

Character Reference Letters for Joe Lavin

This document contains a summary of most of the letters presented to Judge Lasnik on Joe Lavin's behalf for his sentencing on March 21, 2008. There is also a couple of personal letters or emails of support that are included. These are retyped or copied in to this document so there may be formatting changes and occasionally a grammatical change. In addition there are a few intentional omissions due to length or personal nature of information, these are indicated by several dots in a row (.....).

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My Request for Reference Letters (02/23/2008)

As you know, I have pled guilty to one count of wire fraud for a \$250,000 wire and one count of money laundering for a \$2,745 check and not to all of the nonsense that has been in the paper or online. At the time that I accepted the plea agreement it seemed like it was the best decision to make for my family, myself, my business associates and my clients. The decision was based on many different factors; some of the most significant being my available resources, the personal cost to my family and myself of a very long and complicated trial with U.S. Government and a gut wrenching cost/reward analysis between the best case and worst case scenarios.

The worst case scenario was so severe, and it was presented in a way that made it seem so possible, that it made the final plea agreement seem like the only sensible choice.

That being said, it seems that things have taken a tragic turn for the worse in my dealings with the government, especially in the last couple of weeks. I cannot discuss much about the process that I have been put through or the facts of the case until after I am sentenced. What I can say now is that the original plea agreement that took the better of 6 months to work out now looks to me like it may not have been made with the intent of it being kept.

The most serious violation of the agreement, in my opinion, is in the government departing from the agreed upon (in writing) maximum offense level; which has been increased by 300%. It is actually more than double of what the worst case scenario was presented to me as.

I am working through these details and what my options are in regard to them as the March 21st sentencing date gets closer and closer. If there are no options or I decide that I am still on the best path for my situation, then I will have to rely on the understanding and fairness of the judge in my case.

I am told that Judge Lasnik is one of the most fair and reasonable federal judges in Seattle. That he takes his time to review everything, including the letters and that he understands the complexities of business and investments. I am also told that he seriously considers the letters that are written on my behalf.

I am telling you all of this to help you understand how important your letter may be for me and my family and to urge you to write it and send it to my attorney as soon as possible. I know that it might seem like a daunting task, so I have attached some sample letters for you to see.

I am told that anything is better than nothing and that my attorney will only present the letters that he feels are best for me. I am also told that most people assume that everyone else will send a letter in, so they undervalue the importance of their letter. At this time, I urgently need more letters to present to the judge and I am hoping that you will send one in as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

As for Wendy, the girls and I...we are all doing well in spite of the challenges and uncertainty in our lives. We know that in the end our future is safely in God's hands and we believe that he is going to use this situation to richly bless our lives!

Thank you so much,

Joe Lavin

Rick Alton (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik:

Thank you for taking a moment to read this letter before you make your sentencing decision with regard to my friend, Joe Lavin.

I have known Joe and his wonderful family for 7-8 years. I met Joe initially in the business setting, but we quickly became friends, as did our daughters. Our families have vacationed together which gave me time to observe Joe as a father and I must say that I learned from him when it comes to patience, compassion, and always having a sense of humor in living. He even tried the impossible and endeavored to teach me to dance so I could have more fun with my wife and daughters! Not very successful I'm afraid, but very endearing.

In business, I found Joe to be a man I could rarely keep up with, but always trusted. He, like so many of us in business, has had his problems. But I always felt he faced those problems head on and did all he could to fulfill his commitments. He always displayed a composure and integrity that I admired.

This current situation he faces with having now plead guilty to Federal charges, is testing that composure I'm sure. Still, he seems prepared to face the consequences of the decisions he has made and actions he has taken. I have never heard one bitter or resentful word from him.

It is my hope that when you decide how it is that Joe should be held accountable for his actions, that you please consider the type of man he always sought to be, and most often truly was; caring and of benefit to others.

Joe has added much to the lives of many people, not the least of which are his children, and we all hope to have him back in our lives very soon.

Thank you again for your consideration in this life-altering matter.

Respectfully,

Rick Alton

Kelly Anissipour

Your Honor,

I have known Joe Lavin for approximately 7 years when he first approached me about attending my massage school. He has always impressed me with his integrity, dedication to his family and focus. However over the past 5 months he has amazed me beyond belief.

I know the legal problems he is having now must be immensely stressful, yet I have never seen someone so giving of himself. He always goes above and beyond giving the little free time he has to help fellow students with their learning. Moreover, every time I see Joe and ask him how he's doing his concern is always for his family and friends, never himself. He is extremely devoted to his faith and his family. I have never seen someone so serene and positive in a time of adversity.

I have seen for myself that Joe is an inspiration to his fellow classmates and definitely to myself. I pray that you will see that Joe gets a fair trial and that he will be allowed to remain with his family and friends and continue to be a positive influence to those that know him.

Kelly D. Anissipour, LMT
Director, Kirkland Campus
Northwest School of Massage

Todd Arrambide

Dear Judge Lasnik,

It has been proven that Joe Lavin is guilty of criminal acts. Knowingly or unknowingly he has stepped outside the bounds of the law and must pay a consequence you will determine. I look to you as someone that will uphold the law, you are one of the reasons that our legal system in America is as good as it is. In your capable hands many decisions are held, and ultimately our country is a better, stronger, richer place to live because of your contributions. For this reason I am humbly honored that you are reading this letter, and I thank you.

I am guessing that many of the letters you have read regarding Joe Lavin position him as a loving father, husband and a trusted loyal friend. I am also reasonably confident that those business associates that have pressed charges believe quite otherwise and want Joe to get whatever maximum sentence is allowable. One could even argue that a man who reaches too high in business cannot really be a great father, friend, husband or son, and that the letters you have been receiving are only futile attempts from a desperate man and the people around him.

I do not know much about how the law works at your level and what the true goal of the law is. I just know that should I not follow the law well, consequences may happen to me. If I speed, I may get a ticket, so I make an effort to speed less than I would like to. In the case of Joe Lavin, Joe has sped, and prison is the consequence. Just as at the street level, the officer has an ability to determine quickly the intent of the driver, and how much grace to give. I have been the recipient twice of full grace and release without consequence from officers that were sympathetic to me when I had broken the law. In reflecting personally I feel I have grown the most through grace and I break less laws as a result. If the goal of prison time is reform of the person, the real trick is how much time is enough for the offender to reach a place of authentic reform.

I have walked the path with Joe over the last year and believe that the agony and threat of jail time has produced in him some very valuable fruit. I believe I would even be able to argue that 98% of the work/reform in Joe Lavin is pending completion. I respectfully ask Judge Lasnik that you would carefully observe the 2% and what to do with it. Joe Lavin is my friend and I care about him and his family. It is my personal opinion that a longer sentence will not accomplish greater results in him, but lesser. I commit to you sir, that I will hold accountable Joe Lavin as he remakes a life unfamiliar to him and his family. I will hold Joe accountable as he heads towards simpler pastures. I will dissuade him from larger business opportunities that can cause like life challenges.

Thank you for all you do. It is your ruling and careful consideration that make this a great country to live in,

Sincerely,

Todd Arrambide

Kevin Bates

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Kevin Bates. I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin, who I understand has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing.

I've known Joe for about 12 years. We met when my brother introduced us at a social gathering. Since then Joe and his family have become dear friends and we have seen each other many times over the years. I live with my family in Meridian, Idaho, so we don't get to see him as much as we would like, but we do keep in touch.

Joe and his family have been more than friends to my brother, who they took into live with them when he had fallen on hard times and was out of work and needing a place to stay. Joe was there for him and helped him to get back on his feet. I am sad to say that my brother, Loren Bates, had been fighting bouts of depression and took his own life last January. Only called friends and family to let them know, Joe was one of the first people we called. Joe drove to Idaho to be at his funeral and was one of the people who stood up and gave a testimony to Loren during the service. Joe has always been willing to give of himself to help in any way he could and my family and I love him for that.

I know Joe to be a caring and compassionate person. He has Christian morals and values and he is an inspiration to those who know him. I had been when Joe and many private, personal, professional and social situations and he is never given me any reason to question his character in any way. I feel he is an honorable and trustworthy man and I am fortunate to be able to call him a friend.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bates

David Barrow

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I wanted to “put in a good word” for my friend Joe Lavin. I understand that Joe recently plead guilty to federal criminal charges and will soon be facing sentencing.

I have known Joe Lavin since 2003, having met him at Woodinville Alliance Church’s men’s group. I recently went through some difficult personal times and found Joe to be a very caring and compassionate friend during that period. Joe is a voracious reader, and has quite a broad set of interests that he studies. His appetite for learning, investigating, and debating has been a point of inspiration for me, inviting me to look closer at my beliefs, interests and passions. Joe introduced me to mixed martial arts competitions, a sport that Joe has been involved with for years. Joe’s warrior spirit is balanced perfectly with that of a loving husband, father and friend. In fact I would say that Joe has one of the most tender hearts I have known. He genuinely cares about the people in his life, and lets them know that.

Thank you for considering these characteristics as you weigh his sentencing.

Sincerely,

David Barrow

Jim and Jill Bemis

Dear Judge Lasnik:

We have had the pleasure of knowing Joe Lavin and his wife Wendy for over 10 years. During the years of our friendship Joe has always been a man of integrity and high moral character. His family and faith define who Joe is.

Joe is always put his family's well-being ahead of everything else. Lacking stability in his home as a child, Joe spent many of his early years bouncing from foster home to foster home. This lack of stability fostered an unyielding resolve in Joe, that has resulted in a deep conviction to both support and be available to his family at all times. In addition, Joe has a deep empathy and compassion for the less fortunate, especially children. His activities revolve around his family, and include his children whenever possible. At one point, when his daughter was enrolled in the Bremerton school district and living with Joe in Seattle, rather than transferred her to a new school District, Joe took the time each day to transport her back and forth to school. He preferred to take on the inconvenience of the commute, rather than put his daughter through the disruption of changing schools.

Joe is the glue that holds his family together. His grandfather lived in Wenatchee, Washington for many years before his passing in 2006. Joe visited him regularly through the years, and drew much comfort and wisdom from him. His mother currently relies on him for both moral and financial support. Her son, Joe, has provided her with the stability she was not able to find on our own.

Joe is deeply committed to his wife, four daughters, two grandsons, and Jacob, a son that Joe has adopted his heart, and is committed to mentor. It is our prayer that you give serious consideration to Joe's character, and the effect it will have upon his family, when determining Joe's sentencing.

Sincerely,

Dr's James and Jill Bemis

Amy Berry

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Amy Berry and I am writing to you in reference to my friend Joe Lavin. I understand that Joe recently pled guilty to fraud and money laundering offenses and is to be sentenced soon.

I have known Joe for 12 years. In that time, he has consistently impressed me as a man of faith who is devoted to his wife and daughters. After a difficult divorce, Joe had to work extremely hard to have access to his 3 daughters. Joe showed time and time again that he would do everything in his power to maintain his relationship with the girls, and he worked tirelessly toward that goal. He and his wife, Wendy, created a warm, accepting home for his girls.

Joe has also been a father to Jacob, the son of his ex-wife. While he is not Joe's biological child, you would never know that when you see them interact. Few men would have accepted and loved Jacob as Joe has. It would have been easy for another man to go to his ex-wife's house, pick up his own children for a weekend outing, and leave Jacob behind. Not Joe. He has always included, accepted, and loved Jacob.

Joe and Wendy had a daughter, Madison, in 2001. In another family, this birth could have been the trigger for jealous fights over Dad's time and attention. Instead, Joe's older daughters accepted and loved Madison beautifully. To be honest, I was surprised at first. But when I reflected on it, I realized that the older girls' actions were a direct result of the model that Joe and Wendy had shown them over the years. Few blended families work as well as Joe Lavin's family.

Because of all this history, when I think of Joe, the first thing that comes to mind is what a strong father he is for so many young people. I ask that when you sentence him, you take him away from his family for the least time you can. Please also consider his location during incarceration; the closer to his family, the better for all the young people who look to him for stability and love.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Meredith Berry

Jeff Bert

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am a friend of Joe Lavin who is under your jurisdiction and would like to write to you on his behalf. I have known Joe for almost two years. I met him through my church's Men's Group which facilitates men in growing in their faith in God and obedience to the lifestyle that Jesus Christ demonstrated. I understand that he has pled guilty to criminal charges and that you will oversee his sentencing. So I wanted to let you know about my experience with Joe.

In the time that I've known Joe I have always seen him to be a very forthright person in approaching difficult subjects for men to discuss and address in their lives and to be willing to describe his own failures and his willingness and desire to change. I believe that he has demonstrated actual change in many areas. He has challenged and encouraged some couples in our church, including my wife and I, by suggesting that we read the book "Money, Possessions and Eternity". He has only been a positive and challenging influence in my interactions with him.

In the last year I've seen in Joe, the man who was extremely proud, become so much more humble that I have been surprised to see the change. I hope that you will see that the last year has been severely difficult for him and that it has already effected the change in which our penal system desires to create. I ask that you will be lenient on Joe's behalf in his sentencing and for the sake of his family.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bert

Timothy Blaisdell

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I understand Joe Lavin has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and now faces sentencing. I would like to put a good word in for Joe, since he's been a great friend and inspiration to me over the last few years.

I met Joe at the Woodinville Alliance Church men's group. Joe is a thoughtful, intelligent man, and when I met him I felt right away I'd found a kindred spirit. We've had many conversations together about life, faith, fatherhood, and many other topics. He and I play racquetball together regularly. I've spent time with his family on several occasions and the depth of his care for them has been an inspiration to me. Also, I've been impressed with the love and commitment his wife has for him.

I am not very knowledgeable in matters of law, but it just seems wrong to me that a good man of character and determination like Joe Lavin should be incarcerated. As I see it, he's the kind of person that makes America great – a strong family man, a passionate leader, a good friend and someone you can call on any time (and I do mean *any* time) you need a shoulder to lean on.

This winter when my car spun into the ditch at 5:30am, Joe Lavin was the one who came to pull me out. When we lost power for more than a week at our house in the big wind storm last year, Joe Lavin offered me his generator. More than these physical things, Joe has been a friend I can talk to and confide in. I wish I could do something now to help him in his time of need. That's why I'm writing this letter.

I hope you will consider these things when his sentencing comes up. I don't know what your options are. I just ask that you please not deprive Joe's wife and young daughter of such a great husband and father, and me of a good friend, for any longer than is absolutely necessary. None at all would be good.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further service on Joe's behalf. My contact information is listed below.

Thank you,

Timothy Blaisdell

Paul Campbell

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I have known Joe Lavin for several years. I have had the privilege of meeting with him every Tuesday morning for several years at Woodinville Alliance Church. Joe has a generous heart. Joe cares about people with a deep passion to see them cared for emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Joe has loaned cars to people in need. He has been there to help with projects that serve the needy people of our community, such as helping roof a single mothers home.

I am absolutely certain that if you give Joe an opportunity to serve his sentence in such a way as to help others that our community will be justly compensated.

Thank you Judge Lasnik for your just consideration of Joe's future.

Sincerely,

Paul Campbell

Ritchie Campbell

Dear Your Honor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin—a friend of mine for many years.

Joe and I became first acquainted almost 20 years ago at the University of Washington—where I was a professor in the Business School. Even in those early days, Joe was a leader of his undergraduate class—looked up to by his classmates—and voted into leadership.

It was easy to see that Joe’s warm humor, intellectualism, helpfulness and dedication were going to prepare him well for a career in accounting and finance.

Joe stood out to me for another reason too: Even as a student at the U, in a place that was not overly warm towards people who talked about God, Joe organized Bible Studies and talked to his classmates about their faith.

Over the years I have maintained periodic contact with Joe, having attended his marriage, and seen him promoted to Chief Financial Officer of a business endeavor.

As Joe was one of my most promising students, with a heart that wanted to follow a higher calling, I was deeply saddened to recently hear that Joe pleaded guilty to investor fraud.

In my view, there must have been many circumstances—maybe first just a small mistake, that got bigger and bigger—to bring Joe to this ending of a brilliant career.

I do not have the facts in this case, but I do have the memories of a very bright, cheerful undergraduate who would help anyone in any way he could.

It is my belief that, having made a mistake, and which looks like a very large mistake, that, after Joe is made to pay for that lapse of judgment, he will voluntarily spend the rest of his life trying to give back to Society and his family all that he can to rectify the poor decisions he made in this case.

In the meantime, I will stand with my friend in prayer and with faith in his character. I believe he will emerge stronger in character and in truth, and that good will come out this bad.

Thank you, Your Honor, for the opportunity to write this note to you.

Very truly yours,

Ritchie Campbell, PhD

Aaron Cato

Dear Judge Lasnik

My name is Aaron Cato. I am a father of two girls (2 and 5 yrs) and a husband of 9 years. I have been a Product Director at ATT Mobility for over 13 years, a committee member and volunteer with youth in the ministry of Young Life for over 10 years, and a member of Woodinville Alliance Church's "Men's Group" for 3 years including my current role on the leadership team.

I spend a lot of time working closely with people in which I have a unique opportunity to make judgments of character. I have known Joe for 2 years, serving with him as a leader at our church. I have had the chance to see him caring for others by regularly opening his home to share meals, play games, and enjoy family time together. Joe has personally invested his time in the helping to support a skate ministry designed to provide support to kids who are on the fringe. He has spent hours helping set up and take down skate ramps, buying pizza's and just hanging out with those who usually get the least of our attention. I have also enjoyed the time and energy I have seen Joe invest in supporting and encouraging other men in their faith. He has been indispensable with helping on the logistics and speaking responsibilities that come with being in leadership. I am thankful personally for the honesty he brings to those around him.

Joe has been quite open with others about the federal charges he has plead guilty to. This is perhaps the quality which most assures me that Joe believes in taking responsibility, being accountable and overcoming the challenges that life often presents us.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Cato

Andrew Chavez

Dear Judge Lasnik, I was introduced to Joe Lavin over 10 years ago and he quickly became a personal mentor for me. Joe has given me significant personal, spiritual and relationship advice all of which has made me a better life partner and father. I have been in a relationship for 11 years and the woman I love has 2 children I have asked him advice because we both share a fatherly role and he really loves kids as I do.

Over the years I have benefited from numerous phone calls asking advice about family values and he has been one of the biggest reasons that I have such a strong bond with the kids in my life he has shown me how to embrace all children as my own. He has spent the night in my home numerous times traveling through Arizona and he has always had an open invitation because my children adore him and miss him. To this day we can't have a conversation without talking about our families.

Another note on Joe's character, several years ago Joe invited me to come to Idaho and work with him on a 3-day charity project that he organized. All in all, Joe brought together over 30 people to completely rehabilitate a run-down convalescent home. As usual, Joe was doing more work than anyone else that was there. I could see his passion for working with communities and helping out those less fortunate. One of the things that impressed me most about the group of people that Joe brought together to donate their time and resources was their diversity. The majority of people that I talked to were local business people that did not ordinarily do "this sort of thing". I know that Joe did several other charitable projects in the next year or so, one of the things that Joe said to me about this was that he believed that if people could experience how good it felt to help other people enough times that they would adopt it into their lifestyle.

I could spend hours writing about all the things I've been a witness to over the years that show good character, but I fear that may be a bit redundant to you at this point. So I would like to offer some ideas instead.

I do not know what types of sentences you are allowed to hand down, but I do know that Joe Lavin has done more than enough extraordinarily good things in his lifetime to deserve a chance to redeem himself from these mistakes in a way that would help others and allow him to be as close to his family as possible.

Joe is an excellent speaker and audiences respond very well to him. Why not have Joe go to all of the top business colleges around the country and talk to the soon to be professionals about how he started right where they are, went to a big accounting firm and then on to private industry and other pursuits; and then ended up here. Have him tell them how easy it is to make judgment calls that are not only wrong, but could even be criminal. Then allow him to go home on weekends, or something like that.

I hope that is not to naïve of a suggestion or that it least opens your mind to something that else that you feel may be a better option. It is just that I know Joe pretty well and I do not think that prison is going to make him a better person or more sorry about what he has done than he already is.

Also, I know that as long as Joe is able to he is going to be fighting for his clients money to get returned to them. In talking to him lately I know that he is still spending a lot of time trying to get the related investments to pay off. If he goes to prison for too long or before he has done everything possible to get his clients money back I think that everyone involved is worse off than if Joes punishment allowed him to still fight for his clients until there is absolutely nothing left to fight for.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and the many others that you have undoubtedly received.

Sincerely,

Andrew Chavez

Heather Cramer

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Heather Cramer and I have known Joe Lavin for almost 4 years. I met Joe through my husband's Tuesday morning men's Bible study at Woodinville Alliance Church. We also met together weekly in a small group bible study with both Joe and his wife Wendy for a year. Joe's daughter Maddy and our 6 year old daughter often have playdates. We have gotten to know Joe over the last 4 years and have become close family friends. I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I would like to offer a brief glimpse into Joe Lavin's life.

Joe is friendly and outgoing. He is quick to laugh, even at himself. He maintains a positive attitude through very trying circumstances. He demonstrates great love for his family and friends. He has a giving heart, has overcome a tumultuous past and has forgiven people who have wronged him terribly. Joe is intelligent, studious and a gifted communicator. I truly admire Joe.

It often comes across in conversations I have with people how frequently Joe lends help. Recently a mutual friend of ours was stranded with a flat tire and her husband was traveling. She called Joe for help. Joe has a nephew who is fatherless and he not so long ago had him over for his birthday and arranged for a professional skateboarder to stop over and say hello. This made this kid's year, Joe loves on people in big ways. He and Wendy frequently open their home to having piles of kids and chaos over with Joe always the first to jump up and dig out the next 'kid entertainment.' My kids love going to Joe's.

I wholeheartedly believe that Joe is a good person. Steeped in a desire to do what is right. It saddens my heart to think of what may lie in front of Joe and his family. Although I have a very limited understanding of the entire case set before you, I do not believe Joe to be deserving of jail time. I most earnestly request that the maximum amount of grace available be extended to Joe at this time.

Joe's home and everything he has he freely gives to others to enjoy without any desire for compensation or repayment. Joe is always willing to help anyone out – regardless of his or her situation or what it means to him in the way of personal sacrifice. There are only a few people in my life that I know would drop anything they are doing and come to my or my family's aid and Joe Lavin is one of those people.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Heather Cramer

Kevin Cramer

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Kevin Cramer and I have known Joe Lavin for almost 4 years. I met Joe at a Tuesday morning men's Bible study at Woodinville Alliance Church. Over the last 4 years Joe and I have become close friends. I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I would like this letter to offer a brief glimpse into the life of Joe Lavin that I am a part of – a part that I think demonstrates some of his character traits.

When I am around Joe, he has a positive attitude, demonstrates true love and has a giving heart. I first heard Joe tell his life story at a men's retreat and upon hearing it I burst into tears. I could not imagine a childhood comprised of multiple foster families and living on the streets. The life Joe had when he was young scares me yet I never hear him complain about it. When I am around him, he never uses his upbringing as a crutch. I truly admire this about Joe.

When it comes to the demonstration of love, I look at the relationship Joe has with his mother, wife and four lovely daughters. He loves them with everything he has and since this type of love was never modeled for him growing up, one has to wonder where he learned how to love. There have been a lot of things in Joe's life concerning his daughters and I never hear him speak negatively toward anyone involved in those situations. I think about this a lot as I start to speak ill will toward or about someone that has wronged me and in that sense, I try to model my words and actions after Joe's.

Joe's home and everything he has he freely gives to others to enjoy without any desire for compensation or repayment. Joe is always willing to help anyone out – regardless of his or her situation or what it means to him in the way of personal sacrifice. There are only a few people in my life that I know would drop anything they are doing and come to my or my family's aid and Joe Lavin is one of those people.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cramer

Jim Dawson

Dear Judge Lasnik

I have known Joe Lavin for over 15 years and over those years my family and I have seen on a regular basis many acts of kindness to those in need. My statement has always been "Joe would give the shirt off of his back even if it were not to his best interest as to help one in need".

I am aware of the Guilty Plea and I am amazed by it. I can not begin to understand the legalities of what has been implied with Joe, these are way over my head. I do sense that Joe is doing everything that he can to correct what he has done and to protect the people who have been hurt by his actions. I work the grave yard shift and have many conversations with Joe after midnight when he is up working on trying to finish real estate projects that I believe are at the core of his problems. Knowing how good of a man Joe is, I have had the utmost admiration for who he is and all that he has done for his community and even under all odds he is still trying to make his clients whole even though it does not seem like that will have any bearing on his ultimate sentence.

