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February 5, 2016

**By Electronic Mail**

Ashley Southall  
southaa@nytimes.com

Re: Correction to "Hearing Begins for Defendant in 'Serial' Case"

Dear Ms. Southall:

Thank you for speaking with me for your article, "Hearing Begins for Defendant in 'Serial' Case." I write to bring a clarification to your attention.

You correctly quote me as saying that "a judge would be hard pressed to say that this is a situation that does not call for a reopening" and that "[i]f there was a perception that the court didn't at least give these facts a clear hearing, it would undermine many people's trust in the Maryland court system." As those quotes indicate, I was addressing the November 2015 ruling that the circuit court already made in favor of Mr. Syed to reopen his post-conviction proceeding and to hold the hearing that is now ongoing.

The lead-in for those quotations, however, paraphrased me as saying that "it would be hard for a judge to deny Mr. Syed a *retrial* in light of the new evidence and public interest in the case generated by the podcast." I did not say that, and I was not forecasting future rulings in the case or expressing an opinion as to whether the judge should ultimately grant Mr. Syed a retrial.

The distinction between reopening a post-conviction proceeding and granting a retrial can be easily missed, and I do not begrudge your error. I do, however, request a correction.

Thank you,

/s/

Steven M. Klepper

SMK/smk