

Dear Judge Cohn,

I am a covert officer of the Central Intelligence Agency. Accordingly, I submit this letter to you under the pseudonym, CIA Officer 9.

I have known Nada Prouty and her family for more than half a decade. She has been a wonderful, stalwart friend and colleague, and am honored to write a letter to you on her behalf. Of course you are familiar with the case, and I imagine you have also seen the inflammatory, erroneous material leaked about her in the media. Here is what I know with certainty:

Some time ago, as a member of a despised religious minority, Nada escaped war torn Lebanon and made her way to America. She found here what so many of our own ancestors discovered- real freedom, opportunity, joy - and she did what many others have done: she figured out a way to stay, and then clawed her way up from the bottom of the pile and made something of herself. The naivete of the girl: she didn't even realize she was eligible for legitimate asylum here.

Nada became one of the hardworking, semi- invisible foreigners sometimes taken for granted - the ones who take the orders at the lunch counter, clean the houses, baby-sit the kids. In Nada's case, the cliché about opportunity is inaccurate: she didn't find opportunity, she made it for herself through dint of hard work and perseverance. Along the way she stumbled on the immigration procedure. Now that one early mistake has come back to haunt her and her family. They are a strong family, and this will not break them, but the consequences of that mistake have already been very severe.

What is extraordinary is what Nada did with this gift of American citizenship: instead of indulging herself in the lucrative private sector, she chose to give something back. First at the FBI (where she volunteered her "unorthodox" route to citizenship to coworkers and was told it wasn't an issue) , and then at CIA. Nada honed her professional skills and worked tirelessly to confront the most dangerous terrorist threats facing the country. She earned the respect and admiration of everyone who worked with her, and she paid back the country and the people that gave her a chance. Her record on this account speaks for itself, and I can attest to the motives behind her achievements: she was, and remains the kind of grateful new American who reminds us through her passion for the country how lucky we all are to be here, however we got here.

Please be fair.

CIA Officer 9