I know you are going to get a lot of letters in reference to Joe Lavin's exceptional character, his positive influence in people's lives, his extravagant love for his family and his passionate dedication to his business endeavors among many other things. I hope that when you read these statements you can get a feeling for how unusually gifted and selfless Joe really is.

I was talking with my family and a couple of friends that Joe and I have in common about writing this letter. We were talking about all of the things we think make Joe such a great person and we realized that the only difference in regards to this conversation about Joe and the ones we usually have, is that we were trying to put the thoughts that always come to mind when thinking or talking about Joe on paper for you.

When you talk about Joe, you talk about this incredibly wonderful guy and what he did yesterday to amaze you. It is impossible to fit Joe on a piece of paper, but I have been asked to try. So here are some concrete things about Joe that I know are true because they are all situations I have seen Joe in. Most of them, many times over.

Joe is the guy who puts his faith and family first. Joe is the toughest guy that I know and the least likely to ever get into an altercation. He is a very respected business person and an equally respected humanitarian. He is extremely intelligent and analytical and yet writes some of the most beautiful poetry I have ever read (granted I do not read much poetry). A lot of his writings are on his website www.joe-lavin.com.

Joe is the guy that other guys go to when they are having trouble with their marriage. Joe is the guy that you call when your teenager seems to be out of control and you desperately need someone who can relate with them. Joe is the guy you call when you need a jump, a tow, a ride to the airport, some money, some advice or just some good old fashioned company.

Joe is even the guy that you call when you are about to commit suicide and be that person you know will help you find a reason to hold on to your life (sadly, Joe even moved this friend of ours into his house just before all of his legal problems started, got him medical help and tried to get him back on track. Which really seemed to work....for a while. So then Joe was the first guy that Loren's family called when they found him. He was the guy

that organized the obituary, gathered the pictures, made the memorial video, wrote the poem and drove his entire family to Idaho to speak at Loren's funeral and share with all that attended how much he loved Loren. I know that Joe on many accounts have saved me from moments like this through his strong positive values and views on life and his beliefs in God.

Joe is the guy that call's you when you have been a little distant and asks you how things are going. He is the guy that mails you a card every so often or a clipping from a magazine that he thinks you will find interesting. He is the guy that your teenage son calls to tell him about some accomplishment or girlfriend, etc. and Joe is the guy that listens. He always is genuinely excited about the things that are going on in his friends and families life's.

Joe is also the guy that loves to talk about God, but you still really enjoy having around. He is the guy that makes God seem interesting, relevant and compassionate. Which I find very intriguing since I am not a praying man nor do I normally think that God has even the slightest interest on what mankind does to or for one another.

Now that Joe is in this tremendous trouble and I can not do anything to help the man that has helped me so many times over the last 15 years I am finding myself spending a lot of hours doing something that I do not normally do or really even understand, "Praying".

I honestly do not know much about Joe's problems, I drive semi trucks for a local freight company and work on cars. Pretty simple stuff. But I do know that I love Joe Lavin, which is an awkward thing for me to say. I know that my son and wife love Joe Lavin. I know a lot of people who love Joe Lavin and are not afraid to express it, often. I see my friend dealing with failure in his life, the shame of his situation, the pain of a year filled with several family deaths, the suicide of his closest friend, his sister's cancer and I realize why I love him so much. There are not many true Hero's in this world anymore and Joe Lavin has been an inspiration and a Hero to me and my family and to all that I know that have known him. He has what I believe has done at worst, would be a misunderstood or miss advised action but in no way do I and even you if you had time to get to know him has done anything to harm anyone.

He is the guy smiling through his tears, still helping others and trying to organize get togethers, he is the guy calming others down when we get upset over how tragic and unfair we think his situation is, he is the guy that believes that all of this will make his marriage stronger and his relationship with his children more profound and his life somehow better. To me, that is amazing.

Sincerely,

Jim Dawson

Lisa Dawson

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing as a witness regarding character of Joe Lavin. My husband and I have known Joe and his family for 15 plus years. During that time Joe has been a very good friend to our family and has always been the type of friend that you could always count on for good Christian advice and always ready to lend a hand if you needed anything. My husband and I unfortunately went through a very rocky time in our marriage and were temporarily separated. Joe has always been very close with my husband was a very good source of strength for my husband and a very compassionate listening ear. Joe gave him very good council in changes he could make to mend our broken relationship. Joe and I had the opportunity to have a conversation which in my opinion gave me the insight I was missing to understand how our separation was effecting my husband and how much he wanted to mend our marriage. Joe may not even realize this but that conversation with him was the turning point in our marriage being healed. It is now 10 years later and Joe is still a great friend to us and our marriage is better that it ever has been in 21 years.

Joe probably does not realize how important he is to so many of his friends. He is the type of person who just simply cares very much for people without asking what's in it for him. I have had friends who you wonder if they are only friends with you because there is something in it for them first. Joe is the exact opposite if this. He is the first person to ask how you are doing, if there is something he can see that you need help with he offers help without you asking. He gives his friendship freely with love and compassion and does not ask for anything in return. With my experiences with Joe, I honestly feel that the most important thing to Joe is the happiness of others first and himself last.

Joe has been a very good friend to my son who is now almost 21 years old. Joe has always made him feel as if he was important with anything that he shared with Joe. Joe has always been a "second father figure" to him as far as men to look up to and pattern yourself after. He has talked to Joe many times regarding career choices and life planning. At this time my son is in college to become a Dentist.

In summary, it has been a rare privilege to know Joe Lavin. He has always been one of our choicest friends who I am quite sure will remain a very close friend of our family for the rest of our lives. We respect and appreciate his strong Christian beliefs and his incredible example of husband and father. He is the center of the strength of his family. He has taught my husband and I so much about love and commitment, we could never replay him for what he has done for us.

I hope you take these words and understand how important Joe is to his family and friends. Please be understanding and give leniency with his situation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dawson

Damon Delapp

Dear Judge Lasnik,

It is with great honor, admiration, and respect that I write to you concerning Joe Lavin. I have been a close friend of Joe for the past 11 years. I have seen him in many different situations and environments and am always honored to call him my friend. I met Joe and his wife Wendy in a Newly Married Bible Study group at a church we both attended. With Joe's personable character, our families quickly became friends and we have been friends ever since. Over the past 11 years I have witnessed Joe's growth as a man of God, a loving husband, and a dedicated father.

The intent of my letter is to hopefully convey to you the quality of a person that Joe demonstrates to all of those he comes in contact with; whether family, friend or business associate. As his friend I have benefited and enjoyed having Joe and his family in my life. We have children similar in age and when our families visit, Joe always treats my children very special even so much as if they were his own. When we depart from our visit, my kids always comment "when will we get to see Joe and his family again?"

I have not met many people as intense on building quality relationships as Joe. He cares deeply about the welfare of others and is willing to support them in their needs. I am a Young Life leader at the high school where I teach, which allows me to spend considerable time with teenagers. There have been multiple times that I have asked Joe for some help with events and activities that I am doing with the youth in my community. He has always been supportive. He goes out of his way to help, even loaning any of his personal possessions for the benefit of others. He cares little of the possessions and wants to focus only on betterment of others. Joe is a man that I can always count on, no matter the cost to himself, he will do whatever he can to help.

The death of his grandfather just over a year ago has had a profound impact on his life. Joe is a deeply spiritual man with a love for Jesus Christ. His focus on truth and seeking that truth is unshakable. The passing of his grandfather gave Joe a glimpse into the fragileness of life. He is an encouragement to me by allowing me to learn from all that he gains from studying the bible and countless other books. He has a desire to have all those that he comes in contact with, to have a hope for a future.

Joe is a man of intense honor. As a specific example, several years ago Joe offered a business investment opportunity to me and my family. After consideration we decided to invest some monies with him. When all was said and done I believe that Joe took some personal loss to make sure that our families investment was repaid in full. This situation speaks a lot to Joe's character. He cares very much about the people around him. His self sacrifice for others continues to amaze me. He honors all of his commitments in all areas of life to the absolute best of his ability with a positive attitude.

I could talk at length of Joe's commitment to family, friends, and associates, however, I feel it is important to look at the attitude he maintains even in the midst of tragic unbelievable situations. I understand Joe has pled guilty to the federal charges that have been brought up against him. While I am sure that on some levels Joe is nervous and worried, those worries are not about himself. Rather, he is worried about his wife, who counts on him for support on levels that only a husband and wife can share, a 6 year old daughter who adores him, and his older daughters, one who graduates from high school this year. This is not to mention the extended network of family and friends that look to Joe as a role model

and support structure. Through all of this Joe has maintained his optimistic attitude knowing that there is a plan and a reason for everything that is happening.

As a father of two, and a person who share the same biblical views on family and marriage, I cannot imagine the lasting damage that will be incurred in the coming years if Joe's is sentenced for a long term and to a place that is far from Washington. Therefore Judge Lasnik, I plead with you on behalf of my good friend Joe Lavin. Please take into consideration Joe's quality of character that I have tried to convey to you and his dedication to his family, friends, and church. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Damon DeLapp

Pam Dillman

Dear Judge Lasnik,

Thank you for your time. I understand my good friend, Joe Lavin, has pled guilty to federal charges. Although I don't know all about this, I do know Joe.

Joe and I have been personal friends and business partners off and on for over 10 years. I know he and his family personally. During the times I work for Joe, I never once questioned his integrity or desire to lead and help others. He has always been honest and of good character.

I knew Joe was truly a friend and not just a business partner when he was in my home city several years ago on business and postpone his return flight to stay and support me due to a crisis I was in the middle of. Not too big of a sacrifice you might think. However, Joe was scheduled to speak at a conference in front of about 300 people. He found someone to cover for him and stayed to help in my time of need. That is just one example. I have witnessed Joe helped many other people not just on a business level but on a personal one as well.

Joe is someone many people look up to as a husband and father as well. When his oldest three girls were little and with their mother, (Joe's first wife) I witnessed Joe on several occasions fighting to see them and be there for them. He is still to this day a great dad. I just can't imagine the impact his absence will have on Wendy, his wife, and is youngest daughter, Madison.

I know I could go on and on about Joe's character but I'm sure you will read about that over and over in other letters. So I will just ask; please take all that you read into consideration when sentencing Joe. I know he has so much to offer and will have learned from all this.

Sincerely,

Pam Dillman

Kara Driskell (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

As an investor, and as a friend of Joe Lavin, I am choosing to write this letter on Joe's behalf as support in my belief in him as an honest man. I am well aware that Joe Lavin is in deep trouble and has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I am also well aware I cannot put the blame of my decision of where and how I invested my money on Joe. He had always been clear about the risks involved, and I was clear as well.

In my heart, I believe Joe got caught up in a situation he didn't have the experience to deal with effectively. He should have zigged when he zagged; and like any other human being made some decisions and poor judgment calls in his scramble to keep it 'together'. I say this because I have lived enough life to know it happens, has happened to me, and sometimes we make foolish decisions and do foolish things.

I met Joe for the first time as a potential investor in 2004. I sat and talked for several hours in his home. I liked his enthusiasm, his honesty, his obvious love for the family around him. I was impressed, and still am impressed by the man I met that day. I do not believe for one moment he has a malicious bone in his body. I've read his poetry, his thoughts, and have been to visit him in his home on a couple of occasions. Yes, even after I knew the money I had invested was gone, I chose to remain friends with Joe.

He could have left the United States. He didn't. He stayed. He faced the results of his decisions. He has expressed genuine grief for the loss of his investor's funds. I find that extremely brave and honest. I admire that. That is who I believe Joe Lavin to be. Judge Lasnik, I am asking you take that information deeply into your thoughts as you decide how to sentence Joe.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of my thoughts in support of Joe Lavin.

Sincerely,

Kara Driskell

Christine and Dan Druckhammer

Dear Judge Lasnik,

We are writing on behalf of Joe Lavin, and understand he has played guilty to federal crime charges and now faces sentencing.

We first met Joe eight years ago, as the husband of a very close friend of ours. He struck us as a compassionate person as well as a caring husband and father. He has always talked with pride, regarding his wife and children, clearly making them first priority. We have enjoyed our friendship and family times together as well as sharing play dates with his youngest daughter. He is the center of his family, providing and supporting all of their needs. He talks with his older girls daily; they rely on him for his friendship as well as his advice. He has worked from home in order to be a more involved father to his youngest daughter. She adores him and relies on his presence to share in her daily routines.

When you know Joe, his character speaks for itself. His faith shines each day as he sets out to be the best husband and father he can be. He strives to help his friends (and sometimes strangers) in any way he can. We know he has helped folks in emotional crisis, lent his car, offered financial help, opened his home to friends in need of a safe, caring Place, provided meals and selflessly served his church and his community. It is seldom we have met such a generous, moral person who is integral in so many different people's lives.

Joe has already taken steps toward distancing himself from business transactions. It has been painfully clear how shocked and remorseful he has been over the financial losses this situation has caused. The fact that Joe is in school to establish a new career as a massage therapist, demonstrates his eagerness to move forward and to help people in a new way.

Now, he continues his faithful dedication to his family, awaiting his sentencing. We hope this letter, and all letters, have been helpful in establishing a genuine image of Joe's character, and how important is that he stay close to his family.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christine and Dan Druckhammer

Steve Ehlert

Dear Judge Lasnik

I am writing you this letter in regards to the federal case you are overseeing with defendant being Joe Lavin. I understand you will be determining the appropriate sentence for Joe in this case. I was hoping to spend the next couple of minutes sharing my experience and understanding of Joe as a person and a Businessman.

My name is Stephen James Ehlert. Joe Lavin and I went to high school together in Port Orchard Washington. I was really drawn to Joe as a friend about 10 years after school when we were in competing networking companies (early 1990's). Joe and I got together and shared our business opportunities with each other. We did not persuade each other that day, but I left that meeting with a rare feeling that this was a man like myself. I discerned a man with integrity, honesty and vision. Although Joe and I only talk on the phone from time to time, He has always treated me as a friend, He has invited me to family and friend events over the years and I have attended a few of them, at these events I discovered that his other friends also seemed to be honest and trustworthy and many of them had strong faith in God the same as Joe and I, I even took a reference from a stranger I met at his house. This reference led me to a survey company that I now trust and will use in the future.

I have had a vision to start a company in the future and have always hoped that Joe would be a large part of it. Even now that I am aware of his guilty plea my opinion about Joes Character remains strong. I have seen enough evidence about his character over the years to have high hopes for Joe,

Your Honor, I only know about 5 people in my whole life that I would emphatically trust to have as a future business partner. Joe Lavin, Richard Cooke, Murat Tastimeir, Carl Grudsic and my kids youth pastor Devin Leath and Joe Lavin is at the top of the list.

If you would like to question me about this letter or anything else that may help
Feel free to call me at (360) 471-5437

Respectfully,

Stephen J Ehlert

Jay Engelbrecht

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am Jay Engelbrecht and I am writing to you on behalf of Joe Lavin. I have been a resident of Washington State all of my life. My wife, Teri, and I make our home in Woodinville, WA. We have raised two sons, 20 and 23, and have a 15-year-old daughter. I have been in the commercial/industrial insulation and refractory industry for about 30-years. About 16-months ago, I purchased a small industrial insulation products company that has been in business for almost 35-years.

It is my understanding that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges, and that you are responsible for his sentencing. In light of this, I offer my personal account of Joe for your consideration. What I state herein is the truth. My prayers are with you and with Joe as I write this letter.

I have had the sincere pleasure of knowing Joe for over three years. I associate with Joe mainly through "Ironmen", a weekly men's Christian ministry of Woodinville Alliance Church targeted at strengthening character and teaching men how to apply Biblical principles to our day-to-day life. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.(Proverbs 27:17) Joe and I are part of the same small group in the ministry.

This ministry also involves several retreats involving the peeling back of the layers of our soul, serving to heal the effect of past pains and struggles, and to strengthen our inner character. Joe and I have both participated in these retreats, and in sharing his life stories, Joe has been honest and open about his past and the many struggles he has experienced, especially when he was a youth. In peeling back the layers that define Joe Lavin, what you will find is a man who has a clear passion for following Christ as His Lord and Savior, and a man who possesses an overwhelming love for his family and friends.

I do not know all of the intricate details surrounding Joe's plea, but I do know that, simply put, Joe is a man of integrity and outstanding character. I know that Joe tried as best as any man can to make things right with his business. However, when faced with having to make certain decisions that involved considerable compromise, he has done so in order to best provide for and to protect his family in his situation. If Joe is guilty of the crimes he is charged with, I do not believe it is in his capacity to have done so on purpose. It is against his character.

Joe is truly an inspiration. He is deeply devoted to his wife, Wendy, and to his daughter, Madison. He has an abundance of friends and family that love him deeply. He is a teacher of good morals and values. He is a scholar of the Bible and undaunting in his search for understanding the truth about God, and then sharing his knowledge with others. He is an honorable man.

Your Honor, God has placed the fate of one of His very special disciples in your hands. My prayers are with you as your decisions about Joe's future are made.

Thank you for allowing me to share just a glimpse of Joe Lavin from my vantage point.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Engelbrecht

Marilyn Evans

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I feel compelled to write a letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. I understand that he has pled guilty to criminal charges that have been brought against him. I am hopeful that he will receive a lenient sentence.

Although I met Joe only recently, November 2006, I feel as if I've known him much longer. Joe and I are students together at Northwest School of Massage. Throughout our time spent in classes I have observed Joe to have a loving and kind personality. He is very generous with his time, knowledge, and encouragement. He frequently offers to host groups for study in his home and extends invitations to our group to come to his home for family nights. He is very devoted to God, his wife, kids, and friends. I hope he will be able to be near all these people after sentencing.

I can only guess this unfortunate situation he is experiencing now is a result of a momentary poor decision. I, for one, am certain that Joe Lavin does not have a criminal mind or personality.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support for my friend Joe.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Evans

Executive Assistant

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I'm writing on behalf of Joe Lavin, who I now understand has pled guilty to some criminal charges related to wire fraud and/or money laundering. Let me first say that, of course, I disapprove of the abuse of people's money and their trust, and I rely on our justice system to rectify such actions. I am not writing to excuse Joe's actions or make light of the charges, but I am writing to testify to his character as a close friend. My relationship to Joe is that I work for him as an Executive Assistant for just over 2 years. It is awkward for me to say that when you can easily see that my dates of employment blatantly overlap with the dates of Joe's questionable business practices, but allow me to explain the situation.

In just over two years and learn more about Joe than I would have ever thought possible. I know every detail of his childhood (I worked side by side when his mother Rebecca), his run-ins with depression as a young adult, even

I know when he first joined the church, how he made his first dollar, and where he sees himself in 20 years. He shared with me his personal diaries, at least 50 different poems he'd written (I still have them), and put me up in his house when the terrible windstorm last year shut off my power for over a week. He introduced into his friends, his Men's group (through the church), and made me a part of his daughters' lives, which he protects fiercely. This is a thoughtful, unique man whose personality is at least as complicated as his business relationships. For this reason, I was unable to detect any activities during my time with him that were illegal. I realize that on one hand this may mean that he lied to me as well, but I have no way to know that for sure, and that is some I would have to deal with internally.

Joe is an entrepreneur and family man with several business ventures and the strongest drive to succeed I've ever seen in a person (save my own father, of whom Joe reminded me very much.) His first and most important goal in life was to provide the great life for his wife and daughters that he was not afforded as a child. He is open, supportive and sensitive, and always available to his youngest daughter Madison while working at home. When I need is on to talk to, Joe was there. A friend of mine committed suicide in July of 2006 and Joe was there. A friend of Joe's committed suicide later that same year, and I was there for him. He helped a close friend how was struggling with alcoholism, loaned money to people that were in need without any questions, and made a promise to children that they ever gotten a bad situation, even if it was their own fault, they could call him without fear of punishment and he would rescue them day or night. These are the things that good people do for their family and friends. It is clear to me that the separation between Joe's personal life and his business life couldn't be more grand. How else could he be such an outstanding friend and father and still go down this unfortunate path with some of his clients? It seems to happen all the time, and finally I understand how; you don't mean for it to happen.

I work for Joe when a significant portion of his investments went sour after the underwriters for some of his largest real estate developments were downgraded in the market. I knew this was a big problem, and I witnessed Joe's personality take a sharp turn because it made the fatal mistake of convincing friends and even family members to invest in these projects that he truly believed would be financially beneficial. When things are going well it's hard not to try to share success with those you love. A man will sometimes do anything necessary to

spare his family from suffering, and a man with such great pride is Joe find it especially difficult to admit to failure of any kind. I still understand, however, that this was Joe's responsibility as the manager of these funds and he failed to fulfill his duties to his clients. It makes me sad to see such a good person crumble under the pressures of his own aspirations.

My request to you is that you see Joe as a person whose family and friends depend on him for love and support, and not just as another selfish stick figure whose greed got the best of him. Joe's wife and daughters are amazing people who will stick by him while he repairs the damage he has done, and his youngest daughter is now old enough to really suffer from his absence. If anyone can learn from an experience like this and change his ways, I believe that Joe can. I also believe from a purely logical standpoint that Joe is much more valuable to society working and repay his debt than he is behind bars. He is a smart, passionate and capable worker who with her away if not put to good use. I know this and I admire him for it.

.....Hopefully your decision at his trial will reflect the sentiments of people like me who know Joe personally. I really respect a difficult job you have applying justice on a case-by-case basis by this... I'm not sure I could do it myself.

Most sincerely,

Executive Assistant

Sandee and Mark Farley (Clients)

Mr. Michael Martin,

Ms Maggie Land contacted me with a victims rights statement to complete. I replied to her email, and told her that Mark, my husband, had invested his IRA with Joe when he retired in 2001. In 2002, he was diagnosed with Huntington's Chorea, and I subsequently began talking to Joe in 2003. Mark always had the utmost confidence in Joe and had me listen to his conference calls a few times.

We met Joe at his office in 2003, and I could see why Mark liked him. I subsequently rolled our Roth Iras over to Joe. We still believe in Joe. I sincerely hope the court will be lenient with him so that he can and I believe will make restitution to all of us. If he is incarcerated, we will never have a chance of receiving any restitution. Joe knows about Mark's condition, and is very empathetic.

This is the essence of my email to Ms Land.

Please call or email and let us know how it comes out.

Thanks

Sandee and Mark Farley

Aaron Fell

Dear Judge Lasnik

My name is Aaron Fell and I have known Joe for over 10 years. My parents and his family have been friends and have been doing business for many years. I consider Joe and his family a part of my family.

I understand that Joe recently plead guilty to federal criminal charges and will soon be facing sentencing. I would like to bring another perspective of his character and heart.

When I was a kid Joe was my dad's friend who would buy me Burger King when we didn't have very much money. Growing up my dad was kind of uptight and the strict one of my parents, getting in trouble with my dad was scary. When my dad started to hang out (work) with Joe I remember him coming home laughing and joking, something I wasn't used to. I saw a shift in the nature and character of my father, he became more loving and easier to approach.

Let me tell you a story; I never really remember my dad telling me he loved me growing up, I only remember my dad being distant and me being scared of him. So the story goes; my dad had been asking me about this Bishop named T.D. Jakes. Joe and my dad would watch his sermons on tv. I had just started watching him as well and so my dad decided that he and I should go to one of T.D. Jakes conferences together. My dad booked the tickets, I signed us up for the conference in Dallas, Texas and we were on our first father son trip. The first night in the hotel my dad began to open up to me and tell me how proud he was of me and the man that I was becoming, he then hugged me and told me that he loved me. This is the first real time I remember my dad saying that he loved me. All of this change in my dad began to happen after hanging out and spending time with Joe Lavin.

In the recent years I have developed my own relationship with Joe separate from my parents. The area in which Joe and I have really connected is in spirituality. There was a time when I had given up on life, God and people and lived a life of drugs and alcohol, and I remember Joe always praying for me and calling me to check up on me making sure I was still alive and trying to get me to go to baseball games and T.D. Jakes conferences with him and my dad. Joe never gave up on me. I have never once doubted this man's heart and love for myself, my family and for people.

