEN THOUGH GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER HAS INDICATED THAT HE POSES NO THREAT TO SOCIETY.

Even though he was sentenced to seven-years-to-life, Eddy Zheng served more than 19 years as a model inmate before he was finally granted parole in March 2005, at the age of 35. Having spent

more than half of his life behind bars for a crime he committed at 16, Eddy won his parole only by demonstrating to the parole board and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger that he was a model inmate who acknowledged his mistakes, expressed remorse for his crime, and has done everything he can to improve himself.

The judge who sentenced Eddy, the Assistant DA who prosecuted him, a former director of the California Department of Corrections, and 12 state legislators supported his parole.

Today, the Department of Homeland Security is trying to deport Eddy for his convictions from 1986, even though Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has indicated that he poses no threat to society. All of his family members are U.S. citizens.

This situation could have been completely avoided if Eddy's public defender had merely asked the sentencing judge in 1986 to order the immigration authorities not to deport Eddy when he finished his prison sentence. This same judge supported Eddy's parole. Since the public defender failed to do so, Eddy Zheng now faces deportation to a country he left as a child. Eddy also would not be facing deportation today if he had been tried as a juvenile at the age of 16. The Assistant DA who prosecuted him as an adult in 1986 also supported his parole in 2005. He has several job offers to make positive contributions to the community and has extensive community support.

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EDDY ZHENG is a Chinese American who is facing deportation for twenty-year old convictions. He came to the United States as a legal immigrant with a green card when he was 12. He participated in a robbery when he was 16. In winning his parole in March 2005, the California parole board and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have indicated that he does not pose a threat to society and should be released.

Eddy Zheng was a model prisoner while he was incarcerated. He earned a college degree and worked extensively with at-risk youth in crime prevention programs at the prison. He even wrote a curriculum for working with at-risk youth and has several job offers at youth organizations.

The State of California and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have acknowledged the positive contributions Eddy Zheng can make to his community.

EDDY ZHENG MUST BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN THE UNITED STATES.

SUPPORTERS INCLUDE

Don Perata, CA Senate President Pro tem
John Burton, former CA Senate President Pro Tem
Gloria Romero, CA Senate Majority Leader
Sheila Kuehl, CA State Senator
John Vasconcellos, former CA State Senator
Byron Sher, former CA State Senator
Mark Leno, CA Assemblymember,
Chairman of Committee on Public Safety
Wilma Chan, CA Assemblymember
Loni Hancock, CA Assemblymember
Judy Chu, CA Assemblymember
Carol Liu, CA Assemblymember
Leland Yee, CA Assemblymember
Jerry Enomoto, former Director, CA Dept of Corrections
Chris Nedeau, Eddy Zheng's prosecuting DA
David Lee, University of California Regent
Alice Lai-Bitker, Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Asian American Bar Association
Dale Minami, Minami Lew & Tamaki LLP

Victor Hwang, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach *
Rev. Norman Fong, SF Chinatown Presbyterian Church
Phil Ting, Asian Law Caucus, Executive Director *
Eric Mar, San Francisco Board of Education
Yuri Kochiyama, Community Activist
Vivek Malhotra, Asian Americans for Civil Rights
and Equality
Gen Fujioka, Asian Law Caucus *
Jane Kim, Chinatown Community Development Center,
San Francisco
Perry Chen, Oakland Asian Students
Educational Services *
Chinese for Affirmative Action
John Fong, Director, Asian Youth Promoting
Advocacy & Leadership *
Isami Arifuku, National Council on Crime
and Delinquency
California Council of Churches
** organization listed for ID purposes*

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"I believe that Mr. Zheng is an ideal candidate for parole...Mr. Zheng serves as an example of the California Department of Correction's ability to provide prisoners with the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves with the ultimate goal of reintegration into society."

-Assemblyman Mark Leno, Chairman of Assembly Committee on Public Safety, letter to Board of Prison Terms, Sept. 9, 2003

"Mr. Zheng is exceptionally suitable for parole. I strongly encourage the Board to find that he is suitable and give him an opportunity to continue to redeem himself through continued service to the community as a productive member of society."

-Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, letter to Board of Prison Terms, Sept. 22, 2003

"[Zheng's] commitment to counseling at-risk youth by teaching them alternatives to violence should not only be commended, but awarded with the acknowledgement of his ability to live a productive and positive lifestyle...Mr. Zheng's accomplishments serve as an example of criminal rehabilitation that should not go unnoticed...Mr. Zheng is the ideal example of a young man who has turned his life around and is worthy of parole."

-Senate Majority Leader Don Perata, letter to Board of Prison Terms, Sept. 26, 2003

"[Zheng's] commendable behavior in prison...clearly indicate that Mr. Zheng has the potential of becoming a contributing member of society. He has acknowledged his mistakes, expressed remorse for his crime, and has served his sentence."

- Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, letter to Board of Prison Terms, Sept. 17, 2003

"Mr. Zheng has made a personal transformation and maturation in the last 17 years...Upon his parole, Mr. Zheng has indicated a strong interest in helping prevent troubled young people from following a path to prison."

- Assembly Majority Leader Wilma Chan, Assemblywoman Judy Chu, Assemblywoman Carol Liu, Assemblyman Leland Yee, Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, letter to Board of Prison Terms, Sept. 15, 2003

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EDDY ZHENG

Education

GED, California State Prison-Solano, 1991

Associate's Degree, Patten College (through San Quentin College Program), 1999

Programs that Eddy Zheng has participated in while in prison include:

Alternatives to Violence Program for at-risk youth

Alternatives to Violence Workshop

Advanced Alternatives to Violence

Alternatives to Violence Training for Trainers

Alternatives to Violence Co-Facilitators

San Quentin College Program

San Quentin Utilization of Inmates Resources Experience (SQUIRES)

Center Force Literacy Project

Fathers as Teachers, Helping, Encouraging, Reading, Supporting (FATHERS)

Art in Corrections Toy Program

Communication Training

Breaking Barriers

Toast Masters

San Quentin Walk-a-Thon

Catholic Choir, director

Catholic Church services

Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Self Esteem Program

Self Esteem Enhancement Group

Katargeo (a substance abuse and life planning program)

Alcoholics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous

Working with Anger Seminar

Peer Education Basic Infectious Disease Certificate

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