The Honorable Mary A. McLaughlin United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania U.S. Courthouse 601 Market Street, Room #13614 Philadelphia, PA 19106-1723

June 1, 2009

Dear Judge McLaughlin:

My name is Olga Martinello. I am a programmer and web designer living in Florida. Andrew is my cousin, but I always think of him as a brother and a friend. I have known him for 35 years. We grew up together. He is a big part of my life and I want to let you know how great a person Andrew is. When he shows up in a room either joking or talking about serious matters, the room brightens and people start smiling and get more comfortable. He is extremely thoughtful and very considerate. He likes to help people, sometimes extending a helpful hand or just with great advice.

Andrew is a little older than I am. When he just started college, I was finishing middle school. Despite him being busy with his own studies, he still took the time to help me with my homework when it got hard! He even helped our grandparents around the garden! How many young men or teenagers would take the time to do these things? Not a lot, but Andrew did.

I have always admired Andrew's abilities in math and science. I chose to become a programmer because of him. Seeing my older brother doing something incredibly fascinating made me want to be like him.

Andrew moved from Russia to the US and my family moved from Russia to Israel. For a couple of years, I didn't see him because of the circumstances. These were hard economic times for us. Andrew was supporting us with money and that help allowed me to study at Haifa University and helped me to get my education. I am very thankful for this!! It came when it was needed the most, making me stronger and more independent.

Andrew is a very hard working person. I have seen him many times leaving the house early in the morning and coming back late at night. He spends the entire day in the office and sometimes forgets to eat lunch.

Andrew's house always welcomes quests. Some friends come and spend a weekend, a holiday, or a few weeks at their house. Andrew and his wife Oksana always make sure that guests are comfortable and entertained. Everybody who knows Andrew feels the same about his personality - very warm and very welcoming, a person with a good sense of humor, getting along with lots of different people.

I welcome the opportunity to let you know what kind of person Andrew is. I thank God for the brother he gave me. I am crushed to hear that Andrew is facing the trouble he is facing and I ask you to please be lenient with him.

Respectfully,

Olga Martinello

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