I no longer do drugs or party. I now live at the dream center in LA and I am a part of the Master's Commission Program. Joe Lavin's influence in my life has left me with a positive perspective towards life and a genuine love for humanity. I believe my life is better because of Joe Lavin. The summer before I came to the dream center (2006) Joe and I would have many encouraging discussions about God, life and people; he pushed me to be better. Recently, my parents have gone through a divorce in which my dad left and Joe reached out to my mom, myself and the rest of my family making sure we were ok and showing us continual love. I believe in the man and his heart, I've seen him change too many lives.

Thank you so much for taking this into consideration, he's not only a deeply loved man but he's also a man who deeply loves and I do wish for his sentencing to be the minimum and close to home for his family and friends.

Sincerely,
Aaron Fell

Monique Fell

Dear Judge Lasnik

My name is Monique Fell and I am aware that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing.

I have known Joe Lavin for over 10 years as a friend, a business colleague and family man. We first met at a business conference and Joe has spent the better of ten years being one of those people in my life that has influenced me greatly in business and personal Biblical Principles.

Joe has a big heart and truly wants to do what is best for his family and society.

Joe puts his heart and soul in most all that he does and he does not take lightly his responsibilities. I know that Joe is regretful for any wrong doing or heartache that he may have caused another and I know that he will spend an eternity righting any wrong that he may have caused.

Joe is one of the most compassionate men I have ever known and he would give the shirt off of his back to anyone who asks. He is loyal to all, gracious to many and very true to his family.

I have spent a lot of time with Joe and his family over the years. My niece and his daughter are playmates and we are both very family oriented. His family closeness is very similar to ours. We have spent many family gatherings together and we both know and accept that where one of us goes the rest of our family is always welcome to come along. Joe has spent many hours encouraging my son in Godly Principles, giving him mp3's, inviting him to Church events, sending him sermons etc. My son is currently involved in a mentorship program in LA at the Dream Center Master's Commission program going into the projects and mentoring the kids in the projects and leading the youth. Joe's role in his life has been extremely helpful and encouraging.

I know Joe has pled guilty to charges that don't fully depict the man that he is and I would like to give you a behind the scenes view of the man inside that everyone would benefit from.

There have been many occasions that we were in a pickle and Joe came to our rescue. He has helped us on many occasions by loaning us his car for days when we were in need, loaning us his house for an important gathering and would gladly help us with anything he could. I've seen him hand his car keys to several different people in need over the years. He would give you the shirt off of his back and not look back or let you feel guilty.

Recently I went through a divorce and although Joe is also friends with my ex-husband, Joe did not take sides and he has been there for my entire family. Throughout the entire ordeal I have always felt that I could lean on Joe for support and love and he has uplifted us with positive thoughts and unconditional acceptance. He continues to reach out to me and my children and does not let the divorce affect our relationship. I was filled with an overwhelming sense of encouragement and love when Joe and his family came along side of us and gave me tremendous support during this heart wrenching and emotional time.

If I wanted or needed someone in my ball court Joe would always be the man that I would choose to be on my side. He will go the extra mile to help another human being and sometimes his softer side can be his downside because he is such a giving person.

To this date after all is said and done I would not hesitate to do business with Joe & I trust him with my life.

Joe has lost so much from this ordeal and has been humbled in the most unimaginable way possible as every piece of gossip and speculation of his possible wrongdoings have been played out in the papers for his daughters, neighbors, congregation and the world to view.

Joe is very close to all of his daughters but his six year old is incredibly dependent on his companionship as he has been home raising her for several years and has been her rock. Wendy, Joes wife, is an incredible woman of strength and perseverance and she continues to support Joe through thick and thin and they have made every effort to blend the rest of his family seemingly seamless.

He has been a very supportive and loving father and his girls will be devastated without him not to mention the years the youngest child will miss growing up without a father; the daddy that she adores and looks forward to seeing daily. Every child needs a mother and father and both Joe and Wendy are good parents to their little girl. She will be devastated to lose her friend, her mentor, her playmate, her guide; her daddy.

So many parents do not take the time to build the relationship with their children that Joe has taken the time to do with all of his girls.

I have been through many difficult situations over the years and Joe has always been there to lend me a helping hand, to bend his ear or to guide me in the most honorable way possible. And when I have been mad or angry with the world and felt like giving up on things he always had wise words of wisdom to share with me and to guide me and to always encourage me to do the right thing.

Joe has spent countless hours teaching my son the good side of life and encouraging him in Biblical principles, he has supported his daughter on mission trips to do good for other people, he has spent countless hours leading many couple's and men's bible studies and put much effort toward saving other people's lives from destruction. Joe loves to learn and to teach and his love for God is very powerful.

I have watched Joe cry and long for a place in life to help others in any way that he can. Through the years of joy, blood, sweat and tears, Joe has stayed true to his core belief in God and has always tried to be the best that he could be.

Joe does not have a mean spirited bone in his body and would not intentionally hurt another, but as life goes, we all make choices that may cause something to snowball into something that was never meant or intended to happen.

Joe has no affliction to hard work and will go the extra mile and I have often seen him work well into the night and next day to keep his clients money safe and have been impressed at this willingness to spend the time on

continued education so that he can be the best that he can be. Joe has bent over backwards to recover the financial losses of those who lost out.

Joe will continually strive to be a better man because that is who he is. This experience has strengthened him and given him a greater calling and as he walks through the door that will become his reality in the coming months, I ask that you look at the heart of the man and know that he can make a positive lasting influence and impression on many by picking up his bootstraps and giving back to his community and peers and clients and that you deal the most lenient sentencing possible.

When sentencing Joe, I urge you to take into account the dependency of his wife and young child on him for moral direction, leadership and companionship. I also urge you to consider keeping him as close as possible for his family and friends.

Sincerely,

Monique Fell

Angela Fishel

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I'm happy to be sharing with you, the character I have observed in Joe Lavin, as I have been in school with him every day for the last four months.

Have you ever met someone who seems to always desire to give of themselves and is willing to be an encouragement no matter what difficulty is going on in their own life? Well, Joe Lavin is that type of man. From the first week I met Joe he was excited to first share about the number one thing in his life, which is his family.

He has a heart to reach out to people and invest in spending time benefiting others. Joe has encouraged me and our class mates, and he's always providing tools to help our class be better at what we are studying.

Joe has opened his home many times for study groups. Besides sending out emails with information to help me and our classmates become better students, he gives freely of his time despite his busy schedule, thinking of others!

Daily, I have watched Joe deal with these charges and never once has Joe commented disrespect or said a bad word about anyone involved. Joe has shown great integrity, and moral character!!

Respectfully, Judge Lasnik, I ask you to consider Joe's characteristics, and consider blessing Joe with the ability to stay close to his family.

Thank you,

Angela Fishel

Kenner French

Dear Honorable Judge Lasnik,

I do not know what wire fraud means. I do not know what money-laundering means. I do not know what the Seattle Times says about the crimes that Joe may have committed. I do though know that Joe Lavin is a good man. I mean a really good man!! I have known him for over 20 years and he has gone above and beyond for me so many times that I can call him nothing other than a good man.

I know a few of the people to whom I can direct a call when I am in need of spiritual help, family advice or just to get a shoulder upon which to lean. He has helped so many people to better themselves. I remember one instance when he gave me sage advice which ultimately helped me to be a better Dad to my then five-year-old son (somehow it must have helped in that my son recently gave me a card saying I was “the greatest Dad in the world”) - a similar note that I am sure he has gotten time and time again from his beautiful daughters. Instances like that are what I know about my good friend Joe. Not the things that have been said about him by others who do not know him.

With all due respect to you, I request, no, I urge you with all of my heart to take into account his service to the church, his friends, and most of all, his service to his community, when deciding on his punishment.

In closing, I would posit again, Joe Lavin is a good man. I say that as a person who knows him better than those who are citing all this technical and legal language.

Sincerely,

Kenner French

Kevin Funk

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. I understand he has pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges and faces sentencing.

My name is Kevin Funk and I have known Joe Lavin for close to 4 years. My wife Sarah and I first met Joe and Wendy while their daughter Maddy and our son Andrew attended pre-school together. We would hang out once in a while but our relationship really started to grow after I started attending the Woodinville Alliance Church men's group approx 2 years ago.

Joe and I have a lot of similarities and knowing him has helped me to grow and become a better man, husband and father. He has been a tremendous influence in my life and I consider him a true friend who would do anything for me and me for him.

One of the first things I noticed about Joe was his generosity and genuine interest in others. He often had parties at his place for the pre-school class our kids were in. He also has regular UFC fight nights at his place where everyone is invited including the kids and wives. My boys and I love to go to this and everyone once in a while my wife Sarah comes as well. If you were to ever see Joe at one of these fight nights you would see a person who doesn't want to exclude anyone from attending. I feel like I can bring anyone to these because I know Joe wants to touch people's lives in any way he can. It is a friendly, inclusive environment where anyone would feel welcome.

Joe has also been a tremendous influence on me personally. Our friendship has grown so much that I feel closer to him than I do to people I've known for much longer. I feel Joe was brought into my life to help me with some things I've been going through. He was there at the right time to mentor me and give me advice when I needed it. He is compassionate and is always checking in to see how I'm doing. He is generous with his time even when he doesn't have much of it. I totally trust him in any situation which would include him taking care of my kids and wife if I ever needed him to.

I could tell you about so many more instances where Joe has shown that he is a man of integrity and character.

I know Joe's greatest concern is spending time away from his family. He thinks about this every day and I know it hurts him deep down to think of this. I hope Joe can spend time close to his family so it will make the pain of going away more tolerable. He touches so many people's lives that to not have him around would affect all of us greatly.

When sentencing Joe, I urge you to consider his devotion to his family & friends as well as his integrity and character.

Sincerely,

Kevin Funk

Roy Gallant (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am aware that Joe Lavin has plead guilty to federal criminal charges and that you will be sentencing him soon. I've been asked to write character reference letter for Joe, and I consider it a privilege to do so.

I met Joe at a seminar about seven years ago and I was very pleased to make his acquaintance. Joe was clearly very smart, educated and cheerful. As I talked with Joe throughout the event it became evident to me that Joe was a thoughtful man who valued facts, logic and reason above the flashier things that seemed to be pervading with most everyone else.

Over the next several years I worked with Joe on different projects and got several opportunities to see how Joe manages his business as well as his personal life. I was consistently impressed and so were many other people because it seemed to be a popular topic of conversation amongst people who knew Joe.

I am sincerely surprised to see Joe in this situation (Aside from the fact that I believe Joe to be a man of exceptional character with clearly defined values). For me, and for many other people, Joe has always been the conservative and well informed voice of reason. He seemed to actually enjoy researching issues pretty thoroughly and presenting them in a way that was understandable to those who did not share his love of excessive information.

Also, whenever I worked with Joe he always had an attorney or accountant that was advising him. I can't remember anything major that Joe ever presented or agreed to without running it by an attorney or accountant first. So again, I find it amazing that Joe crossed that line in the sand and will stand before you soon.

On a personal level, Joe is one of the extremely few people that I know of that really deserves special consideration for leniency and/or a creative sentence that fits the crime but also fits the man. I truly believe that if you are able to do so, Joe will respond extremely well to whatever requirements, goals or challenges that you give him.

Either way I believe that Joe will do the right thing by as many people as possible. That seems to be what drives Joe much of the time – discerning and then doing the right thing as he sees it. If I had to guess what caused Joe to commit the crimes he is being sentenced for, I would feel pretty safe saying that he was probably trying too hard to do the “right thing” for too many people. None of us can do that for very long.

Humbly,

Roy Gallant

Amon Greene

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I had the fortune to meet Joe some years back when he first attended our school. Joe left after only a couple of months to pursue the business opportunity that has currently land him in such dire straits. This last term Joe came back to school to finish our program with a great deal of enthusiasm and apparent new found devotion to completing his education. Imagine my surprise to discover this current turn of events in his life.

Joe has not been reticent in discussing his situation. I simply would not have had cause to ask, "is anything wrong?" because he did not appear to let this legal trouble affect his class work. It is only due to a couple absences that Joe took it upon himself to inform me of his plight. I am still dumbstruck buy at all.

I've caught for over a decade, I have had hundreds of students and encountered many of their personal lives spilling into class time. In all these years I have never had anyone looking at such grim prospects in their personal life and do such an admirable job of keeping not only their own spirits high, but still give so much effort and peer support so selflessly. Joe has been a nexus within his class offering help and encouragement to his classmates and never asking anything in return. He even went so far as to publish a webpage dedicated to helping his classmates with material notes, links and study aides.

Now he has asked for a letter. That's all, just for those I care about him and those who may just know him enough to take them on other time.

This is only a moment for me. I could not see not giving up a moment for Joe. He's asked for so little from us, and now we must ask so much from you.

Your sentence will affect a great many lives. I implore you to consider the positive effects Joe has in his communities and his family against the ill effects of his guilty plea.

I've not seen a man who is running from anything. I've not seen a man who revels in exploiting others. I've not seen a man who is a continued threat to anyone. I've not seen a man who has given up.

I see a man who strives very hard to make lives better, his own and others. I have been touched by my time with him. I have a new standard of integrity and perseverance for my students and myself when facing one's fate.

Respectfully,

Rev A. Amon Greene

Jacob Gregg (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am both a friend and client of Joe Lavin. I met Joe in 2001 while he managed a hedge fund, which my sister and I both invested in. Due to unforeseen circumstances one deal fell through (outside of Joe's control), however the other one paid off as promised according to the contractual agreement. We have continued to do business together ever since, now totaling 8 years.

A year or so after my initial investment, Joe told me about a Real Estate company he was affiliated with, and from that experience 3 of my family members and several of my friends have acquired a great amount of knowledge and experience along with many homes in our portfolios. I personally have had extreme success due to Joe's introductions, information and continued support. Joe has gone out of his way to share his time and advice with me.

All of that to say; if I had \$1 Million dollars, and Joe had an idea, a company, or an investment opportunity, I would get involved with it in a heartbeat. Many times in investing, you don't just invest in the product or opportunity; you invest in the person who presents it to you. And Joe is a person I know I can trust, regardless of my balance sheet and how much money I may or may not have made with him.

Joe has been more than willing to invite me over to his home to discuss various things both personally and business related. While spending many afternoons at his home, I have witnessed first hand just how close he is to his family, and that his integrity level is an A+. Many times it has been difficult to have a conversation with him, due to the fact that he plays with his children so much. When Joe's daughter Madison was younger, Joe and I would have to sneak out of the house to go have coffee, just so Madison wouldn't see him come and go. Seeing a man so richly connected to his daughter is a rare thing to see, one more thing I respect and admire about Joe.

I would ask you your Honor, to sentence Joe to the most lenient sentence possible. If Joe were to serve time in prison, that would mean only a higher cost to the general public for his incarceration. His family would suffer both emotional as well as monetary losses, both of which are unrecoverable.

If the court would deem that he make restitution, then the best course of action would be to sentence him to the longest term of probation permissible and the least amount of incarceration. Joe still owes members of my family and I money from a Real Estate development project, and we would all rather have him in the marketplace trying to recover our losses than sitting in a jail cell only costing us more money by our tax dollars paying for him to stay there. Let Joe make restitution by putting him to work, any other option simply costs the State more money, it prolongs the repayment process of Joe's clients, and worst of all his family will suffer the most.

I would gladly waive any and all fees and investment returns for Madison to have the chance to grow up with her daddy. Your Honor, as you well know there is a ridiculous amount of single parents out there, and thousands of innocent children who grow up not knowing who both of their parents are. I beg of you to keep Joe out of prison, and give his children that opportunity to have a true family, as I have had the opportunity to have.

Joe's business partners may have suffered, his friends may have suffered, but there is certainly no reason to cause any more suffering to his family, or any incurred costs in the tens of thousands to the general public for his

incarceration. Joe serving time in prison would then only share the burden and suffering with every citizen of the State. Should our friends and families suffer even more losses by using up even more much needed State funds?

I believe Joe will do his best and work his hardest to do all he can to “square up” with everyone affected by his poor judgment in his financial transactions. A tough lesson learned, and with the proper oversight from a probation officer I am sure that Joe will operate at the same level of integrity, with a much clearer understanding of his limitations in the financial arena.

Again Your Honor, I would ask for your grace and mercy upon Joe. You would be doing a great service to his family, my family, and the greater general public to let him make restitution as a free man.

In conclusion I want to thank you for your time and consideration. I will be attending the sentencing hearing, and look forward to witnessing your wisdom in action.

Sincerely,

Jacob Gregg

Paul Hackney

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I understand that Joe Lavin has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing.

I have known Joe since January 2000. We originally met through business connections and became friends shortly afterwards. Our families have played together and we all enjoy each other's company. Joe's kids are sweet and very well behaved.

About three years ago, although I don't think Joe knows it, I overheard him helping someone in need, as I recall he purchased a bus ticket for someone he didn't know but they had been directed to him for assistance.

Besides business ideas, we have discussed some mission efforts we hoped to start.

In all the business and personal situations I have seen Joe in he has always been most kind, helpful and forthcoming. My family and I really like Joe and we're having a very difficult time thinking that if he broke the law he did it intentionally. We believe that Joe is exceptionally honorable and a good man.

Best regards,

Paul Hackney

Reid Hadley

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe for 5 years. In my personal experience with him, he has been a man that has always demonstrated a love for his family and a commitment to friends. Joe has always been there to assist in any way possible on work projects and has been a giver with his time to those in need.

I've watched him show an investment in his extended family and children that is amazing. He has made them a priority and has evolved as a rock of wisdom and support to his kids, nieces, nephews, and grandparents.

Joe has one of the biggest hearts for people of anyone I know.

Thank you for considering the character of the man, Joe Lavin, as you determine the steps for this next chapter in his life. He is a good person.

Sincerely,

Reid Hadley

June Hadlock (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is June Hadlock and I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. I am aware that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now awaiting sentencing.

I met Joe Lavin through an acquaintance (Eddie Seiler) who was a personal, long time friend of Joe's. I wanted to invest in something that kept ahead of inflation. I listened to many conference calls and then I actually drove up to Joe's home in Bellevue, Washington and had a meeting with him in his dining room. That was in the summer of 2004. I found him to be refreshingly honest and very intelligent. I started out as a client that summer and became friends with Joe because of how he treated me – with dignity and respect. I enjoy his interaction with people and the love he expresses for his family. He always took the time to explain things to me and didn't keep anything hidden – including the risks involved with the investments that I chose. He's just a good guy and I am very proud of him for still being here. That alone makes me glad that I know him. I just feel that if Joe were a crook, he would have fled the country a long time ago. The last time I visited him in his home was in October of 2006. I could see how devastated he was and his family was right there supporting him.

I can't image for a moment what it is like to go through what he is going through. One of the things that really struck me as admirable has been that he has ALWAYS returned my phone calls – even after all of "the crap hit the fan". He has never been disrespectful to me and that amazes me considering all the hurtful things people have said to him and about him – sometimes on live conference calls. He has expressed genuine fear for his family and it can't be easy to feel this way. I am very proud of Joe to date and I really don't know how well I could have handled the same situation if I had been in his shoes. The last conversation that I had with him I expressed that I had found out that he plead guilty in \$13m fraud case. I asked him if it was true and he replied, "YES". He was truthful and didn't try to hide what was happening.

It should mean SOMETHING that I still talk to him – especially after all that has transpired. I am indeed one of the clients that lost my investment. I don't wish him any more harm than he has experienced. It took pure courage for him to pick up the phone and call each person and ask them for a character reference. My belief in this man Joe is still pretty strong and I'm really glad that I know him.

Sincerely,

June Hadlock

Matt and Jennifer Hamann

Dear Judge Lasnik, As close friends of Joe Lavin for 13+ years we are aware of his current legal challenges and we understand that Joe has plead guilty to Federal criminal charges. It is our intention to provide this note as an indication of our personal support and to provide some insight into our relationship, observations & perspective as it may have influence on Joe's sentencing.

Originally, we had met Joe prior to his being wed to his wife, Wendy Lavin, at a church function. Early on, Joe's enthusiasm and kind spirit opened the door to a relationship which has grown deep over the years. As Joe and Wendy married our families have subsequently grown together through the years; our friendship has matured as well. Though separated by some distance at times, and busy schedules, Joe always finds time and has made the effort to stay connected. Often times this was as a direct result of Joe's opening his home for "Family Nights"; a reason to get families together. At other times this came to fruition as a direct result of Joe's involvement in his church and community. I have witnessed Joe donate literally hundreds of hours as he worked to promote events and opportunities designed to build strong families and provide a safe/fun outlet for kids, families and young adults, etc....

Specific to some of the larger events I have seen Joe promote have been two large scale skating events that attracted hundreds of kids and adults over the last two years. While Joe has no direct connection to skating, he was clearly motivated by being part of a positive event. This trait of giving and service is one which I understand played itself out as Joe served his Country with distinction in the U.S. Navy.

Joe's generosity with his time and expertise is an undeniable hallmark which one sees so rarely anymore. This manifests itself in Joe's personal life as well. He always finds time for his 4 children and has been highly engaged in all of their lives. From dance classes, soccer, other sports, swimming, driving them to all variety of functions he has been a fully engaged father. Joe would always find time for friends when needed....but would also create opportunities to gather. He has volunteered in 3 or 4 churches over the years, making certain that people across the city were aware of different outreach, ministry and teaching opportunities. We believe that Joe's life is quite simply defined by faith, family & friends.

While clearly not our place to determine the facts of Joe's legal matter, I can comment on what I have observed over the years, which includes Joe diligence in providing for his clients and business colleagues. He took this as a serious responsibility and was highly motivated to simply do the right thing. I have not seen Joe in any capacity act or even mention in jest anything malicious. I have never known Joe to act with anything but the best intention for people. Important as well to this is that our close relationship with Joe through the years has allowed us to witness how he and his family live, which has been a nice middle-class lifestyle. Certainly not unusual as not only was Joe engaged in meaningful work, but Wendy Lavin is one of the more highly educated, trained and regarded therapists in the Greater Seattle/Eastside area as well.

As sentencing is considered, it is my hope that this correspondence, along with others like it, is weighed in such a manner that it fully considers the context of Joe's life and contributions. An inappropriately lengthy sentence creates a vacuum in his family, his church, among friends and in the broader community which cannot be filled until his return home. Your consideration is appreciated among the many who count Joe as a dear friend.

Respectfully,

Matthew and Jennifer Hamann

John Hamilton (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik:

This letter is to ask for your merciful consideration and greatest possible leniency in sentencing Joseph Lavin. My wife Michelle and I have been friends and clients of Joe for about five years. We were impressed with Joe's integrity, compassion, and intensely loving family from almost the first time we met him. This man is unique, your honor.

Several years ago we invested with him a sum of money that to us is quite substantial, the loss of which would hurt us greatly. However, with his guilty plea to federal criminal charges and the consequences thereof, it certainly appears that we will lose all of it. Yet our concern is not so much for our loss, but rather for Joe and his distraught family. As difficult as it has been for Joe, for Wendy, his wonderfully loyal and loving wife, for Madison, his adoring six-year-old daughter, and for his mother and the other members of this very closely-bonded family, Joe's prolonged incarceration and absence from his family would be far worse and truly devastating to every one of them.

I have never met a more devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend than Joe. This has been apparent in personally observing his happy and very loving family life and his relationship with friends, colleagues, and clients. It is also apparent in his expressions of his feelings and his committed Christian faith in his annual family Christmas letters. A couple of years ago Joe's beloved "Grandpa" passed away. Grandpa was a retired U. S. Air Force colonel, a man of great accomplishment, faith, and joy of life and family. In his subsequent Christmas letter, Joe's description and celebration of the life of this fine man and especially his aspiration to be like him was heartwarming and very genuine.

Whatever mistakes of judgment or intent that resulted in Joe's transgressions and guilty plea, whatever losses have been incurred, whatever justification there may be for the complaints against him, all these do not diminish the great blessing to so many lives that this unique and compassionate man has provided, nor do they diminish the great potential that Joe still has within him. We ask, therefore, your mercy and leniency in your deliberation of appropriate sentencing for Joseph Lavin.

Respectfully,

John H. Hamilton

Ronnie Harris

Dear Judge Lasnik:

My name is Ronnie Harris. I am a youth pastor at Woodinville Alliance Church, in Woodinville, Washington, a former pharmaceutical rep for Pfizer, Inc, for five years and former NFL player for seven years when I played for the New England Patriots, Seattle Seahawks, and Atlanta Falcons during the 1990s. I have two daughters (9 and 12) and I have been married for 15 years to my wife Kris.

I understand that Joe Lavin has pled guilty to federal criminal charges it is now facing sentencing. I would like to shed light on my knowledge of Joe.

I know Joe through our church and have attended Christian concerts with him and his family. Our families have spent time together as he has often invited me to his home or to the latest spiritual growth opportunities (i.e. various church events that aim to improve the condition of man, their moral compass, and increase their knowledge of what it means to be a follower of Christ). I trust him completely with my children.

I have sat in many Tuesday morning men's groups at my church and listen to Joe pour out his heart about life, family, and improving his spiritual condition as well as mine.

This is what I know Joe Lavin. I am surprised and confused as to the situation Joe now faces as I do not know all the details but despite all that I stand by what I know of Joe and my convictions are not shaken. I wholeheartedly support Joe because of the situations I have been in with Joe and the conversations I have had with him. I have seen into his heart, that part of the person which reveals the true character and what they care about.

I am currently attending Western Seminar in Portland, Oregon through their distance learning program. The material I am studying is relevant to a person like Joe Lavin because it is these types of issues I have had conversations with him about. Joe is a thinker, study and an improver. He is continuing to learn and grow as a Christian man and is committed to having a positive impact on not only his family and church but in our community as well. I cannot say that about many other Christian men I know.

Please take my words into consideration in Joe's sentencing.

Thank you,

Ronnie Harris

Breanna Harvey

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Breanna Harvey. I am very proud to be Joe Lavin's oldest daughter. I understand that my dad has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is waiting to be sentenced. With that being said, I whole heartedly believe that my dad would never set out to intentionally harm or mislead people. My dad is very dedicated to following Jesus and trying to live his own life the way that the bible says God would want him to lead his life. He is a very selfless person who always tries to help other people before himself, from a stranger stuck on the side of the road to one of his children. I have two young sons and I would be very proud and feel like an accomplished parent if my boys grew to have half the integrity and love in their heart as my dad.

When I was growing up my dad was actively involved at my school, he coached my soccer and baseball teams. Our house was always the house where other kids wanted to hang out and my friends seemed to like and respect my dad more than they did with most other parents.

We lived with our mom in Bremerton most of the time after my parents got divorced but my dad was always at our house helping with our homework, fixing things, helping clean, painting our rooms, setting up computers, keeping the peace, watching us or our little brother when our mom was at work and a lot of other things. Even after he moved to Seattle, he was still always around and available for us.

We lived in a low income area for a while and there were a lot of kids that did not even know their dad much less have one around. My dad made himself available to a lot of them and became a very important person in some of their lives. There was one family that my dad probably had the most impact on. A single mom with 4 kids from at least 2 different dads. My father started including the kids in a lot of our weekend activities and helped their family out when they needed something. When their mom had a party or was doing drugs my dad would have at least the oldest 2 or 3 kids stay at our mom's house and he would stay there with all of us because my mom was working the graveyard shift. Then he would get all of us off to school the next day before driving back to Seattle to go to work. We invited them to celebrate Christmas with us for several years and he made sure they had gifts under the tree. He brought them to church with us and concerts and to the Seattle Center and a lot of other things. He gave them a lot of guidance and encouraged them to be better than their circumstances. When they were later put into foster care I know that my dad even thought a lot about trying to adopt them.

I think that the biggest thing that stands out about my dad from when I was growing up was that he was always helping people. He was always involved with church and taught my Sunday school class and ran the drama ministry. It seemed like we were always pulled over on the highway helping someone whose car broke down or there was someone at our house to borrow something or ask dad for help. He really enjoyed helping people and never made a big deal about doing it.

My dad has a positive impact on many people in our family and in his community. My sisters, Janelle 21, and Sarah, 18, and I have not always been the most grateful or good children but my dad has always been there with open arms waiting for us. When we were in high school my dad lived in Seattle and we lived in Bremerton but no matter what time of day or night it was he would be here to help us if we just needed a ride to the mall or we had an actual crisis. As we get older he is always there to listen to our ideas and support us in our decisions. He will sit for hours and listen to Sarah talk about her latest story from summer camp or listen to Janelle and her strong

political and social believes. He always has been there to help me with parenting. When my oldest son was born and I came home from the hospital he would not nurse from me and I was so overwhelmed, I had no clue what to do and my then fourteen year old sister called my dad and told him what was going on and he rushed over with a breast pump and helped me until I was calm and he was eating. He was my hero that day, just like he is to me and my sisters and brother every day.

My nine year old brother, Jacob is not my dad's biological son. Jacob's dad has never been involved in his life. My dad stepped in and took over the role of Jacobs's dad no questions asked. He does the father and son functions with him, just as he was actually his biological father. My brother calls him his dad and only very recently figured out that he wasn't actually his biological son. My dad treats him just like one of us, never favoring us to him. He will be Jacobs's hero when he gets old enough to realize what he has done for him and can be Jacobs's role model for his own children someday.

I also have a six year old sister named Madison. She is one hundred percent a daddy's girl. She lives and breathes for his attention and approval. She is too young to understand what is going on, but for her sake I hope that you provide a lenient sentence for our dad. It would crush her and him not to be together as she grows.

My sons, Aidan (3 years), and Evan (18 months), are in love with my dad. They think that riding in his car to the grocery store is better than Disneyland and Disneyworld combined. He is very involved in there lives. He is the ideal grandpa. My dad helps me with ideas from potty training to time outs which our immensely helpful to me.

My dad has helped me so much with my marriage. He is very patient and listens to everything I say no matter how petty. My husband never knew his dad and my dad accepts him as one of us and helps him with marriage, fatherhood, and household advice. He and my step-mom, Wendy are a very important part of our life and I don't know what we would do without either of them. They constantly demonstrate how in love with each other they are and how much they respect each other and they are an inspiration to me and my husband, Danny.

My dad volunteers with his church and community events a lot. He helps to organize skateboarding events for teenagers and volunteers to help at church functions whenever there is an opportunity. My dad would help anyone who was in need no questions asked.

My dad is a value to his community, church and most of all his family and friends. I respectfully ask you to keep all of this in consideration while sentencing my dad and determining where he will be located at. He is a good person who deeply loves his family. If we could not see him for a long time or at all because he was so far away it would be more than just emotionally painful. I honestly think that it would be detrimental to our entire family, which is growing and needs the strong support system that my dad provides and encourages in us. There are very young children who idolize him. My sister and brother in law just found out that they are having a baby (which they were not planning for) and she will need our dad more than ever. Please take all of this into consideration when sentencing my dad.

Thank you,

Breanna Harvey

Danny Harvey

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Danny Harvey. I am Joe Lavin's son in law. I am aware that Joe pled guilty to federal criminal charges. Thank you for taking the time to let me explain why I believe he deserves the minimum possible sentence. I've known Joe Lavin for eight years now and I have never seen any behavior in him that suggested that he would ever intentionally harm anyone. That leads me to believe that any possible wrongdoings were unintentional.

I have been around to watch all of Joes children from his first marriage grow into the young adults they now are. Without Joe's guidance I believe their road here would have been a lot bumpier, not to say that there hasn't been a few bumps. I never met my father, so at first I was amazed at how the girls lean on their dad and think that he can fix any of their problems, but now that I know Joe so well I realize that he would do anything to help any of them fix a problem.

Joe also accepted me into his family and treats me as one of his own children. I often depend on Joe for advice on the curveballs life throws at you, whether it is about faith, marriage, being a father, or just someone to talk to. Joe always has some sort of insight to offer me or he will tell me about a similar occurrence in his life and tell me what he chose to do.

My two sons adore their grandpa and look forward to seeing him and his wife, Wendy every time we go to their house. Although they are too young to understand what is going on they will deeply miss their grandfather if they couldn't see him on a regular basis.

Joe often opens his house to his church and church related functions. He is an active member of his men's group. He frequently volunteers at skateboarding functions as an outreach program to help teens find their way. He likes to help people. He never complains that he is volunteering or brags about it. I have seen him open his house and let a thirteen year old cousin who doesn't have a dad around either, hang out their with his friends and even though the boy demands so much attention from Joe because he looks up to him so much, Joe has endless patience when dealing with him.

Joe has a massive amount of integrity and empathy for others. Joe always demonstrates true courage and dedication in everything that he does. That is another reason why I believe that any wrongdoing was unintentional. As I said before, my sons adore their grandfather and often mimic his mannerisms. If my children demonstrate the same characteristics as their grandfather as adults I would truly believe I did something right as their father.

Joe has a very large family who looks up to him and depends on him. He has a very large group of close friends. I have never met another person who has such a positive impact on each life he touches. Please consider all of these things in my letter and others letter when sentencing Joe. He is a good man who may have made some mistakes along the way but he feels sorry for the harm he has done. I believe that he will now be even a bigger help to his community, church, and family because of the remorse he has over his current situation.

Thank you very much, Danny Harvey

Jon Horton

Dear judge Lasnik,

My name is Jon Horton. I have worked as a Senior Development Manager for Microsoft for the last eight years. I have been married for 11 years now and have two daughters ages six and nine. We have attended Woodinville Alliance Church, an evangelical Christian church, for five years right service and usher in sing in the choir.

I've known Joe Lavin for approximately 3 years since he joined our men's group at the church. Since then I've gotten to know him at our weekly Tuesday morning meetings, wearing a shared very intimately about his life and the issues he has been going through. I have been to several weekender treats with him, visit his home many times with my family, interacted with him and our daughter's school, and are now in a couple's Bible study together with our wives.

I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing, which is why I am writing to tell you about my good friend Joe, who I believe is an honorable person.

Since joining our men's group, Joe has always been extremely open and honest. He has been transparent in his past struggles, family issues, and current business problems. He shared these issues our smaller table group and with the entire men's group. The last year has been a very difficult year for him with the business issues, the suicide of a very close friend, and his sister's cancer coming out of remission. Through it all, he has learned and trusted in God. It has truly been an honor to walk with him during this time.

He is also one of the most hospitable and generous people I know. He is constantly sharing what he has with others and truly wants to use what he has to help others, never expecting anything in return. He and his wife Wendy have invited my family and others over multiple times to their home. He has shared books, paintball equipment, and other things but most importantly he shares his time. He has shown himself to be a true friend. A recent example involved a mutual friend going through a divorce. Joe invited a bunch of us over to his house to spend time praying for him. He has been an encouragement and also a challenge to me and how to truly love others.

Most of all, I have seen Joe as a very loving husband and father. Through the time we have spent together it has been obvious that his wife and daughters are his pride and joy. In some ways the difficulties of the last year have had one positive outcome in that they have strengthened his marriage bringing him closer to Wendy. But by far the hardest thing has been the uncertainty of how his situation will impact his family. The stress on Wendy and the thought of spending time away from Madison, his six-year-old daughter, have brought him to tears many times.

Thank you for the chance to share a few of the things that my friend Joe has meant to me. I know that no matter what happens, I plan on being there for him and his family to help them through it.

Sincerely,

Jon Horton

Lori Horton

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I am a college graduate who “left the work force” several years ago to stay home and raise my kids. I am involved in my church and community, currently serving as the PTA President at Woodin Elementary where my two daughters attend school. I enjoy helping people get involved with their kids through PTA, and am also involved with drama, teaching, and parenting ministries at my church.

I am writing to you on behalf of Joe Lavin, who I have known for about three years. Our daughters have played together since pre-school days and are now both in kindergarten at Woodin Elementary. As parents, Joe and I have crossed paths many times picking up or dropping off kids, but this past year Joe and his family have been more involved at our church so I’ve gotten to know him at a personal level. His wife and I have been in a Bible study together for the past year and a half, so we’ve become closer as well.

I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. As you review his case, I hope you’ll consider these observations regarding Joe’s character.

First, my daughter has enjoyed numerous play-dates with Maddie, Joe’s daughter, at Joe’s home. The fact that I allow my child to play in anyone’s home is a definite indication that I highly trust them. Often when I see Joe with his daughter or my kids, I reflect that he is such a fun, good father.

He is also a responsible caring leader. Two years ago Joe organized a large group from our church to go see the author and speaker, Brennan Manning at a retreat center. He invited the men in his men’s Bible study of whom my husband is one, and told them to bring their wives too, for a mini-retreat to hear Brennan Manning. Joe has so appreciated Brennan’s simple presentation of God’s love for all. We all had a great weekend together. Joe loves helping others see and understand God’s love for them.

This past summer I got to see another side of Joe when I directed him in a comedy sketch; he was such a willing energetic presence with dynamic ability. Joe and my husband performed this comedy sketch to promote some of the ministries at our church and were quite an effective team on stage!

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. I hope this information helps you see some of Joe’s high quality traits as you decide on a ruling for his case.

Sincerely,

Lori Horton

Paul Jensen (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Paul Jensen. I have been a pilot with American Airlines since 1984.

I have been a client of Joe Lavin's for several years and I stand to lose a lot of money if Joe does not find a way to repay his clients or make restitution.

Joe Lavin has always been forthright with me and other investors that I know of about what is going on with our investments with him.

Joe has always been very professional and communicated well with me.

I understand that some clients are stating that they did not know of any other investments besides Forex, which I find hard to believe. In addition to sending emails and updating his website pretty often, Joe had interactive conference calls every week where he talked about the different investments and answered any questions that clients had. I was on several of these calls and I think that Joe was always very open on these calls.

I live in a very small community and Joe has a couple of client's here, so I definitely hear the chatter. I find it interesting that there can be so many different stories as to what happened when we all signed up for the same thing. My insight, for whatever it is worth, is that those of us who listened to Joe and made a choice to take a risk with him lost our money and we are not happy. There are some that I feel listened to only what they wanted to hear and they wanted to believe they could make a high yield with no risk, they are the ones in my area that are angry, vengeful and embarrassed. They want to blame anyone but themselves and they are not thinking about the ultimate cost to themselves, much less to other clients or even Joe of their careless actions.

I feel that Joe got caught up in bad circumstances, but he has continually tried to overcome those circumstances and help his clients.

I do not think that any of us clients are going to be served by sending Joe to prison. If anything, I would prefer to see Joe required to work even harder to pay back his clients. Anything short of that is not serving the people that Joe should, and I believe wants to, be serving.

Respectfully,

Captain Paul Jensen
American Airlines
Incline Village, NV

Jeff Kaiser (Personal E-mail)

Joe,

It's only been about 10 years or so, doesn't seem that long but time does go by quickly. This is certainly not the way I thought we may talk again, but it is what it is. Yes I have read all about your court case, and I have a feeling you didn't have much of a choice in pleading the way you did. I am sure it is not as cut and dry as the way the document reads and what you are accused of, however to me it really doesn't matter, you have nothing to prove to me, I know what kind of man you are.

I have to say the one thing that disturbs me about what I read is some of the people who claim you ruined their financial lives or that they cannot trust investment people again. Whether that is true or not there is so many variables in all of that, and investment is just that an investment involves risk, and you may have got caught up in the whole real estate game and lost, but who hasn't?

I know of hundreds of people who in the last year have lost everything with the housing market so that is certainly not on you. My point is, what about the hundreds people whose lives you have made so much better by just being in them.

Take me for example; if I had not met Joe Lavin, I firmly believe I would have never known I even had potential to speak to people. I would have never known what confidence was, or had the courage to find it. I use the things you taught me on a daily basis and am the man I am today because of what you brought out in me, and for that I feel forever indebted to you.

You were my first true mentor, and you taught me one of the most valuable things I could ever have been taught, that is Joe you taught me how to speak to others. That might not sound like a lot, but when you know how to communicate with anyone at anytime in any situation it completely changes your life and that is what I will never forget you for.

Call me,

Jeff Kaiser

Harvey Kirkland

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Harvey Kirkland and I want to share with you my experience with Joe Lavin. Joe let me know that he was in serious trouble and that he was facing a prison sentence. This news came as a shock to me. Yet it is no shock that he has taken responsibility for his actions

I met Joe late in 1996 at a business presentation, and from the moment we met we formed a friendship and I was please to be his business associate. We dove in and went to work. The business did very well and attracted hundreds of people. You would be hard pressed to find one person who did not like or trust Joe. He is an honest forthright individual.

It was less than 30 days, Joe offered me a room in his house, rent free, so that I could cut my expenses as we worked together. I spend most of 1997 living with Joe and Wendy as we build the business. In that time Joe and I became life long friends and I count that year as a pivotal turning point in my life.

Through no fault of ours the business failed and we went separate ways. It was no surprise when Joe gave me his second car to drive until I could get on my feet. That's just Joe. He always gave more than he expected to get. Joe understands the idea of give to give. I truly believe that Joe has a great heart and would never intentional hurt or do harm to others. I believe he is a good guy who made a few bad decisions that leads him to face his responsibilities in front of you on March 21 2008.

Although Joe and I have not seen much of each other in the last 5 years, we have always stayed in touch and I value him as a friend. Someone I would do business with in a heartbeat. I feel and hear in his voice that he has been humbled and is deeply sorry for the pain he has caused to those he loves and those that feel harmed.

If this letter helps you to see Joe as I do, please show Joe as much leniency as you can and keep him near his family. They will need each other in times like these.

Sincerely Yours

Harvey Kirkland

Melissa Landry

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Melissa Landry, my husband Sean is a brother to Wendy Lavin, Joe Lavin's wife. I have known Joe for close to 10 years.

I am aware that Joe had pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing.

If I had to use one word to describe Joe it would be passionate. He is passionate about his family, his kids, and life. He is one of the most compassionate people I have ever met. He has a way of making everyone feel special.

We currently have 3 foster children living in our home. They have become a part of our family in almost every way. This past Christmas we had the pleasure of Joe meeting the kids for the first time. It is just amazing how everyone is drawn to Joe's personality. The kids could not wait to see him every day. The days were filled with laughter, hugs, silliness and surprisingly serious talks. I was witness to Joe having discussions with the 10 and 11 year old girls about how they see themselves in the world and why it is important to develop positive values about themselves. I marveled on how the girls could be so serious and really listen to the importance of his message. He made such an impression on them. It is now two months past the end of the visit and the kids still talk about him daily. They chat about how much fun they had with him and cannot wait to see him again.

I admire Joe's dedication to his family and the ability to always make children and his family the center of his existence. Through the years, we have had conversations ranging from raising children to the importance of strong Christian values.

I am asking that you please consider all the positive attributes of Joe Lavin while determining sentencing.

Respectfully,

Melissa Landry

Sean Landry

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Sean Landry, my sister Wendy is married to Joe Lavin. He is not just a brother-in-law to me, I also consider him a dear friend. I have known Joe for over 13 years.

I am aware that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing.

Joe has always been a hard worker and dedicated to find a career situation that would allow him to spend the most time with his family. He chose to move his office to his house when Madison was born to spend more time with her and be able to see her during the day.

Joe has always surrounded himself with individuals who could advise him on his business matters; lawyers, accountants and such. I believe that he trusted some of them too much and they were not looking out for his best interests. He is a very trusting individual, once Joe gives his trust to someone; he trusts them fully and does not generally question their loyalty. Once admired as a strength, it has also become a weakness for him.

I do not get to see Joe often, yet he is still one of my most trusted friends. I have enjoyed our conversations as our families have grown. I appreciate his insight on family and business matters and how to strive for a healthy balance.

Joe is a very involved father to his 4 girls. He has chaperoned many soccer trips for the older girls and been a mentor to them as well as their friends. I admire Joe's ability to reach out to others' in a way that many people either cannot do or just simply choose not to do. He has had a positive affect in so many people's lives....I am asking that you carefully consider Joe's sentencing options because I feel he has so much to offer to the community, family and friends.

I spent time with Joe and our families this past Christmas. Joe is very remorseful for the decisions he has made and the business associates he has chosen. He is enrolled in a massage therapy program that fits his personality very well and will allow him to devote his work to helping people. It is also very much in line with his wife and mother's work and he hopes to be able to work alongside of them soon.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter.

Respectfully,

Sean M. Landry

Wil Landry

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Wilbur Landry and I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. Joe is my son-in-law. I understand the Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I was stunned when my daughter gave me the news. Joe is a very ambitious, smart, and entrepreneurial young man, whose main goal in life is to make a wonderful home for his family and to raise his four daughters in a climate of Christian love. I've known Joe for about 10 years, since my daughter met him when she moved to Seattle and rented a room from him. His good qualities most certainly outweigh his bad ones.

He has contributed a great deal of time raising my first granddaughter, Madison Nicole, now age 6, and performed many of the household chores in order to afford my daughter the opportunity to pursue her graduate education and career. He provided spiritual education whose children from a previous marriage and is doing the same with my granddaughter Madison.

When there is something that has to be learned for a project, Joe researches it thoroughly. He is never idle. If there is a job to be done around the house, Joe sees it to completion. When it comes to his own work, he is persistent and usually quite thorough. I have found Joe to be honest and sincere in both his personal and business relationships. I have observed Joe over the past decade and got them to be a law-abiding, contributing member of our society. Although it appears that he may have been involved in some illegal business practices, I am sure they were unintentional and without malice.

I have worked in law enforcement for over 20 years, dealt with criminal activities on many levels, and tried to treat those subjects that were deserving of such with compassion, understanding and leniency. I feel quite strongly that Joe is one of those deserving people, and hope your honor will agree during sentencing. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

W.J. Landry

Mark Lane

Dear Judge Lasnik, I understand my friend Joe Lavin Has pled guilty to federal criminal charges, and now you have the task of sentencing him.

I wanted to take a minute and write a letter on his behalf. I've known Joe over the last four years and have had the opportunity to spend time with him socially, spiritually, and professionally. Under all circumstances he seemed to place other people's needs before his own.

Specifically we were in a bible study together it was at that time I learned how involved Joe was with his daughter's lives. In addition it was Joe's insights that caused me to question whether I was doing everything I could do to be a good Christian.

The thing I've always appreciated about Joe the most is good, bad, or indifferent he will give you the answers you need to hear. Not the watered down responses you want to hear. I wish there were more people on this earth that could express honesty in this fashion.

Sincerely, Mark Lane

Dave Lavin

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am Joe Lavin's uncle am writing this note regarding this character and importance in the lives of many friends, not to mention his family. Despite a challenging upbringing, I have watched Joe developed into individual who cares for people and who would do anything his power to help them. Joe is been very active in his church and has been the instrument of change in people's (particularly men's) lives. If you measure a man's character by how much others love and appreciate him, then he gets an "A+". I'm proud to call him my nephew.

I should also tell you that I was among the many investors in Joe's "forex" funds. Like most of the others, I lost money but don't believe for a second that there was no mal-intent. I base that on knowing who he is – I've known him his entire life – and what a strong man of God he is.

I'm very aware of his situation and that he has pled guilty to fraud and money laundering. I know the he wrestled over that decision and I'm not sure that he's convinced it was the right one. But he did and accepts it. I just ask that you consider what I believe to be true; that the world will remain a better place with Joe's ability to influence it.

Thank you very much,

David T. Lavin

Janelle Lavin

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Janelle Lavin, 21, and I am one of Joe's five children. I understand that my dad has recently pleaded guilty to more than one federal crime. I am writing this letter in hopes that it will make you see my dad in a different light.

Over a year ago now, my dad and my family began this process leading up to his sentencing date on March 21st. It has been a very long and hard year for my family, but it has also been a year that has brought us closer than ever and made us all realize what is truly important. My dad has been very strong and reliable for his family, and none of this has changed that.

My father is the most generous and loving man I know. He has taught me through his words and actions to always give and love to the end of my fingertips. My dad does this everyday if it's by giving someone a ride, driving an hour and a half to go to a twenty minute dad and me day, set up a church event he can't even attend, or open his home to anyone and everyone for anything they need.

I believe there are certain characteristics and responsibilities that make people good friends, good husbands, good dads, good examples, and good people. Then there is my dad. He has gone above and beyond in every relationship in his life and had fulfilled many dreams of those of his family and friends. The best memories I have are of my dad and I staying up all night watching funny videos on youtube , rubbing my back when I've had a bad day, talking to me for hours about my interests, my beliefs, and my frustration. At a young age, I feel more wise, more advised, and more loved than most people because of my dad. I have a family that is unbelievably close and I have been so blessed to have a father that is so disciplined, passionate, loving, patient, and forgiving.

What I would like you to understand most while sentencing my dad is the pain this is going to cause my family. On behalf of all my family and family friends, we would most appreciate leniency in your decision. I recently found out that I am pregnant. I was on birth control so this was quite a surprise to my husband and I. My husband is still having a hard time accepting the situation and we have had to discuss all of our options. Even though it is against our beliefs, my dad talked about the possibility of an abortion with me and let me come to my own decision, which was no. We discussed adoption, which we all felt was an option if for some reason my husband and I could not come to terms with my pregnancy or if we felt that we could not provide a loving, stable home for the baby. During these discussions, my dad and step mom even went as far as to say that they would raise my child for me until I was ready if that was what I needed. Since then the panic has subsided and I am confident that I can provide my baby with a loving home, although I can't really imagine what that looks like without my dad near me.

I started going to Bellevue Community College a couple of years ago and started learning a lot of different views about life, society, politics and religion. I know that I must have overwhelmed my dad with questions, arguments and numerous plans to change the world and eliminate social injustice. My dad listened and talked gently with me as I challenged many of the beliefs that he had tried so hard to instill in me throughout my entire childhood. He was even willing to invite my new friends to our house so we could all discuss these things together. I was a little unsure about doing this, not because I thought my dad would blow them out of the water but because I do not "wear my Christianity" as easily and obviously as my dad does. Long story short, my friends were so amazed by

my dad. He was so different from what they expect a really devout follower of Christ to be. He agreed with so many of our points and pointed out the similarities between our passions and Christ's. He also pointed out where our beliefs might be at odds with what God's will for our lives and creation.

Probably the most memorable point was when we were talking about abortion and all of the protests and such that we here about. He said that he could not imagine anyone who was truly following Christ that would do such a terrible thing. He reminded me of our pastor's constant call to us to love the city and not to judge it or rage against it. I was also reminded of a very close friend of my dad's, Melissa, who found out she was pregnant years ago and decided to have an abortion. My dad told her that he would be overjoyed if she would let him raise the baby with her or for her. That she could change her mind whenever she wanted for any reason. She ended up having the abortion and remains a good friend of my dad's. The main point my dad made was that this was the most obvious Christian thing to do in that situation. Not judge her, criticize her or leave her without trying to help her. He told us that we need to consider carefully the things that we see in the media, learn in class or even church because they are all trying to change us at very deep levels.

My dad is a very unique man with qualities you cannot find amongst many men. He is a loyal member to his church, family, and friends. I know that many people will write letters and you will hear a lot of the same things over and over again and I pray that the repetition will show you and make you believe what a truly wonderful man my father is. Other than taking in people in need, helping anyone who asks, coaching our soccer teams, planning family and church events, being a shoulder to cry on and many other things, most of all my dad is the one man I know who I trust my life with, who I would give up anything for, who I go running to in need, who I need to go running to, who sees me as me no matter how many times I mess up. He is the voice that tells me to keep going when I want to stop. He has taught me that an obstacle too high just isn't existent.

Again, on behalf of my family, friends, church and community, I ask you to please take a look at my dad from the light we put on him. I ask you to think of my sisters, brother and I when making your decision.

Thank you,

Janelle Sharee Lavin.

Lisa Lavin

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Lisa Lavin. I have known Joe Lavin for twenty-four years. I understand that he has pled guilty to federal charges. Joe and I married at eighteen and nineteen year of age and we were married for ten years.

Joe has always been a very caring man with very much integrity. I do not believe at all that he would ever do anything intentionally that he thought was immoral or illegal.

We have three daughters together, Breanna, 23, Janelle, 21, and Sarah, 18. We also have two young grandsons and a third grandchild on the way. When our daughters were young Joe always volunteered and coached their soccer teams and taught bible studies at our church.

Joe has always been the kind of guy that wants to help the underdog. He always wants to pick up the hitchhikers and help the homeless, far past the point of anyone else I have ever met.

Joe is a wonderful father and grandfather. He loves our daughters and his young daughter, Madison, 6, so very much. I also have a son, Jacob who is nine years old. He treats Jacob like he is his own natural born son. He goes to his soccer, baseball and basketball games and every year "doughnuts with dad" at Jacobs's school. Jacob considers Joes daughter, Madison, to be his own sister and vice versa. Jacob is invited every year to family pictures and family holidays.

Maybe Judge Lasnik, this sounds selfish to you but I truly don't know what all of my kids would do without their dad around and I don't know what I would do either. Joe Lavin is the rock in our lives. He is always there for all of us and his family needs him near us. He is an amazing role model for our kids. My son tells me all the time how he wants to be just like him when he grows up.

So, because of all of these reasons I am pleading with you that you show leniency towards Joe Lavin for the sake of myself, his wonderful wife, Wendy but especially because of our children, Breanna, Janelle, Sarah, Jacob and Madison. We all love and respect him with all of our beings.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lavin

Rebecca Lavin

Dear Judge Lasnik, I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and now faces sentencing. As Joe's mother I cannot help but have the handicap of bias, however, here is what I want to say. I have watched my son, over the years; become a good and moral man, a loving husband, father and grandfather. Though he has had more tolerance for risk than I would like, he has always worked incredibly hard on his business endeavors. He feels an excessive amount of pressure to fulfill his obligations to his clients and to provide for his family which is causing him to become more and more anxious and depressed as the situation grows more dire. I do believe this experience has been a wake-up call to his sense of what is appropriate or tolerable risk.

One of the many tangible things that reinforce this belief is that Joe has decided to get licensed as a massage therapist and work with myself and maybe even his wife (who is a physical therapist). A lot of people have been thrown back over why he would abandon so many of his natural talents for a career in massage. Joe's answer to me was that he was not sure that he would be able to be in business and not get into similar situations in the future, so he felt it was best for every one if he found something that he enjoyed and that would get him as far away from any potential business transactions as possible.

A mainstay in his life and his moral compass is his strong religious belief that he studies and tries to follow as well as any human can. His involvement in his church has provided him with many friends and advisers that will tell you the truth of what I say. I am impressed with the cadre of men who I have seen come to my son's house on a regular basis to support him, counsel him and pray with him. I am not a part of my son's church or even his faith, but I will say the beauty of how I see that faith being worked out amongst Joe's family and friends gives me a lot to think about.

I know my son would never intentionally hurt or inconvenience anyone on his account. I also know that he suffers greatly, every day, knowing that he has not been able to recover all losses involved and because of this others are suffering greatly as well. Several members of our family invested monies with Joe and we are among those that he feels and expresses a genuine sense of remorse over our losses.

He has a very loving wife (Wendy) and a beautiful six year old daughter (Madison) at home who depend on him to be there for them. It is a critical time in a young girls' life. Madison is especially attached to her father who has worked from a home office for several years to be close to her. Joe is a huge part of her daily upbringing as well as her life.

He has three daughters that are not living at home but he is very much a part of their lives. He sees them on a regular basis and talks to them several times a day, every day. They, along with their young brother (not Joe's natural son) who Joe has virtually adopted as his own son, rely on Joe to be an extremely large and positive part of their life because they have some extremely difficult circumstances that they have to navigate Joe also has two grandsons who adore him and who Joe see's regularly.

There are normal family bonds, very close families and then there are those family that are so close that they simply cannot be described without reference to how close they are to each other. This is Joe's family. I'm hoping that you get a lot of letters from Joe's friends and that you have a chance to read them all. I am certain that you will find similar descriptions of Joe's unique closeness with his family in every letter that you read.

It will be extremely hard for Joe and his family to be apart for even a short period of time and I believe it will be truly devastating for the entire family if during that absence they are not able to visit each other because Joe is too far away. Thank you for taking this into consideration in your sentencing.

Respectfully, ReBecca Lavin

Sarah Lavin

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Sarah Lavin. I am Joseph Lavin's eighteen year old daughter. I am aware that my dad has pled guilty to federal charges and is waiting to be sentenced. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my opinion before sentencing my dad. My dad is my rock. I don't know what I or anyone else in my family would do without him. I believe with my entire heart that my dad would never intentionally hurt, harm or mislead another human being. I do not believe my dad knowingly or intentionally would break the law.

My dad is a very good Christian man. He inspires me to want to do better and help people through his actions. For as long as I can remember my dad has always taught us to help other people. I remember going to give homeless people in Seattle food, blankets and warm clothes in the winter when I was little. I remember my dad even taking the coat off his own back and giving it to someone when we had run out of clothes to hand out to them. My dad always stops on the side of the road to help stranded people. He always wants to pick up hitch hikers. My dad always volunteers at church functions. He will open his heart and home to anyone who needs it, whether they ask for help or not. My dad has a lot of integrity. He prides himself on helping his family, strangers, and friends. When I was little I had two best friends whose mom was very bad and they didn't have contact with their dad, my dad accepted them into our family, bringing them over for holidays and weekend trips to his house. He loved them and wanted to help out anyway he could. That is the kind of person my dad is.

My dad is very dedicated to his family. I go to school in Belfair, which is about an hour and a half from his house, but he drives over just to see me have one line in a play or for any of my soccer games. He comes over to take pictures of me before dances. In fifth grade I wanted to live in Seattle with him but didn't want to leave my friends so every morning my dad drove me all the way back here and then picked me up again for school. I also have a nine year old brother, who is not biologically my dad's son but you would never know if you saw them together. My dad comes over for his functions just the same as he does for mine or any of my other sisters. My brother looks up to my dad and always says when I grow up I want to be just like him.

My dad made my childhood very fun and special. He would do silly things that made me feel special every day. He would always wake me up with hot chocolate and three waffles that spelled out I love you. He would make playing in a cardboard box fun. He used to build castles out of boxes for me and my sisters to play in. We used to go salamander hunting in a raft every summer. There are countless more memories I could go on and on about but the reason I wanted to tell you about them is that I have a six year old sister, Madison. She needs my dad to be around her so that she can have all of the fun and special memories I had growing up.

My dad is a very wonderful person. He is my hero. We have a very large and very close extended family. My dad is the string that ties us all together. We need our dad to be with us and around us. Please show mercy on my dad and all of us by giving him the minimum sentence available.

Respectfully,

Sarah Lavin

Rob Lemley

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Robert Lemley and I have been a friend of Joe Lavin for over 5 years. I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges. I would like to share with you a few details of my relationship and experiences with Joe Lavin.

Joe Lavin is a great person with a very generous heart and a love for God. When I think of Joe's character words like integrity, strength, honesty and passion come to mind. On several occasions Joe and his wife Wendy have invited my family over for dinner and social events. Joe is a big sports fan and Joe will often host large gathering to watch sports events on TV. Through such events I have been introduced a large number of Joe's friends who are all model citizenship. Never have I seen Joe drink alcoholic beverages during the entire 5 years we have been friends.

Joe possesses qualities that I hope to acquire some day. For example, Joe is very disciplined regarding his relationship with God and this is revealed through his weekly men's bible meetings and church attendance. But to further illustrate, Joe really walks the walks by maintaining an even composure and showing others love and respect at all times. I would entrust Joe to watch over my family in the event I could not do so because I know Joe would teach my children the above mentioned qualities and, in result, my children too would become great people who contribute to society just like Joe Lavin.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Robert Lemley

Bob Lewis

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I have been a friend of Joe Lavin for at least six years. I met Joe Wendy at our church, Woodinville Alliance Church. I have been a self-employed wallpaper contractor for 24 years, led the men's Ministry in our church (called Ironmen, 60 men attend weekly), an elder in the church, married for 28 years and the father of four.

Joe has been a part of Ironmen for several years and came on to his leadership team in August of 2007. Joe loves to read, research and think. He helped our team to improving our communications with the man (email list), his wealth of reading gave us more resources in picking curriculum and his willingness to accept responsibility was encouraging. Even though we knew of some of its business hardships we all felt he was a man of integrity that we wanted our team. He stepped down in leadership in October of 2007 when his difficulties became public, not wanting to disgrace the church or Ironmen.

Joe has been a part of our annual dancing kids capping trip for the past two years always adding to the fun with all the kids with his mega squirt guns and involvement with them. He has many times opened his home up for gatherings and meals for their many friends and for the men in Ironmen. He encouraged six couples, including my wife and I, to go to Bellingham for a weekend retreat to hear an influential teacher that encouraged all of us in our spiritual walk.

Joe is one of those kind of friends that you know you can call when you need help and if he is able he will rearrange what he is doing to help. Such as the time we were trying to put up Christmas lights at the church and didn't have enough people. I called him when he was there in about 20 minutes and help with a great attitude all morning.

Joe cherishes his kids and goes out of his way to spend time with them, encourage them and show his love. As he has come face-to-face with his judgment he has become a humble man as he has researched what might happen to him. His love for his family with this coming separation has him at his wits end. I had never seen him cry until I recently talked about all of his incarceration and how it will hurt his family. Joe needs his family close to him because of his need to watch out for them and for relationship.

Many of the guys (Ironmen) keep asking how they can help, suggesting a visitation schedule for when he goes to prison and more. It will break our hearts and his families if he is sent so far away that we can't drive to see him.

Sincerely,

Bob Lewis

Gayle Lockhart

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing this letter in support of Joe Lavin and his family. I understand he is facing a very big challenge in his life right now.

Joe is a fellow classmate in our massage class at Northwest School of Massage. He has been a joy to get to know these past five months. We study together and swap massages on each other in class and sometimes at each other's houses. He has proven to be about most moral character, kind and of generous spirit at all times. Despite his busy schedule he has rewrote notes that were important for our tests and e-mailed them out to all our classmates.

He has offered his home and even the assistance of his wife, Wendy (who is a physical therapist) to help any of us who wanted some extra help during midterms. He offered rides to any classmates who were stuck during the snow days we had this winter. I know he is a caring and loving friend, husband and father. I know he has the support of all his classmates and teachers and all who truly know him.

Please consider this as you make your important decision that affects Joe, his family and friends for the rest of his life. I pray that Joe and his family will get a chance to overcome whatever past mistakes he has made and I know that he will be a valuable asset to society as he continues to his God-given right to a fair and moral life.

Yours truly,

Gayle Lockhart

Neil Lund (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

As a client of Mr. Joe Lavin, I am writing to you today to share my opinion as to the character of a man that I have known and believed in his ability to manage money for me, for more than six years. Even though I have at this time have been harmed by the loss of the money that Joe was managing for me, it is my most sincere belief that nothing positive can come from his incarceration.

Joe has always been more than fair, ethical, and forthright in any and all dealings that I have had with him. His business has a high degree of risk and I am quite sure that everyone that invested with him and his companies has been totally briefed as I was as to the nature of the business and the level of risk it involved. I made a judgment to invest based on my impression of the man as well as the nature of the investment and the potential returns.

I still believe that Joe did not set out to do anything illegal or unethical in his business dealings. The past couple of years have proven to be very difficult in the business world and we have seen many businesses, banks and lending intuitions that have failed. I cannot think of one of the investors that has profited from the incarceration of the executives that may have made a poor decision. My only hope of recovery is for Mr. Joe Lavin to be able to go to work again and attempt to create a business that could somehow begin to payback some of the investment that, clients like myself have trusted him with.

In closing, I request that you will see your way clear to keep my hope of some type of recovery alive, by allowing Joe Lavin to remain working. I know that he will continue to attempt to work toward a goal of making his investors whole, and be a positive member of society.

Thank you in advance for considering my interest and opinion. Joe Lavin is not a criminal. Our country's prisons are full of people that do not belong there, but did not have the personal resources to defend themselves in our court system.

Neil P. Lund

Jim Lupkin

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Jim Lupkin and I am the CEO and Co Founder of www.ojeez.com. I have known Joe Lavin for two years and is a friend and business associate of mine. I understand Joe has pled guilty to federal fraud and money laundering and is going to face jail time. Please accept this letter to showcase his good aspects of his character.

Active & Considerate: Joe has been very pro active in helping me realize my dream of helping entrepreneurs worldwide with the start up of my company. One example is he helped me organize my entire company to help me make as little mistakes as possible when launching and he never asked for a dime.

Affectionate & Concerned: Joe always looked out for the best interest of me, not if he made money from my idea. One example is he would spend hours on the phone with me with no signed contract or obligation to pay him for his services when he could have spent that with his family or being paid.

Ambitious, Confident & Brilliant: Joe has always thought out of the box with amazing ideas that could change people's lives. One example is he brought an idea to me that would help every home-based business entrepreneur become more successful.

Expert: Joe has a skill set that can be beneficial to our world and it would be heart breaking knowing he cannot continue to help the world because he is behind bars.

Faithful: At times when Joe could have went with another entrepreneur he stuck by me and made his commitment. In a world where people easily betray others for the sake of money I am proud to know Joe doesn't fit in that circle.

This is a partial list of why I believe Joe is an outstanding person and I know you will feel the same when you have the opportunity to spend time with him.

Best,

Jim Lupkin

Kim McIntosh

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Kim McIntosh and I have known Joe Lavin for over 13 years. Joe initially told me of the serious trouble he was facing last summer. I was shocked and surprised to hear of the situation that he has created. However I'm not surprised by the fact that he is willing to take full responsibility for his actions. I am also not surprised that he continues to work on behalf of his clients even though the probability of success is very low and the time and resources he is still committing to his clients comes at a significant cost to him and his family.

Joe and I met at a business presentation in Florida, and we became fast friends and business associates. Our businesses did well and because of Joe's love of people we were soon in business with hundreds of other people. Everyone that I have met has always thought the world of him.

On one of Joe's trips to see me in Arizona he learned that a young mother of two was in a very frightening relationship that involved physical abuse. Joe organized and implemented a plan to get her and her children discreetly from their home, to a safe location. Because of Joe's help this young woman was able to relocate and start a new life for herself and her kids. I will never forget the fear in her eyes when we first arrived at her home and how later it quickly turned to gratitude. Nor will I forget the very relaxed and thoughtful way Joe handled the entire situation. It was a scary and dire situation, but Joe was never excited or showed any nervousness. He was calm, reassuring and even had us all laughing as we made our way to the safe place that Joe had found through several phone calls to relief agencies and such. When the family was safe and we were returning to our business responsibilities I had to drive because Joe was overcome with emotion. I would call it empathy, but I remember that it seemed like so much more than that at the time.

I know that Joe has a great heart and would never intentionally hurt anyone. Over the years we have had many conversations about our families and Joe has always placed the welfare of his children above all else. I know that Joe has made some bad choices, but no one is more aware of the harm he has caused than he is.

Joe and I have always stayed in touch over the years and I consider him to be one my dearest friends. He is one of those few people that I know is a life long friend. I know that he has been humbled and is sorry for the pain he has caused.

I ask on his behalf and that of his family's that you please show Joe as much leniency as you can and keep him near his family.

Sincerely,

Kim McIntosh

Stacy McIntosh (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I write to you today on behalf of Joe Lavin. I am aware of his situation and understand that he has pled guilty to federal criminal charges. As a former client of Joe, I thought that this letter might be of value.

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Stacy McIntosh, and I currently reside in Oakdale, California. I had been a client of Mr. Lavin for approximately 4 years. While I am not writing this letter to give my personal opinion of the validity of the investments, although through the years I never felt this was an unethical investment and understood the risk involved, I thought I would try to give my evaluation of Mr. Lavin's character from a client's point of view.

As someone who was allegedly duped by Mr. Lavin, I feel Joe was a man of principal. He was always in communication with me letting me know on a relatively frequent basis what was transpiring, good and bad. I appreciated his honesty and open communication.

I had flown to Seattle for a conference back in June of 2006 and Mr. Lavin and I met for coffee. He was always willing and ready to meet with clients even amongst his very busy schedule. I appreciated the fact that he was so forthcoming and accessible.

Throughout the years I have known Mr. Lavin as a client I would also consider him a friend. He is not a man hiding behind a corporate name or an automated voicemail. He is open about his family, his faith, and his business. The events in question are very unfortunate for all involved, but I believe in my heart of hearts that Joe Lavin is a man of integrity. You may see otherwise due to these proceedings but I felt it was my duty as a former client to give you my perception of Mr. Lavin's character.

I know Mr. Lavin is heartbroken over the results of the investments for his clients, friends and family. He takes full responsibility for these losses, and I believe only wanted the best and most profitable gains for all his clients. Should you require further clarification of this letter please don't hesitate to contact me. It was my intention in writing this letter that I share with you my understanding of Joe Lavin as I see him. I personally feel that he is good man who honors his friends and family and his responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this evaluation.

Sincerely,

Stacy McIntosh

Sirikit Mcphail

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I write this letter to show my support, concern and prayers for my classmate, Joe Lavin and his family. I understand that he is facing a huge crisis in his life right now.

I first met Joe in November, 2007. That was last year when our course in Massage Therapy first started. He is the only male student in our class of, I believe 15 students.

Joe and another 2 classmates of ours would take down notes for us during our very intense Anatomy and Physiology class, as we have a quiz every time we meet, which is every Tuesday. Despite his busy schedule he still finds time to rewrite the notes and send them out to us after every class.

There was a time when we had to give massages to professional massage therapists who are past graduates from our school. The idea was for us to get valuable critic and helpful suggestions. The whole school at the time (at least I can speak for myself) was struck with apprehension on how we would do, and Joe came out with a very helpful letter of encouragement and support for all of us. His mom being a professional massage therapist herself, he said to just go and do the best we can, knowing we have prepared for it and just know and remember these folks have been in our shoes before and so they know how it feels what we felt at that time.

During our midterms (and this include theory and practical exams) we would do study group and Joe had offered his home and even the assistance of his wife Wendy, who is a Physical Therapist during those tense times. Also, when it was in the thick of winter, Joe offered rides to classmates who were concerned to drive on the snow which I believe just shows that Joe was a thoughtful person. His caring, good humor (despite of what he is going through right now) and support for all of us his classmates and teachers would always stay with us as years pass.

I hope and pray that Joe, together with his family and friends, can overcome this and that the Lord would be merciful and he will get a very good and fair trial as everyone else deserves.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sirikit M. McPhail

Sheri Minear

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. I am aware that Joe has pleaded guilty to federal charges and is facing sentencing later this month.

I am Joe's sister-in-law, Sheri. I have known Joe for approximately 13 years. Joe has always been an active part of our family, even though we are located on the East Coast.

Joe is a dedicated family man. A loving husband, father and grandfather. A caring friend, devoted Christian and active community member. He is the kind of person who would give you the shirt off his back.

Joe has a big heart, especially when children are involved. Whether it be his own four daughters, two grandchildren or other kids over for a family night, he makes sure everyone is involved and having a good time. Joe's sense of humor, large smile and laughter bring happiness to many people.

Joe, Wendy, and Madison were able to come to visit with Wendy's family on the east coast for Christmas. Spending time with them is always wonderful. During that time, Joe practiced his new skills on me that he learned in massage therapy school. He truly seemed excited about his new career and understands that importance of "turning over a new leaf".

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter when considering Joe's sentencing.

Respectfully yours,

Sheri Minear

Matthew Murphy

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing to provide a positive character reference for my friend Joe Lavin. I understand that Joe recently plead guilty to federal criminal charges and will soon be facing sentencing.

I have known Joe Lavin since 2006, having met him at Woodinville Alliance Church's men's group. I spent time with Joe and his family over an extended period last summer and found Joe to be very caring and compassionate. Joe and I are both prior service veterans having served in the United States Navy. In a short time, I learned that I relate very well to Joe as a person and friend. Joe's warrior spirit is well-balanced with that of a loving husband, father, competitor and friend. In the time that I've known Joe, he's demonstrated a passion to learn and grow in his faith and even through the mistakes he's made: past and present. Joe has a kind, giving heart and genuinely cares for the people in his life.

I appreciate your consideration of my character assessment of Joe as you weigh his sentencing.

Sincerely,

Matthew Murphy
Engineering Technical Officer, FAA

Barry Nakayama

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Barry Nakayama and I am the general sales manager at University Mazda. I am aware that my friend Joe Lavin has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is facing sentencing in the near future. I would like to present this statement of character regarding my relationship with Joe for consideration during these proceedings.

I have known Joe for about a year. We met as part of a mutual on-line search for a martial arts workout partner. Since meeting, Joe and I have maintained weekly sessions to train, spar, and exchange ideas about martial arts. These sessions always involve a lot of sweat and two people trying to kick and punch each other. This kind of encounter may sound like it's all about violence, but after 15 years of training I can tell you it is much more about friendship and trust. I put my gloves on every week and stand in front of Joe with complete faith that he is a kind person that I can trust with my health and safety, even in the most brutal situation.

I would also like to add that Joe has shared his involvement in this legal matter for most of the time that I have known him. I'm amazed at the character that he has shown. I know that he is scared but I also know that he is prepared and willing to deal with the outcome. Our conversations on the subject revolve mostly around his concern for his family and his sincere interest in developing a new life away from material things; focusing on his family, friends, physical health, and spiritual relationship with God.

I have been a guest in Joe's home with my wife and three daughters. I have seen him interact as a friend to others, a father to his children, and as a husband to his wife Wendy. I have seen nothing but positive loving relationships with Joe as a central figure. I understand that punishment is an important part of justice, but I hope you will consider leniency in Joe's case. I am confident that he has learned from his experience, and I have complete faith that his future life will be a contribution of good to his community, friends, and family.

Best regards,

Barry Nakayama

Cris Nelson

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I am writing this letter today in regards to my very dear and long standing friend Joe Lavin. I am aware that he has plead guilty to federal criminal charges and is facing sentencing. This is terribly upsetting to me and I am having a difficult time paraphrasing the relationship that Joe and I have shared, but I will try to keep this as brief as possible.

I met Joe and his wife Wendy in late 1997 and I consider them very good friends. Although we have not had as much regular contact over the past few years, due to our busy family and work schedules, Joe is a friend I can count upon at any time for any reason and he would come running without question. I have had the opportunity to admire Joe's commitment to his wife, children, grandchildren and large extension of friends and family up close. We should all be so lucky to have earned the trust, respect and friendship from a man so worthy as Joe.

There are so many instances that I can look back on and reflect upon Joe's intense mental and spiritual being. I don't believe I have ever met a man so devoted to doing the right thing by his family, friends and yes, on more than one occasion absolute strangers. Joe digs from a different hole than most. I am not sure if it was his upbringing that gave him that or if he just has such conviction in what he does that it always seems like he is doing the right thing. I know nothing of these charges but I do believe that Joe would never intentionally harm a person in the interest of his own gain.

As Joe enters your sentencing room I hope that you really look at the person and dig deep enough to find out who he really is rather than what he is being characterized as. I know that if you do, you will find genuine and significant factors that cry out for leniency and for keeping Joe as physically close to his family and friends as possible.

I cannot stress enough how uniquely close Joe is to his family and how the disruption of this closeness will cause an inordinate amount of pain and suffering for all of them.

Sincerely,

Cris Nelson

Linda Nolan

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Linda Jean Nolan and I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. Joe is married to the daughter of my domestic partner, and I look on Joe and his wife as my own children and their children as my own extended family. Joe's family, as well as Wendy's family are very close and have welcomed me as their own also. It has been one of my life's biggest blessings to become a part of this beautiful group of people.

I know that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. This has had a huge impact on the family, bringing it even closer together, and standing as one with Joe. When the family is altogether, and there are children running everywhere, Joe is one of the best dads around. His parenting skills are the best. He knows just how to diffuse those problems that always seem to arise when cousins have to play together for several days – all day long. He is patient, but firm, and all the children know that when uncle Joe/Dad comes in the room, the situation will be solved. Joe is also very creative when it's time to find something new to do because everybody is bored. I find it all pleasure to observe having raised two children alone.

Joe was open, friendly, and never has a mean word to say about anyone. He has faith, and he is not afraid to show it or share it, but it is shared in the best way possible – by the way he conducts his life. Joe does not sermonize or try to “save” anyone, he simply lives his life, and raise his children by example that has, to my 10 years or so of knowing him, been based on Christian principles that should be basic to us all, yet are seldom seen expressed in such loving and generous ways.

I've always found Joe to be of an energy level that I will never (and never my entire lifetime) could attain. In my opinion, he harnesses this energy for the most useful of purposes: enriching his mind, making a good home for his family and having fun with his family and friends. He has an enthusiasm for life that is without comparison. It would be extremely debilitating to him, and even more so to his family, to have that enthusiasm lost or depressed because of a single unintentional involvement in an activity of illegal proportion.

And so I write this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin, asking that your honor consider all the good qualities that this young family man possesses, and that rather than compromise his future, consideration be given to teaching the valuable lesson that needs to learn the situation in a manner that is suited to the man.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Nolan, CRA

David Nold

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I am an attorney retained by Joseph Lavin approximately one year ago to assist him with the civil aspects of the allegations which are the subject of the criminal charges. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention certain facts surrounding the circumstances of Mr. Lavin which are germane to his sentencing. There are two very important points I wish to make.

First, it has always been the attitude of Mr. Lavin (since I have known him) to deal with the criminal aspects of these matters in an open, honest, and forthright fashion. Toward this end, it has repeatedly been his instruction that I should cooperate with the authorities to the fullest extent possible. This we have done, and so has he.

Second, this case is unusual in that while the losses are extraordinarily large, it is not a case in which the money cannot be accounted for or in which all the funds went personally to Mr. Lavin. In fact, the government alleges that only 6% of the total loss ended up benefiting Mr. Lavin. In fact, the large losses occurred because Mr. Lavin invested the money with others who were either crooked or stupid, or both. Of course I do not mean by the foregoing to excuse or minimize the conduct of Mr. Lavin. I only attempt to differentiate, for sentencing purposes, that there is a difference between Mr. Lavin and those individuals who abscond with 100% of the funds.

Very truly yours,

David A. Nold

Fred Nystrom

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I am writing to you to attest to my positive relationship with Joe Lavin. I understand that he has a plea in place and that you will be sentencing him later this month.

I have known Joe and his family since 1976 and have seen him under a variety of situations. Joe is spontaneous and a bit impulsive, but I have never experienced him to be purposively dishonest. He tends to believe those around him and acts on the information he is given in a trusting fashion.

As an example, he introduced me to a business “associate” of his in Los Angeles who ordered 20,000 books from my publishing company. Later this associate disappeared with his company’s funds and reneged on the purchase order with me. Joe was as surprised and frustrated as I was, but to show the true character of the man, he immediately set out to help me replace the purchase order. This involved finding another company in Tulsa, Oklahoma to purchase the books and flying there several times paying his own way to insure that the order was fulfilled.

Joe had believed the word of the original associate and when he found that he and I were both misled, he did everything possible to make up for the mistake. This is not the action of a con-man, but rather the action of one who may trust in others a little too quickly.

Joe has worked diligently over the years to provide for his family in an honest manner. It saddens me to see him in this uncharacteristic situation and I sincerely hope that you will view Joe for his many positives and not just for this mistake in judgment he made.

Best,

Fred Nystrom
Publisher
Discover Books

Greg Olsby

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Greg Olsby. I was born in Seattle and have lived in Woodinville for twenty-one years along with my wife of twenty-three years. I have three teenagers that attend Bellevue Christian High School.

Our family has attended Woodinville Alliance Church (WAC) since 1996; it was through WAC's men's group that I first met Joe Lavin approximately three years ago.

Joe has openly, if not happily, discussed his legal troubles with the Men's group. Joe's decision to plead guilty to federal charges was a complex trade-off between his instinct to challenge the very complex charges and the desire to minimize risk to him and his family.

With our busy lives, most of us are reluctant to extend a welcoming hand to new acquaintances. Not so with Joe (and Wendy). Joe reminds me of what it was like as a kid growing up in Ballard, he encourages friends, old and new, to drop by to share a meal or watch a sporting event on the tube. This "gift of hospitality" is one reason I find it difficult to reconcile the charges with the man that I've known and the good word of others that have known him even longer.

Joe has honestly shared his life, musings and thinking with me and others. Not just about business, but about social justice, his faith, the needs of fellow believers and more recently his sister Suzanne who is struggling with leukemia. Joe has many people that love and care for him, but what sets Joe apart has been his enthusiasm for serving others. Examples include volunteering time to help people move, cleaning up the yard of elderly folks, taking church kids out for a time of fun in the mountains or on the water, or helping to cook meals for the larger church fellowship.

I don't write this casually and hope that you take it in the spirit intended. Knowing the full-man persuades me to give Joe the benefit of any doubt. I think I'm one of many that trust Joe unequivocally.

Accordingly, I urge you to consider my earnest support for Joe as you deliberate his sentencing and the impact it will have on him and his family.

Sincere regards,

Greg Oslby

Phil Oswald

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you on behalf of Mr. Joseph Lavin. The severity of the sentence for him is not far from me and I neither want to minimize or gloss the seriousness of the crimes. But I do believe that I can address general issues of character and behavior that even though they are in question, still are part of the make up of this man.

I am the pastor of the church in which he is a member and with which he is intimately involved on a weekly basis. He is not merely an attendee. He is not a face in the crowd. His faith is thoughtful and real in his life. And the skeptical side of me wonders how a man can act in ways that seem contrary to his convictions. I don't know that I can answer to the level I might like, but I see in Mr. Lavin an ability and an intent to grasp the crime itself as well as the motives and behaviors that fueled his actions. He is not hiding behind his religion or trying to manipulate his spiritual contacts to ameliorate his guilt or the gravity of his behaviors. In other words, he is absorbing all of this like I would hope a reflective man would. From earliest days he has invited me into the world he is currently facing. There has been no hiding.

I am not a psychologist and this all remains an enigma to me because the Joe Lavin I observe and know is a man of great compassion, kindness, and conviction. The consistency of his impact in the lives of other men is staggering. Truly, he is a force for great good in our community even in the specter of the charges against him. We can't guess the outcome of the sentencing, but not one of us who knows him has any doubt that his crimes are anomalies to his truer self and the Joe Lavin we know and value will not cease to give back to his community, his church, and his family.

Any consideration you might offer on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rev. Philip Oswald

Robert Park (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

Knowing that my good friend, Joe Lavin has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing, I am writing this letter on his behalf.

Having been involved with Joe since the fall of 2001, initially as a client and then as a personal friend, I find it difficult to understand the position he is now in. In all of my dealings with Joe, there was never anything out of order as to my expectations concerning the substance and details of the investment plan which I entered into with Joe. I was never asked or cajoled in any way by Joe to sign a contract without a complete understanding of the risk involved. He was always available to answer any and all questions no matter how they might result in mind not agreeing to accept his offer. If anything, Joe would always act on the side of caution, I believe, because so many people tend to have overzealous expectations.

Joe's past history, as I have come to know both from a personal and business point of view has shown personal compassion and desire to serve others before himself.

I cannot judge the overriding legality of his present circumstances, but I know Joe! I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, if there was no opportunity to right the wrongs perpetrated on him by others, he would go the last mile to accomplish and make write anything and everything within his power to do so. This comes from someone who has been one of those having lost a large sum of money. I took the risk because everything in my due diligence said do it. All was fine until greed set in and resulted in a father and son being sent to jail for 20 years each. I believe Joe has made the maximum effort to turn this situation around on behalf of all of the investors.

Judge Lasnik, Joe Lavin is a good man, both as a great father and husband and also a fine businessman. I would do it all again, and I pray for him and his circumstances as he is obligated to be subservient to the action of the courts.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Park

Dear Judge Lasnik,

Gale Park (Client)

I concur with those points my husband Bob has written, about Joe Lavin.

We both had the pleasure of spending some time with Joe, his wife and children along with his employees and other investors a few years back. This meeting demonstrated to me that Joe was what I always thought he was. A caring and loving husband and father.

There is no need to overemphasize what I feel about Joe. I'm sure you will learn that there are many that share my belief in his integrity and innocence.

Without knowing any of the details of the charges against Joe, I just have to wonder if he would be in this position had it not been for certain investors whose inept investment decision making process is now being transferred and blamed on Joe Lavin.

I've never been able to understand how helpful it is to a person when they insist on blaming someone for their only decisions. I also wonder if they have always dotted the i's and crossed to the t's in every business situation in which they have been apart. I don't know this, totally off base or not, but if they are, please disregard.

I believe Joe should be free and able to have the opportunity to make right what apparently, according to the courts, needs fixing. If he's in prison, not only is he losing time to be able to make things right, but those perpetrating this rouse will also be in a jail of their own making.

I pray for your compassion concerning Joe, and for the results of your upcoming decision.

Sincerely,

Gale Park

Suzanne Penny

Dear Judge Lasnik, It was brought to my attention recently that Joe Lavin is to be sentenced soon for pleading guilty to fraud and money laundering. Please take a moment to read the following letter, so that you can get a better idea of the man you will be judging.

I know Joe very well and based on knowing him for most of my life, I'm convinced there has got to be more to this story and my guess is that Joe is taking the brunt of something he's undeserving of going to prison for in the first place. Needless to say, I wanted to share with you some of the moments that stand out in my mind from our childhood and beyond, as a testimony of his character for your consideration.

We were in high school when we met. Joe was the class clown and always a joy to be around. One night on my way home from work, I found Joe sleeping on a bench in the rain, while he was waiting for his mother. I felt so bad for him, that I drug him home with me, put him in the only pants I had that would fit him (some pink sweats!), so he'd be warm and dry and introduced him to my family.

About a week or so later, my stepfather was driving home from work in a carpool van one day when a car full of young boys pulled along side the van and was having some fun. It was determined later on that Joe was a passenger in this vehicle. Unbeknownst to the boys, the driver was older and the boys had made him uncomfortable, despite the fact they hadn't done anything mean or bad. Either way, my father asked that I call Joe and have him come by our house for a "talking to". Joe adhered and came over nervous as could be, not sure of what my stepfather was going to say or do. My stepfather chatted with him and more importantly complimented him for stepping up to the plate and knowing that he might be in trouble, even though unjustifiably so, he was a man and responded as my stepfather had requested, ready to be punished if need be, again, despite the fact he hadn't done anything wrong. When I questioned him as to why later, he said he did it because my father "thought" he'd done something wrong and he didn't want to set a bad example, so was prepared to take the punishment regardless, so that we could simply move on. I never forgot that day and realized that in comparison to Joe, I was still an only child while he was already a man.

A few years later, Joe married and had children. His wife never seemed to care for the kids, but Joe on the other hand absolutely adored them and had it been up to him, I think he would have had a dozen! Joe struggled to put himself through college, work full time and then came home to care for the children, cook and clean the house, while his wife rarely assisted. He never complained though and was simply happy to have a family. A couple years went by and his wife strayed. She decided she needed child support in the process and knew she couldn't give the children to Joe if this was to happen. No court in their right mind would have given the kids to her over Joe at that time, so she decided to ask her new boyfriend to try and kill him, ensuring she would get custody. Now I'm a church going woman, but had someone attempted to do something like that to me, I know for certain I wouldn't have handled the situation as graciously as Joe did. He was shocked at first naturally, then instead of getting angry, he prayed for her, continued to treat her with kindness, tried to handle the divorce tactfully and without defacing his soon to be x-wife. He stated that God says to love your wife as Christ loved the church and that it wasn't his place to judge her!

They divorced obviously and Joe went on to become a successful business man. An HONEST businessman with half his college buddies begging for him to teach them how to run their businesses. Whether selling vacations via Travel Max, selling books, etc., he's always worked hard to support his family and been a law abiding citizen. He's

donated time and time again to anyone needing help and has always been willing to lend an ear, a shoulder or hand to anyone – all they need do was ask. Or not...

During one of his business trips to San Diego, I will never forget an evening in which several of his colleagues joined us for dinner downtown. The restaurant was very nice, had linen tablecloths and served a Californian cuisine. Joe was clearly the head of our table and has always been the kind of person that even if you're sad can make you smile.

Anyhow, he was entertaining us with stories and a man from another table that had had too much to drink out of nowhere began insulting and picking on Joe. It was an uncomfortable situation as the man wanted it to escalate into a fight, but Joe isn't the violent type. Finally he agreed to go outside with the man, but due to his intelligence and quick wit, having been on the opposite side of the table, he realized the man didn't know his size. With that in mind, instead of standing up out of his chair to go outside as the man had requested, Joe dropped to his knees, leaving the man to think he was a midget. The man was so shocked, disgusted and I believe embarrassed, that he quickly departed the restaurant! We all laughed until we nearly cried! I recall asking Joe what made him do that and he simply said he didn't believe in fighting. As you can see, again, he has the character of a good man.

The last time I saw Joe (whom while my family hasn't legally adopted him, we refer to him as my brother) he'd brought his new loving wife (a physical therapist) and his adorable daughter to visit me while I was undergoing chemotherapy. I'd explained at one point before his visit that I was concerned because while I like Joe am a Christian, my fiancé wasn't. Anyhow, Joe came to show me his support and had tactfully brought along a book he'd read for my fiancé to see. I had to laugh when Joe said he'd highlighted the good parts, as when you opened the book, every inch of it was highlighted yellow!

And now, as I get the phone call that Joe is being sent to prison after having been harassed for some time, despite the fact he's followed the law, and even won his case in court previously, instead of being bitter or angry when I asked him how he felt, he said fine. "God must have a reason that I'm meant to be in this situation, so whether right or wrong, I'm prepared to do this for whatever reason it's meant to be".

Whether or not Joe failed to dot an I or cross a T, while I believe in our justice system, if I had to put my life on it and bet between the two, in this particular instance, I would have to bet on Joe. I know you are merely doing your job, but I must respectfully request that you please consider giving this loving and kind man the least amount of time possible.

A final example I'd like to share with you is one about my mother who is a manic depressant. Now-a-days, they refer to this as Bi-polar, but what ever you want to call it, it's an awful disorder that is extremely challenging to deal with. While we claim Joe to be a family member, my mother isn't his natural mother clearly and he has no obligation to care for her in any way, shape or form. On Mother's Day however, it's a race to see who calls her first and when she was suicidal at one point, it was Joe that spent hours talking to her after I couldn't take it any more. Joe loved her, prayed with and for her and helped her through her low point.

Needless to say, he is "real" people – one of the best you will ever have the privilege of meeting, despite how things may appear, so if nothing else is achieved by this letter, please know that you are a lucky man to meet this

soul that stands before you now praying for a short sentence, so that he can promptly return to caring for his family and helping others as he is always so willing to do, in any capacity he is capable.

Our prisons are already overpopulated and he isn't a murderer, a rapist, a pedophile or anything remotely close to the company you'll be placing him with, so please I beg of you, consider issuing the least amount of time possible or simply probation.

Thank you for allowing me this courtesy and for your consideration. Also for doing what you do by the way. I know your job must be challenging, especially in instances such as these, but we trust in your decision and in God's hand in the matter, so ask that you weigh the facts, read between the lines, watch and listen and follow your gut instinct after meeting and spending time with Joe. And while you must meet hundreds of people, this is a man you will want to remember and hopefully someday befriend yourself.

On behalf of his beautiful wife and loving daughter as well, we all Thank you.

Suzanne Penny

Mark Peterson

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I wanted to share a few good words with you about my friend Joe Lavin, as I understand he recently plead guilty to federal criminal charge and will soon be facing sentencing.

I have known Joe Lavin since 2001, having met him initially as a good friend of my brother-in-law's family. Since that time, I have come to know Joe as a responsible, diligent, hard working man of character and a personal friend.

Since initially meeting Joe, I have come to know him through developing a personal and family relationship. We have spent numerous evenings as couples sharing in the day-to-day challenges of raising a family, and difficulties of building a business.

I've discovered Joe to be one of the most dedicated family men I've known in my 42 year lifetime. I've witnessed this dedication through the good things he continues to do for his wife, children and his grandchildren.

Thank you for considering these characteristics as you weigh his sentencing.

Sincerely,

Mark Peterson

Jim Piccolo (Client)

My name is James P. Piccolo, and my day-to-day job is one as venture-capitalist; however my career is as a philanthropist. Currently, I am the majority controlling partner of 42 companies and the Founder-Director of The Frank Edward Piccolo Foundation, named after my late father -- a devoted husband, father and attorney. All but one of my companies have been funded with my own money. Personally, I do not use (nor make a practice of endorsing the use of) "OPM" -- Other People's Money. The risks that I take every day are calculated as risk to me and to my family, only.

That leads me to the subject at hand: Mr. Joe Lavin. I have known Joe for over 10 years; and in that entire time, I have seen him operate with the highest level of integrity. Throughout our numerous business dealings, Joe was given many chances to take advantage of me and my affiliates: Never once did he do that!

On numerous occasions, in fact, Joe has gone out of his way to help some of my colleagues who were struggling. If it seemed as if there was an "underdog" in the room, instinctively Joe was the first to recognize him/her and offer his assistance -- usually (if not always), for free!

I know Joe to be a good family man, a solid citizen and a good Christian man. Because of Joe's unquestioning willingness to want to help others, I truly believe that Joe has been placed in a situation where he has not understood fully that to which he was really exposing himself, as far as criminal liability. (Actually, that is a common fear of most entrepreneurs that I know and with whom I associate.)

You don't know what you don't know! What we *all* know is that, "ignorance is still NOT a defense."

I sincerely hope that Joe's many business friends will come to his aid during this very trying time for him. I also hope that you will see a way to be lenient with Joe Lavin. I am a large tax payer in this country. I feel very strongly that our tax dollars should NOT be spent incarcerating men that should be paying restitution for their mistakes: They should be generating income, so that they can be a part of the contribution to the country, not taking valuable resources that this country needs.

Most importantly, Joe needs to be there for his children! As we well know, far too many homes in this country already are broken from divorce, illness and tragic death. I plea to you to consider all of the above and to take this one man's strong recommendation for minimum punishment of a very good man named Joe Lavin.

With All Due Respect,

James P. Piccolo
President & CEO - Nouveau Riche University

"The Master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his education and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence in whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he is always doing both."

Jon Pook

Dear Mr. Martin:

My name is Jonathan Pook, and I have been a friend of Joe Lavin's for about seven years. Joe has also been a client of mine. I understand Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. Joe was in a small group Bible study with me for about three years. Because this was a small group of only four men, we were able to develop a deeper level of communication and often shared our fears and concerns that we wouldn't share with just anybody. Through this I have come to find Joe Lavin to be a trustworthy man, who is deeply committed to his family and his faith. Joe has gone out of his way to encourage me on many occasions. When I had cancer, Joe would support me through prayer and an uplifting comment. Most recently, Joe took the time during his current ordeal, to call me and ask how my daughter was doing who has just been diagnosed with kidney failure. His prayers, concerns and encouragement to my family and me have been greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Pook

Shane Posey

Dear Judge Lasnik

My name is Shane Posey and I am married 6 years and have two boys 2 and 1 years of age. I attend Park Ridge Community Church and work in sales. I met Joe through the Woodinville Alliance Church's men's group. In this group of over 60 men, the purpose is to be transparent and challenging to make our lives as men impactful to our family and those around us. Here he served as a leader and a mentor by modeling a transparent life. We meet at 6:30 am Tuesday mornings where I have had a chance to get to know Joe's heart and character. Joe has impacted my life personally by challenging me to live at a higher standard as a father and in my work. He is a man who researches everything. He is always the one to have a new idea or the answer to a question that no one else had. Joe is very giving. While attending several of his open houses I have watched him around his family and friends. Joe is an amazing father who longs to spend time with his girls and teach them what he knows. He is a great husband who desires a marriage where his wife is taken care of in every way. Joe is no different around them than he is with us guys at group. When I listen to him talk about the experience he is going through, he is very humbled. I have listened to see if there were holes in his stories, or if his body language is lying to me. Every time we get together to play racquetball or just talk he is genuine and consistent.

I enjoy the man Joe is and the friend he has become to me. He is a great sounding board and someone who, if incarcerated, I would wish that he would be close. In today's society with so many husbands and fathers uninvolved, it is vital Joe be close so that his daughter and wife could regularly visit, and continue his relationship with his wife and children, especially Maddy who is six.

Shane Posey

Jimmy Potts

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Jimmy Potts, and I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Lavin. I am aware that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now awaiting sentencing.

I have been a Police Officer in the City of Bothell for 7 years. Needless to say, I have had my fair share of dealings with criminals. I have known Joe personally now for approximately 3 years. Joe Lavin is not a person I would characterize as a criminal. Joe Lavin does not belong in prison.

Joe, and his family, became friends with my family, initially through our similarly aged daughters. My 6 year old daughter, Tiarra, has enjoyed swim classes, play dates and Birthday parties with Joe's daughter, Maddy. Over the years, I have really gotten to know Joe and type of person he is.

Joe is a man dedicated to God's calling in his life. Joe is a selfless and honest man, who always puts others before himself, in the same manner that God would for his own people. I have witnessed Joe's ministry extend from his family to little known strangers in his life. For example, Joe is constantly building what I would refer to as "community." I would receive e-mail invitations from Joe on nearly a monthly basis, after meeting him the first time, to come to his home for fun family events (I.E. bbq's, game nights, swim days, etc). I would witness as new people came into Joe's life and they too would soon be joining in the many family activities. All of these "community" events were never for any personal gain to Joe. He always provided food and his home. Joe always spoke of family, friends, and church. That community was what was clearly most important to him. My son and daughter love going to Joe's house because they know that Joe is going to go all out for them and do something fun. In fact, Joe even brought an inflatable bouncy house to my daughter's birthday party 2 years ago. He set it up, did all the work, and asked for nothing in return. All that for someone who was a casual friend at that time. I don't know many men with that BIG of a heart.

Another example of Joe's sense of community is clearly evident in his passion for Church and the ministry of God. I have witnessed Joe as he helped with young people starting Christian musical careers, helping to promote those kick off type concerts. This was never for financial benefit, but merely to promote the goals and dreams of young people, and to further the Christian ministry in the Puget Sound area. When meeting many of Joe's friends, I would often learn that they met Joe through his invitation to a men's small group or bible study. I truly admire Joe's ability to reach out in the community and have a positive affect in so many people's lives.

Your honor, I could go on and on about Joe but I will keep this letter to one page. The last thing I would like to say about Joe is that his love for his family is something for all of us to take note of. I've had the opportunity to be around Joe, his loving wife Wendy, his young daughter Maddy, his young adult daughter Janelle, and his grandson. Joe shows so much love and affection for those people closest to him. The way they cling to their "Daddy" "Husband" "Grandpa" is a picture perfect example of fatherhood, in an immensely fatherless society. I would trust Joe with my own children's well being. Please show mercy for those closest family members who care so much about Joe, and to a community that has benefited so much from Joe.

Respectfully yours,
Jimmy Potts

Brian Power (Client)

20 March 2008

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Brian Power. I am an co-owner of Manual Therapy International, PS, PLLC located in Seattle, WA.

I am writing this on the behalf of Joe Lavin. I have known Joe for the last 8 years. In that time I have known him to be a model husband, father and roll model to many whom he comes in contact with. Not only for his children but also the children of his friends. In fact our friendship (as well as with his entire family) has been one of a feeling of family as I have been there to help and support his family and in kind he has been there for me.

I am aware that Joe has pleaded guilty to federal charges and will be facing sentencing in the near future. I have invested in some of Joe's ventures and although I have been a victim of those dealings, my respect for him and friendship with him is still strong. He has always been honest and forth coming in his dealings with myself and has kept me informed along the way. I would like you to take in consideration that he has made many attempts to amend the situation. I was aware of some of the other investments that Joe's company invested in (Wildflower Resort, Windwater, etc.) for quite some time. I believe that if given the chance, knowing Joe's character, he will continue do his best to right some of the wrongs.

I firmly feel that justice would be best served in this case with Joe being a viable part of the community he lives in, attempting to make amends for the charges he pled guilty to. Continuing to be a fatherly figure, a respected husband, and a role model for his children and their friends of how a person should act toward others. This will not happen if he receives a long sentence nor will it benefit those of us who were affected by the unfortunate situation.

I ask that you take this letter into account as you make you decision.

Respectfully,

Brian Power

Ron Rech

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Ron Rech and I am Chairman of the Elders of Woodinville Alliance Church. I am writing you on behalf of Joe Lavin who has been attending our church for the past several years. I am aware that Joe has pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to give you my insights into Joe's character and what I believe are his desires to do "what is right in the eyes of God and man".

I have known Joe for about 6 months but because of his leadership role in the church combined with his legal problems I have spent significant time with him recently. It is evident to me that Joe has a strong commitment to his faith in Christ, to his family, and to his church. Having recently learned his life story I am even more convinced that Joe's sincerity is genuine and his desire to do what is right is more important than the circumstances that surround him. Joe has always been willing to volunteer his time for the church and through his leadership in our men's ministry he has had a positive influence on many men in our church. I am confident in saying that Joe will always have a place in our church to live out his faith and to share his gifts with others.

I have been involved in the financial industry all my life and recently managed a hedge fund for my firm, Seattle Northwest Securities. I know firsthand the difficulties inherent in managing other people's money. Personal integrity is of utmost importance and the first quality one should look for in picking a manager but that alone will not insure against loss. From my association with Joe I believe that his personal integrity is intact and I would not be opposed to personally investing money in a fund that he was managing if it met my personal risk parameters.

When sentencing Joe, I urge you to take into account his devotion to his family, the contributions he has made to his church and the character he has displayed to those of us who know him personally.

Sincerely Yours,

Ronald Rech

Jim Rivard (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik,

Let me introduce myself, my name is Jim Rivard and I am a resident of Redmond, Washington. I am writing this to add a good word for Joe Lavin regarding his sentencing. It is my understanding that he has pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. I have known Joe as a friend for over 8 years and am the employer of his wife. I have invested money with Joe, and have sustained substantial loss in my retirement assets. I do not fully understand all the complexities of the case against Joe, and I have not been directly influenced by all of the accusations. I knowingly invested my assets in a currency trading vehicle realizing that all investment comes with a risk. Joe did inform me when the investment was lost. I had email and teleconference information in attempts to stay informed of potential recovery of lost revenue. Mr. Lavin has been willing to answer tough questions regarding the outcome and his involvement on the phone and with direct face-to-face communication. Based on the facts presented, and Joe's own account, I have found no reason not to trust his best efforts to attempt to find a legal of positive outcome for these past events. As a client, I do not feel that I have been misled, misinformed or lied to in any way.

As the employer of his wife, I have had the opportunity to discuss the situation and the impact it has had on her and her family. My trust has extended to have company parties at Joe and Wendy's house. He has always demonstrated a sincere desire to do what is good and right for his family and me as a client. I cannot say that I am free of anger and frustration over the outcome of my investment, but I believe that these feelings over lost money are not relevant in sentencing Joe. The facts stand as what they are. I believe Joe to be an honest in his business dealings. I believe him to be genuinely remorseful for the lost of investments of all of his clients and that he continues to seek a positive outcome for them. I would hope that Joe's sentencing reflects the actual events and not the emotions or dollar amounts of investments lost with known risks.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

Respectfully,

Jim Rivard

Mark Roddy

Your Honor,

I have known Joe Lavin for about 7 years. I wish you too could say the same. You see, Joe gives life to those around him. His kind words, tremendous generosity and contagious smile lifts spirits, improves outlooks and provides an element so often missing in our daily lives...hope.

I could give you many examples, but I will only take your time for one. A few years ago my wife, Patty, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Through the nearly two years of her battle, Joe met with me faithfully every Tuesday morning. He provided encouragement, empathy and a willingness to help carry the load in whatever way he could. In fact, he became a rallying point: helping others to also come along side of us. And when the battle was over and my wife had overcome the disease, Joe was one of the first to help us celebrate.

I have shared laughter and tears with Joe. I have seen him in good times and hard times. And I have yet to see a man with a deeper conviction to live to bless others. I would ask, therefore, that you find a way to keep Joe available to all of us who love him dearly. And I would ask, when this is all over, that you find some time to sit and get to know Joe. Your life will be better for having done so. I know my life is.

Very sincerely yours,

Mark Roddy

Jon Ronning

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Jon Ronning and I have been good friends with Joe now for about six months, although I have been an acquaintance of Joe's for a couple of years. Joe's daughter and my youngest son attended preschool together at Bellevue Christian two years ago. Since that time Joe and I have attended some functions together at Woodinville Alliance Church and currently, Joe and Wendy our part of our home group which is also affiliated with our church. My wife and I are leaders and hosts of our home group as well as we have been Sunday school teachers for the last several years. My wife and I are graduates of Life Bible College in San Dimas, CA and for a period of couple of years we were licensed Foursquare Ministers.

I am aware that Joe has pled guilty to charges of wire fraud and money laundering, both crimes that concern me greatly being in the banking industry. I have worked for The Commerce Bank of Washington for the last ten years.

I am writing you because I want you to know what kind of man I think that Joe is. My first experience with Joe was being invited to his house for a pool party to celebrate his daughters and my sons last day of pre-school. Joe was very hospitable and genuinely saw to it that every child present had a special and fun day of playing in the pool and in the yard. I thought to myself, what an easy going and nice guy. Joe was so willing to share what he had with others. This is a quality that I too have wanted to have and Joe was being a great example of it before my eyes. I feel that if God blesses me with things, then I want to share them with others, and this is exactly what Joe was doing.

A year or so later I attended a "Dad and Kids" camp with our church, and Joe and his daughter were there as well. Joe had brought his boat that weekend and my kids and I went out with Joe and few others. Again, Joe was freely sharing his time and possessions with me and everyone else at the camp. We had a great time.

More recently, I have been getting to know Joe as part of our church home group which meets every other Sunday night. Joe and his family have been a great addition to our group and I have been starting to see a glimpse into Joe's true character as he has been sharing his recent struggles. I am absolutely amazed at his steadfast faith and honesty when he shares. Joe is much more than just a fun and generous person. He has shown me how much he cares for his wife and children and his true persevering spirit. Joe is not most concerned with what happens to himself in the sentencing process but constantly focuses on his family. I am absolutely convinced that Joe is an honest person and I would trust him in all ways that I trust my other friends and family.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. My hope and prayer is that Joe receives a sentence that fully takes into consideration who Joe is as a person and does not take him away from his church, friends and family for any longer than is absolutely necessary by the law.

Sincerely,

Jon L. Ronning

Marshall Sana

Dear Judge Lasnik,

I have known Joe Lavin as a friend for nearly fifteen years. I don't say "friend" lightly, as it denotes not only relationship but also regard and admiration. This is based not on perfection, of which all of us fall well short, but upon character and integrity of saying and doing, and of acting consistently toward others.

I understand that Joe pleaded guilty to federal charges involving wire fraud and related offenses, and that he now awaits sentencing. I've spoken to him about these matters, and -- as has *always* been the case in our relationship - he was forthright, whether or not what was involved was pleasant or difficult, or showed well of him. Joe works to maintain not an image but good relationships with others.

This is the crux of the reason why I think highly of Joe, and because of it I offer my support to him in this or any matter. Whatever else may be involved, I know where he stands: Joe will shoulder responsibility and will seek to make things right and to find the truth (the only place where he knows we are free). I have observed this closely as a discipline in Joe and, if I may say so respectfully, do not see any exception in this case however difficult it may be.

I'm writing this with my wife sitting nearby, discussing with me some of the contents of this letter. She also knows Joe, his wife Wendy, and their kids, and wants to add to this letter as it describes our experience and our view of Joe as a person, a friend, husband, father and a businessman. Joe is an appreciated friend, a good father and husband, a risk-taker and a driven person. He is a generous, serious, relentlessly optimistic and loving individual, and an asset to all. *None* of these things is an overstatement.

For the last three years my family and I have lived in the DC area, where I direct the communications and public policy-related efforts of an international NGO that works to alleviate the systematic persecution of religious minorities and to counter the pervasive discrimination often under law, particularly under forms or expressions of sharia law.

Joe follows this subject with an aptitude and an active concern that few other friends and family exhibit. This is consistent with how he has lived with concern for addressing injustice, social ills and the needs of others, whether individual or societal. He has done more practical good in the lives of others (whether friend or stranger) as a citizen, a U.S. Naval officer, a businessman, and a person seeking to be loving and faithful, than I could hope to do in a lifetime.

Thank you for considering this in your full appraisal of the situation and in your wisely measured and, we hope and pray, lenient sentencing of this man.

Respectfully,

Marshall J. Sana

Tony Scherrer (Client)

Dear Judge Lasnik, My name is Tony Scherrer. I have known Joe Lavin since approximately 1997. I initially met Joe through a long time college friend of mine, and over the course of the years, Joe and the Lavin's have become family friends. Over that same period of time, I have followed the journey of Joe's business ventures with some interest.

I am an investor in the Global Currency Trading Group / Fund, LLC, which was one of Joe's operations. I have invested what is for me a substantial amount, and have not been at all happy about the loss of capital. That said, I have believed in Joe's intentions and abilities to recoup a material portion of these losses to investors over time. I realize that for this to happen, future ventures would need to be met with a good degree of success.

I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges, and is now awaiting sentencing on March 21st, 2008, which will be delivered by you. The purpose of my writing this letter to you is to help you better understand what I believe of Joe Lavin, who is before you today to accept his sentencing.

I believe Joe Lavin got caught up with the wrong business partners, who through their own outright fraud and malfeasance lost the funds Joe entrusted them with. While much of this can be now seen with the benefit of hindsight, I do not believe these things could have been known by Joe *ex-ante*, or, before the fact. It is my understanding that those who Joe entrusted these funds to – Midland Euro entities / Moshe & Zvi Leichner – have already been in the process of bankruptcy/receivership, or currently reside in federal prison. These proceedings (Midland / Leichner's) have been very slow and difficult, leaving investors with little to do but wait. I believe there became a significant amount of pressure ultimately felt by understandably impatient and angry investors, which has been a strong factor leading up to this day. This is a sad day.

I believe Joe has a high degree of integrity. I believe Joe was as surprised by this as any of his investors. I believe this experience has caused Joe to only increase in his integrity, and more strongly look to the hope he has in his faith. He seems to have an unusually peaceful and strong poise during this extremely trying time, which is something we have had several discussion about, and I believe is a strong testimony to both the meekness and mettle of Joe. I have had many discussions with Joe over the years where he has been an encouragement to me, and given me insights that have challenged my thinking, ultimately leading to growth in my life. Also, I haven't known too many family men who fight the way Joe has for his family. He has stayed with the fight for his family to the end, ultimately regaining custody, and bringing his family back together in the safe caring environment he has created. I believe this speaks volumes of Joe's character.

In the end, I can't say I can know enough to know whether Joe committed a crime, either technically, knowingly, or unknowingly. I can say that I believe Joe is not the kind of person who would have intentionally committed a crime, or done anything that would have harmed others in any way.

With all this I would humbly ask you to consider looking upon Joe with the eyes of grace. Additionally, for whatever sentence Joe may face, I would also humbly ask you to consider a facility that is geographically close to his family, as well as minimum security, and safe for Joe.

Humbly,
Tony Scherrer

Dennis Schneider

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Dennis Schneider and I am a World Wide Account Manager for FedEx Services and I am also a friend of Joe Lavin. I have known Joe since 2005 and we first met in the men's group at church. We both currently attend the Woodinville Alliance Church in Woodinville. I understand that Joe has recently pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. That being said, I want to take a few minutes of your time to tell you a little about who Joe Lavin is to me.

One of the great qualities that I see in Joe and have seen in action is his love for family and friends and those he comes in contact with. He truly has a heart for others and puts the needs and desires of others, in front of his own. He also has a great ability to speak truth into other people's lives but does so with words and actions that are wrapped in love.

Although I haven't known Joe that long, he has had a very positive impact in my life by his actions toward me and more importantly, how he treats his family and friends. Joe is very unselfish both with his money and his time. I only know a very small amount of details in regards to his criminal charges, but I can tell you that based on the conversations I have had with Joe, he is very sorry for any pain and loss that he has caused others.

Joe is not perfect and the only perfect person has ever walked this earth is Jesus Christ. Joe loves his family very much and is very distraught as to how this has affected those closest to him. I respectfully ask for lenience in Joe's sentencing and allow him the opportunity to turn his mistakes into something positive in his life and those he comes in contact with.

Sincerely,

Dennis Schneider

Ken and Geri Schwartz

Dear Judge Lasnik; We have known Joe Lavin since he was about 16 years old, and attending South Kitsap High School. He was a casual friend of my oldest daughter, and since they shared the same birthday, they developed a strong bond that lasts to this day. They refer to each other as “brother” and “sister” and they are as close as any natural siblings could be. They have both been a strong source of love and support for the other for the last 26 years.

When I first met Joe, my wife and daughter saw him sitting at a bus stop in the rain late at night, in the winter. Cold, wet, crying, and hungry, with no place to go, they brought him home and he camped out on the sofa for a few days until he found a stable place to live. We have four kids, so what the heck, always room for another one; little did we know...

Some months later I witnessed Joe and a couple of buddies pulling a typical teenaged kid prank, to someone whom I knew to be easily startled and, unknown to Joe, had a heart condition. I told my daughter about what happened and that I was angry with Joe and his friends. She talked to Joe and (long story shortened) Joe came to our home, asked for me, apologized for what he had done and accepted personal responsibility for doing something that was definitely wrong. He later told me that I was the first person to actually hold him accountable for his actions, and that he had learned a good lesson for life. I truly believe he meant that!

Joe came to stay with us occasionally over the next couple of years. We had by this time involved him in our family as one would include a foster child. Joe did not finish high school at South Kitsap, but got his GED and joined the Navy as soon as he learned that his very young wife was pregnant and realized that he needed to provide for his new family. I believe that Joe felt having his own family would heal the pains he had experienced as a result of being abandoned by his father and mother and growing up in and around the foster child system as well as the streets.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Joe and his wife Lisa along with their three daughters (to whom Joe is extremely close) moved back to Washington. Joe started working the week he got back to the state and was attending Olympic College within the first month. Joe continued to work while completing his Business Degree at the University of Washington in just under four years. As I understand it, this is a degree program that takes most students at least 4½ to 5 years to complete.

What impressed me even more about this was that Joe was commuting from Bremerton to Seattle by Ferry 3 days a week, leaving his home around 4:00 AM to catch the ferry and attending both day and night classes before getting home around 11:30 PM. He said that by taking both programs he could condense the days he had to commute to Seattle down to 3 instead of 5 and then he could work at least 12 hours a day on construction sites for a couple of days and have a day or two off for his family.

After Joe finished his education at the University of Washington, he went work for an accounting firm in Seattle. He had received offers from all of the top level international firms (I believe he called them the “Big 8” or “Big 6” or) but he declined those and sought an offer from a regional firm believing that they would be more family oriented and at the time actually had an office in Bremerton where he lived.

Over time, Lisa and Joe eventually divorced. They went through a horrible custody battle Joe was not able to win primary custody of his daughters. However, they had always been a huge priority in his life and they remained so. Joe quite often spent weekends with them, and stayed with us over night so he didn't need to travel back to Seattle after a long day. Joe was devastated and we worried that he might be getting clinically depressed himself. He was back with us off and on for a while and worked at a couple of different businesses as an accountant while he did everything he could to search for his girls.

Over the next couple of years, Joe was still unable to find his daughters, but he was able to rebuild his life. He took a position as a financial executive with an architectural firm in Seattle, got involved with some grief and single parenting groups at his church in Seattle

After a few years, he met Wendy, the absolute love of his life! He brought her to meet us, just as any young man would bring his young lady home to meet the parents. Sometime later, Joe and Wendy asked me to be the best man at their wedding. I declined and said he should have one of his young friends take that honor, but he insisted that I do it, since I had such an impact on his life, and that I was the closest thing he'd ever had to a dad! He even introduced us to his mother at the rehearsal dinner: "Mother, meet my other Mom & Dad," he said. During the photo session he had us stand in "parent pictures". Joe's daughters have been close to us too, and when Joe's first grandchild was born, we were introduced to others as the baby's great grandparents! Obviously we consider Joe and his family to be our family.

Joe never gave up on trying to find his children and eventually located them, rebuilt their relationships and even became their primary caregiver, moving them into his and Wendy's home. The girls now have a little brother, Jacob. Joe stepped in and embraced this child, Jacob, just as a natural father would and treats him as his own son. Even though Jacob is obviously a different race and could not be Joe's naturally, when he calls Joe "dad" and Joe calls him "son" the colors quickly fade.

Joe has developed into somewhat of an entrepreneur. Over the last ten years or so, he has been involved in several ventures, most of which have been very successful and satisfying from our perspective. I know that Joe has a committed Christian faith, which is part of what we introduced him to while we were helping him from time to time. Joe has never been in trouble with the law to my knowledge, and we have always known him to be honest and ethical. When I heard of this episode, I could not believe it, and it was Joe telling me the story. With the extreme amount of pressure that Joe came under and the lack of money for legal expenses, I imagine this could happen to almost anyone with an entrepreneurial spirit in the business world of today.

Joe told me that he had been advised to plead guilty, which he has done. Our personal opinions, as responsible adults that have been part of Joe's life for nearly 26 years, is that if he broke a law, he was not aware of the law or the consequences. That being said, it is our fervent request that whatever Joe's sentence is, that you decide on the minimum side of the sentencing range as possible, that you allow Joe some achievable possibility of redeeming himself and making things as right as possible with the people who put their trust in him.

I also want to make a very earnest plea that the prison site be appropriate for his non-violent, caring, trusting and gentle personality as well as that it be close enough to Seattle that his wife, children and grand children can visit him and so that he can remain a vital and positive force in their lives. I cannot emphasize enough how important

Joe's family is to him as well as how important Joe is to his family. I believe that making it impossible for them to see each other will cause significant and lasting emotional damage.

And selfishly, I also hope that Joe can remain close to Seattle so he can be visited by us and the other people who love and support him. Joe's entire extended family is in Washington.

I could go on and on about the wonderful character of Joe and the seemingly countless ways that he has demonstrated it over and over again throughout the years, but I fear that would not be in his best interest as I am sure that you have other letters to read. However, I would be happy to personally answer any questions about Joe Lavin that you or anybody else might have.

Joe has told me in a recent conversation that he is going to use this experience as a life changing event, and that he expects his life to have new purpose and meaning as a result of this experience. He says that he is already seeing some significant positive personal changes because of having to deal with the failure, shame and problems that he and his family are experiencing through all of this.....I truly believe he meant that too!

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth and Geraldine Schwartz

Matt Sheeler

Dear Judge Lasnik,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. While Joe has told me in detail that he has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing, I am still somewhat in disbelief that he is in this situation. I met Joe Lavin in 1995 when I was struggling to find my way in life. I was instantly impressed with how dynamic and charismatic that Joe was, however I quickly found out that there was much more to him than just those qualities. As a young man in my late 20's with little direction, Joe lent me a helping hand and was a guiding light to me when he did not have to be. Though I barely knew him, several times Joe loaned me a few dollars to cover my bills and also loaned me his car on occasion so that I could get to and from work.

Over the next couple of years, Joe Lavin became somewhat of a mentor to me. I saw the impact that he was having on other people's lives, and I knew that I wanted to be like him. I could not help wanting to become a better man when I was around Joe. I have never shared this with him, but I can count on one hand the number of people who have had as big of an impact on my life as Joe Lavin. Joe is one of the most kind-hearted, selfless people that I know. I am envious of his devotion to his family, friends and his faith.

My life has changed dramatically since I met Joe Lavin as a lost 27 year-old over 13 years ago. In 1998 I moved to Las Vegas to start my own business. I have since successfully owned and operated several retail mattress stores, as well as participated in various successful real estate ventures. Without the influence of Joe Lavin, I would not be where I am today. Though I have not seen he and his family as frequently as I would like in recent years, I count Joe as a lifelong friend.

I realize that you receive countless letters similar to this one and that many sound the same. However, if ever a person deserved leniency, Joe Lavin is that person. I think Joe's situation is genuinely one of "a good person who made a bad decision." I hope that you are able to see that Joe is truly an asset to his community, faith, family, and church.

Because of his strong ties to his community and family, I ask that you please also show some consideration and sentence Joe to a facility as close to Seattle as feasible. I feel that it is very important for his daughters, et al, to be able to see Joe as frequently as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Matthew John Sheeler

Peter Smallwood

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Peter Smallwood and I have been a friend of Joe Lavins' for over 5 years. I am very well aware of Joe's having pleaded guilty to the federal charges of federal fraud and money laundering. Working in the securities industry myself I know how serious the offense is as well as the consequences of Joe's actions.

Am I writing to you today to give help shed light on Joe's character which is really about revealing his heart. Through my acquaintance with Joe I have learned a lot about Joe's story. Joe is not one to pin anything on his past or his upbringing which reveals he has mended the past and sought reconciliation regardless of the prior wrongs done to him. Joe has fought against many of life's difficulties towhich has much to do with his inner motivation Joe does truly have a heart for justice for youth. I have observed the way Joe hovers over his children from his marriage to Wendy as well as his children from his first Marriage. Joe's ability to protect regardless of the cost to himself sheds light on his willingness to serve others despite the personal costs. Joe is one who is always willing to contribute to a cause and seek no personal recognition for it. Joe gives of himself selflessly.

The guilty plea has actually helped Joe face his own reality which will transform anyone, and Joe speaks openly and honestly with anyone about his case. Joe is one who will not run from the truth and not will hide it just so others think better of him. Joe's pending incarceration will humble him even further however an extended period of incarceration will serve no purpose in teaching Joe. The damage to Joe in the business field as well as his personal costs is already done. No matter how the long the sentence Joe must seek other means of supporting his family and rebuild his life from scratch. Transformation no matter what the outcome is difficult for anyone and the older we get the tougher the new skin is to fit into.

Overall, my knowledge of Joe and his actions are serious offenses which must be dealt with however given Joes' strong desire to care, protect and do what's right for those around him he cares about might warrant a little leniency. Joe's ability to love, share, and be transparent are true marks deep within one's heart that will never change. It is a pleasure knowing Joe all over the past five years and his personal story is one that brings tears to one's eyes as well smiles to one's face. I am more than honored to have been able to be given a chance to be speak on his behalf.

Peter Smallwood

Bob Snyder

Dear Judge Lasnik, My name is Bob Snyder and I am a long time friend of Joe Lavin. I write this letter with a heavy heart. A couple of months ago I received a call from my dear friend, Joe Lavin. After inquiring about my family and myself he explained that he has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and now awaits sentencing. It is because of the challenges now facing Joe that I feel compelled to share some of our history and experiences so that you can come to understand him better. I am sure that a person in your capacity must find it difficult at times to find the appropriate balance between justice and mercy as you sentence those that are put before you. I hope in Joe's case you are feeling merciful. He is a good man with the purest of intentions.

I first met Joe in 1996. He was a strong leader in a travel company that I was selling for. Joe built a very successful sales team in that company, one that more than rivaled my own and created some friendly competition between the two of us. Because of my respect for him as a leader and sales trainer I frequently invited Joe to speak to my team in Salt Lake City. He did so numerous times without any compensation from my team or me. I loved having Joe come to town. He always brought insight and positive energy to our trainings and meetings. Joe was an inspiration whose thoughtful service to my organization inspired others to give of their time and talents more freely. The more I came to know Joe the more I liked and respected him. He always kept his word and genuinely cared for other people.

From the time we first met I have stayed in contact with Joe. He has become a trusted friend and advisor. I believe him to be a kind, loving and responsible citizen. I have witnessed the support he has given when our common friends have dealt with financial and emotional hardships. He loves his family, his community and his God. He dotes over his children and his wife Wendy. He gives to the less fortunate and has championed charitable causes. His life has been dedicated to creating success for all.

Joe's greatest strength is his eternal optimism. He has always focused on solutions instead of the problems that many times cloud our vision and I am sure that were it not for the fact that I was starting a new company at the time Joe was looking for investment capital, I would have invested with him in what has turned out to be his downfall. As an investor and business owner I am approached a few times a month with the latest greatest deal. If I invest and make money I am thrilled and everyone involved becomes a hero. If I lose money I feel that I have only myself to blame. I believe in taking personal responsibility for my decisions and from what I have observed from Joe, he is cut from the same cloth.

I believe that it is important for you to know that I have had the opportunity to work with individuals from all walks of life in my business career. At this time I have ownership in over a dozen different companies that post collective revenues over the 100 Million dollar mark. I have dealt with countless individuals over the years that have presented themselves as honest and trustworthy when in fact they were not. Generally these individuals expose them selves for who they are very early in our business relationships. I can tell you from my experience with Joe and our 12-year history that I believe his intentions were honorable. I do not believe that Joe would ever intentionally hurt anyone and he certainly would not invite his friends and family members into an investment opportunity that he did not believe would pay off. Sometimes bad things happen to good people and sometimes good people are responsible for bad things. Joe is a good person who is willingly accepting responsibility for his decisions. My hope and prayer is that you will be merciful to my friend Joe and sentence him accordingly.

If you would like to speak with me personally please feel free to call me. My cell phone number is 801-440-7922

Sincerely, Bob Snyder

Paul Seagraves

My name is Paul Seagraves and I am a long time friend of Joe Lavin, (in excess of 10 years.) My background, current participation and involvement is in training and developing Christian Leaders and Leadership Education, I am an Educator with Purpose Institute; A Christian Bible School, and Certified Instructor with LIFE in Focus; Drug and Alcohol, Family Life Planning and Anger Management Training System, which is utilized by many State Correctional and Parole Personnel for Life training for those in, and required as a condition of their release from the State and Federal Prison Systems.

Having been personally involved with developing and training over 100,000 people nation wide, I have been exposed to many people from all walks of life, from the current drug addict to the recovering Business executive, Due to my position(s) having to read people for their True intentions and ambitions as apposed to what they were speaking and or presenting to me at the moment. I feel that if ever there was a person, that Joe Lavin is a person who deserves a chance to show himself as the person I have always known him to be. And still consider him to be at this current time.

We met in a very competitive business environment, his business and mine were in the same building, and competed for the same customer base, during this time and subsequent years I always found Joe Lavin to be a man of his word. Having called and met him to discuss business and business ideas with him, in an ongoing basis, due to what I knew of his Strong Beliefs and his Strong Personal Character.

I Personally found Joe Lavin (3 years ago), to be a Man who when he had the undeniable legal right, and the legal advantage position to cause others who had defrauded him and defaulted on a very large business deal, which caused him great trouble in his business, and personal life, to be gracious and merciful enough to allow them (those who were taking advantage of his grace and mercy) the time to rectify the situation even when he and I knew personally that they were taking advantage of him and the situation, for their own gain, with no concern for the damage it caused Joe Lavin. He gave them the grace and mercy, even when I found it difficult to see or understand why he would do so. This is the kind of person on a personal basis and business basis I know Joe Lavin to be.

Based upon my extensive relationship with Joe Lavin I would not hesitate to take Joe Lavin's word, for any personal or business idea or venture he might have now or ever in the future, if he were to present to me or my family, as the truth and to be exactly just as he presented it. Joe Lavin has, and I feel always will be a man of integrity, and true to his word, having known him for many years, and in many different situations and business environments and conditions.

I want to make it absolutely clear that I trust Joe Lavin's word to be true, circumstances have changed in business deals and inherent risks have changed, but his word was always true to me as to the current situation we found ourselves to be in.

I would Plead for Mercy and Grace to be shown Joe Lavin, my friend and family man, to allow him to be able to show the kind of person he has always been proven with me, to be able to be productive in society, and able to help others in need as I have always found him to be willing to do.

Please show Grace and Mercy on this friend of mine Joe Lavin. Sincerely, Paul Seagraves

Barry Spomer

Dear Judge Lasnik:

It has been an honor and privilege to know Joe Lavin these thirteen plus years. Our relationship began the day we met as couples in a room full of other couples in a pre-marriage counseling class. Together, we spent eight weeks asking questions of ourselves, and one another to better know if marriage was the right path for us. That was my introduction to Joe; as a person unafraid to ask and answer the hard, and often, unspoken questions. Joe is a man with a conscience and strong Judeo Christian values.

The same traits came out when our families lived in a Seattle neighborhood together. As men, we began to meet weekly together in a small group. Our mission was to be better citizens, husbands, fathers, friends, and coworkers. We spent several months discussing money, possessions and eternal perspectives. Joe was challenging the rest of us to look beyond our personal worlds; to consider a greater perspective globally and then beyond this world altogether. He challenged many of us to ask the hard questions and do our best to live righteously. I believe he continues to be accountable and participate in the lives of other men near his home in Woodinville.

To me these are two of many examples of a man that is living an examined life. Joe does not wither when confronted with words of truth or questions requiring introspection.

I have had some time to witness a part of Joe's life and in these years I have seen his character. I have been with Joe during good times (his wedding, holidays, birthdays) and bad times ... (deaths, job losses and legal disputes).....through these events I have had the opportunity to measure the man. I consider Joe one of my best friends, whom I can count on, in a time of need or celebration.

Another quality trait I admire about Joe is his sense of commitment. In the earlier years of our relationship we talked about our dreams for our families and careers. Early on I learned of his ex-wife and his three daughters. When pressed he would express concern about his daughters' welfare. There were custody issues and he could not see his children as hoped. But I saw his determination and commitment as a father to not give up. Instead he focused on the children and what he thought was in their best interests. Over time, he gained more access to his daughters and individually each has chosen to be involved with their father on a regular, consistent basis. Today, Joe is an important part in these three young women's lives. They often turn to him for advice and strength.

Over the years, the home that Joe, his wife Wendy and their 6 year old daughter, Madison have created, has become a refuge and home for his three oldest daughters. I believe that Joe has given them a sense of family that they dearly yearned for, a father that they needed and a home that gave them a sense of peace. But this result did not come easily. It took hours in the car shuttling back and forth between homes, soccer games, church youth groups and other events. I would phone Joe and hear the music and girls laughing in the background. In these brief phone conversations, he sounded quite content carrying carloads of young people from place to place.

Likewise, their home has become a refuge for others as well. There have been times where Joe and Wendy have taken people into their home because they needed a little help. They needed a place that was safe and healthy, a

place to regroup and get their bearings in life again. Others sense the nurturing and hospitality created there. Again, this does not come easily or without conscious effort. Joe and Wendy, together, make this happen.

This family's formation may not have been traditional or natural in its evolution. To me, it has been quite unnatural, coming from a very traditional two parent, two child family. But the ingredients are still the same, unconditional love, time without an agenda, grace, and a listening ear. Perhaps those ingredients are even more evident because of how far his family has come.

His sense of responsibility is another trait that I admire in Joe. Some are quick to disparage or blame others in an attempt to minimize or escape responsibility. This perspective does not describe Joe. He doesn't retreat from personal responsibility. In fact, at times I have seen him take on the personal responsibilities of others.

Joe has a very special relationship with a young boy named Jacob, who was born out of wedlock to Joe's ex-wife, Lisa. Most men, especially an ex-husband, would have turned and walked the other way. Not Joe...he accepted this child as his own son (Jacob is the little brother to his three older daughters). And that is the life that this little boy, young Jacob, enjoys. He is not shunned or neglected as might be the temptation, but engaged, loved and accepted in the Lavin family.

I understand Joe he has pled guilty to two federal criminal charges. While I am disappointed in the condition that Joe is in, I am not ashamed of Joe. I respect the position that you have in sentencing this husband, father, grandfather, son and friend. Please consider the positive impact he has had on all of us and the continued need that many have for him in their lives as you consider the time and place of the sentence.

In closing, it has been my hope to shine a small light on the life of Joseph Lavin. While words are not always the best measure of a person's life and character, it is what I have. My father liked sayings, and one of them was, "Son, that and two bits will get you a ride on the bus". I accept that, and I pray that these words give you a sense of Joe's life and allow you to also measure the man.

Respectfully yours,

Barry K. Spomer

While I have known Joe to challenge the status quo and push the norm, I have not known him to be unethical, illegal or consciously unkind to anyone in business or his personal life. Just the opposite, as I have heard him discuss the responsibility he has to his investors. And, I have seen the time that he has put into making their investments whole and successful for all parties.

Lisa Spomer

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I am writing this letter to you as a character reference for Joe Lavin. I understand that Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and will soon be facing sentencing. While Joe will be held accountable by you and the court of law, I pray that these references being presented to you today will give you insight into the true character of Joe Lavin as viewed by those that know and care about him.

My husband, Barry and I met Joe approximately 13 years ago while attending a pre-marriage course at Calvary Fellowship Church in Seattle, Washington. From the moment we met Joe and his then future wife, Wendy, we knew that we, as couples, would share a lifetime together. We have since added children to the relationship (we have two boys, Stryker age 9 and Tyler age 7) and the bonds between our families have grown even stronger.

What has impressed me the most about Joe over the years is his lack of self. He continually puts the needs of others before himself. Whether it's an event he is hosting or one that he is attending, he continually tends to the needs of others before himself. There have been countless times that Joe has unnecessarily taken the time, driven out of his way and paid the way for numerous children (often kids that are hanging out on the peripheral) to have an adventure that they quite likely would not have experienced otherwise. The difference with Joe, is that it wasn't the adventure that impressed the kids the most, it was that Joe really, truly cared about them. He has a way of connecting with kids and adults on a deeper level because of his transparent heart and the genuineness about him. I strongly believe that Joe's faith in God is a true reflection of how he cares about others.

Additionally, I am equally, if not more impressed by his strong, loyal commitment to his family. Specifically, his wife Wendy, their daughter together, Madison and Joe's three daughters from his first marriage, Brianna, Janelle and Sarah along with his two young grandsons. While Joe has had a difficult, unstable upbringing, he has modeled nothing but stability for his biological children (and his ex-wife, Lisa's son Jacob (age 9) whom he has always included and considered one of his own). No matter what the obstacles have been (specifically being denied access to his three older daughters for many years), he has never given up, wallowed in the unfairness of life or given in to becoming critical in spirit. He has persevered and grown stronger through many hardships in his life that most people would have turned away from and given up hope.

In conclusion, my hope is that you will consider Joe Lavin the person and not just the charges brought against him. To have Joe separated from his family for a long period of time would be devastating to him and to his family, especially his wife and youngest daughter, Madison (age 6). Additionally, to not have Joe in near proximity to his family would be heart wrenching and would have an adverse effect on all who love and care about Joe..... especially his wife and children.

Thank you, Judge Lasnik, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Spomer

Lisa Spomer

Kathy Sugarman

Dear Judge Lasnik:

I am writing to you to tell you of my knowledge of Joe Lavin. I am pleased to attest to his good character.

I first worked with Joe Lavin almost 5 years ago. At that time, he was trying to obtain joint-venture funds to acquire a project in Texas. I directed him to National Commercial Funding Consultants in California. They did help Joe in obtaining funds and commented many times it was excellent working with Mr. Lavin. I was told they would like to work on any project Joe suggested. During that approximate two-year period, I work with Joe and spoke to him almost daily. Subsequent to that experience, I had occasion to work with Joe Lavin for the following one to two years.

In my thirty years of working with commercial investors, I have met many people. I have worked with several excellent people. I think it is natural to closely watch how people handle their dealings. It is apparent if they are ethical, whether they make honest choices, how they handle their person lives, and how they treat people. I have had occasions where I chose not to work with a client a second time. I have worked with many people over and over during the years and some become friends. I am proud of my reputation in the Commercial Real Estate business.

I appreciate Joe Lavin so very much. He is so very kind to people. He is very smart and, to my knowledge, always strives to do the right thing. He is spiritual and his family is so very important to him. On many occasions where I observed Joe making a choice in business, I always saw him do the honorable thing. He works diligently and handles difficulties so that he tries to take care of everyone before himself.

I cannot imagine Joe being guilty of any crime. I am terribly sad to hear of this. Joe did explain to me the he was given a choice to either plead guilty or accept the reality of a long prison term. I argued with him and he should never agree to say he did something that, in fact, he did not do. I do not think anyone should ever do that.

The way I have known Joe, he spends his days being good and fair to people and seem to sacrifice his own wishes to serve others.

I think Joe Lavin is exactly kind of person or world needs within the community and business world.

I am hopeful whatever confusion or difficulty has occurred will be resolved. I do not believe Joe Lavin would relax until all parties he had dealt with were satisfied.

I wish Joe Lavin all the best, and am most sincere in stating that I find him to be an excellent gentleman of good character.

Sincerely,

Kathy M. Sugarman

Oz Thoresen

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Oz Thoresen, and I am writing this letter on behalf of my friend Joe Lavin. I am aware that Joe has plead guilty to federal criminal charges and will be facing sentencing soon. I feel the need to add my input to the type of character I believe Joe to be.

I met Joe in 1991 while searching for a local Church to attend. He was a member of Westsound Community Church and I can honestly say he became a large part of my decision to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior. Joe was no nonsense yet passionate about his relationship to God and this with so many personal problems that he was dealing with at the time. He became a type of role model to me without trying to be. It was his ability to love his Lord through a very tough time that had a great impression on me during some very uncertain times. I have never told him this. People always talk about showing unconditional love to others but it is rarely seen, not with Joe. He is a walking example of what we need more of in this world we live in.

Joe has also had a great impact on me {as well as others} in my professional life. He has taught me to do something that no one else has ever done and that is to take a chance on myself. We had numerous discussions regarding what it would entail to work for myself, do to something in life that would not only benefit myself but others as well. He believes that to do well in life you must be able to always help others grow even at the expense of yourself. In the year 2000, I left my job of 15 years and opened my business. A huge part of my business involves teaching and training others to become successful in business and this would not have been possible without the the encouragement and time that Joe invested in me. The time he spent with me has effected many, many others in a very positive way. The positive mentoring that Joe gives to people is again, what we need more of in this world

Today is a sad day for everyone as the sentencing must be faced. My personal opinion is that Joe may not have been aware of the law or the consequences regarding his actions. I do not believe he would intentionally hurt anyone. I hope and pray that Joe's sentence is based on the minimum side of the sentencing structure and that the Joe would be allowed to return to free society to do what he does best, encouraging others, and to be the man God wants him to be.

I would also ask the court to consider the location of the facility in which Joe will be incarcerated. Please take into account that his wife Wendy and His children would benefit greatly having him as close to Seattle as possible. I know that Joe's family will need him as much as possible during these trying times and only ask that the impact on them will be a huge part of your decision.

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of my friend Joe Lavin.

Oz Thoresen

Brett VandenBrink

Dear Judge Lasnik,

My name is Brett VandenBrink and I live in Woodinville with my wife Valarie and my four children. I started my window cleaning business at the beginning of my junior year in college and after graduation I moved to Seattle and have spent the last 22 years in the residential window cleaning business. Our company employs 17 people and I am thankful to make a good living as well as provide stable employment, medical insurance and an average companywide wage of \$22 per hour.

Joe Lavin and I met in 2002 (approximately 5 years ago) at a Tuesday morning men's group at Woodinville Alliance Church and we became friends. We have spent a lot of time in each other's homes and around each other's family members. I have helped move his college age daughter in and out of apartments. Our youngest daughters, Molly and Maddy, are both 6 years old and are good friends and often have sleepovers.

I am well aware that Joe Lavin is in deep trouble and has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I would like to shed some light on some of the more redeeming characteristics of Joe's life. Joe is a very devoted father, husband, and friend to many.

Joe has 3 grown daughters, Briana 23, Janelle 20 and Sarah 18, from his first marriage (when he was 18). Frequently when the girls are visiting they bring their younger brother, Jacob 6, along with them. I have seen Joe welcome this boy with much love and make sure that he has toys to play with and it has occurred to me that someday Jacob will figure out that he is not at all related to Joe and that Joe extended him an uncommon kindness. Janelle has struggled in finding her way and I have sat in the kitchen with Joe and Janelle and been involved in many discussions regarding social justice, immigration or whatever Janelle is exploring at the moment. I would say that few children have a father who is more interested in advocating for them and encouraging them. Often times I have been at Joe's house with friends to watch a game or play poker. There is always an eclectic group of people that Joe has befriended along the way. Joe does not allow anyone to play cards for money. People love to be around Joe and he loves to serve and entertain people. If I were a soldier serving our country in some battle zone I can tell you there is no one that I would trust my life to more than Joe Lavin. He is completely loyal and tenacious to a fault.

One Tuesday morning this past January we were having our men's group meeting and Joe took a phone call. One of the guys mentioned that Joe had been gone for a while so I went to check on him. He was crouched up on the floor, next to a wall in an adjacent hallway and weeping. I knelt down and gave him a hug and waited till he could tell me what was going on. One of his friends had just hung himself and the brother had just found him and Joe was the first call that he made. I knew immediately who it was because I had played cards (hearts) with him just a couple weeks earlier at a Christmas party. The young man's name was Loren and he was in his mid thirties, single and had dealt with depression for several years. Loren had stayed at Joe's house for a couple of weeks, (several months earlier) in hopes that living with Joe's family could help stabilize Loren. Joe carries the burden and pain of this lost friend and he is still healing from the loss and coming to terms with what he could or could not have done to help his friend further.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak on behalf of my friend, Joe Lavin. These are just a few examples of how Joe cares for those that are in and around him.

Brett VandenBrink

Bill Wells

Dear Judge Lasnik:

The purpose of this letter is to suggest that while Joe Lavin has done something wrong, he was and I believe still is fundamentally a good person.

I first met Joe when he was a student of mine in Accounting 210 at the University of Washington in the early 1990s. I distinctly remember Joe because he, more than anyone else then or now, would contact me at home to inquire about homework, careers, opportunities, etc. Since his graduation, we have spoken infrequently by telephone and/or email. It is from these associations that I list the characteristics I remember best about Joe.

- Worked his way through college through part time jobs;
- Was motivated; driven; tireless; and full of energy;
- Had clear goals in mind and actively worked toward them;
- Concerned for the welfare of others;
- Assumed leadership positions in business student club at the UW;
- Had a sense of humor;
- A person who I believed had a bright, rewarding and ethical future.

These traits are inconsistent with what Joe has done and plead guilty to. I can only speculate as to why things have turned as they have. I do believe to this day that the Joe I knew back then is the same Joe that will stand before you in the near future. My hope is that however he is sanctioned, those sanctions do not destroy an otherwise good man and the family that is the center of his life.

Thank you for considering my remembrances.

Bill Wells

Sharon Witzu (Client)

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing in reference to Mr. Joe Lavin. I have done business with Joe Lavin and have always found him to be an upstanding, honest, forthright, reliable and responsible business person. He has always shown the utmost integrity and accuracy in his business dealings with me. I trust Joe Lavin implicitly to practice all business and legal unlawful fashion in all respects. He provided ongoing scrutiny of all his contacts to ensure that nothing less than these practices were being adhered to Suez to avoid exposure to his clients to any disadvantages or shabby business practices.

I have known of other businesses that Joe Lavin withdrew from, at his own expense, that were not able to maintain his required level of honesty and professionalism. He preferred to not be associated with any businesses other than first rate above board companies offering quality and accountability along with successful returns to his clients and did not want to be a party to anything of a lesser caliber.

Joe Lavin has been accountable in all respects with my association with him. His records have been accurate and timely and I have no doubts whatsoever regarding any of Joe Lavin's business practices or recordkeeping.

Please do not hesitate to reply ASAP if you require further or specific information. I will be able to respond but I am three hours ahead of Pacific Time. I would highly recommend doing business with Joe Lavin with complete utter confidence.

Sincerely,

Sharon Witzu

Dean Wohlers

Dear Judge Lasnik, My name is Dennis "Dean" Wohlers II, I am 12 yrs old and Joe Lavin is my 2nd cousin. He is a man dedicated to God. He takes me to skateboarding events for Shadrak, which is a Christian skate group that holds events for people who not only love skateboarding but also love God. I really do not have a father figure in my life, so he takes me to do guy things of the following, sports car shops to look at sports cars, skate parks, and is currently teaching me about boxing and kickboxing. I understand Joe has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now awaiting sentencing. I hope that you see what a good person he is and take that into consideration before sentencing him.

Sincerely, Dennis "Dean" Wohlers II

Gwen Wohlers

Dear Judge Lasnik, My name is Gwendolyn Wohlers (Lavin), Joe Lavin and I are cousins, so I have known him all my life. I am fully aware that he has pled guilty to federal criminal charges and is now facing sentencing. I am sure you have or will be reading many letters with nothing but wonderful things being said about Joe and his love for God, his family, his friends and his community. I believe in this life, we all make bad decisions, get ourselves in bad situations, and do not always come out smelling like roses. I do not believe that makes you a bad person.

Myself, growing up with my biological father absent, and a stepfather I wish would have been absent, I envy how Joe is always there with and for his family, and not only his own family, but anyone who needs a father figure. For me it is too late, but for my children, he is a wonderful role model. Without father or grandfather presence in their lives, (some by their own choice, some by my children's choice), he is one man in the family I am proud to let guide my children by example. Especially my son, who lives in a house full of women, by my choice after many years of abuse from their father and other men I brought into their lives, not knowing what a healthy relationship with a man should be like, I decided to raise them by myself.

Joe takes him (my son, who thinks church is boring) to skate park bible studies, practices boxing skills and self defense, he shows him what a good man should do, encourages him during these crucial years where he is deciding what kind of man he is going to be. In the past I have shown my son nothing but abusive men, I do not want to see him lose the one good role model he does have. Joe has a heart of gold, and would go to the ends of the earth not only for his family but also for anyone in need. I believe he will learn and grow from this mistake, if given the chance. I do not believe taking him from his family is the correct punishment. It will devastate everyone, but especially Maddy, he is her world, as every father should be in their little girls eyes, as I wish mine would have been. Please do not take that from her. Please show compassion when sentencing Joe, as he is a big, positive, wonderful influence in many people's lives

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading these letters

Gwendolyn M. Wohlers