Danielle Hernandez Hallandale Beach, Florida. 33009.

January 28, 2011

Honorable Dennis Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey United States of America.

I respectfully ask you to please not impose harsh consequences on a man whom is the considered by most to be the kindest, most gentle person who you may ever meet your honor.

My name is Danielle Hernandez and I am 26 years old. I am the mother of two amazing children. I am a strong, independent woman. I have great family morals and a good head on my shoulders. I have put myself through my first degree and I am currently completing my final Year of my Masters Degree to become a Physician Assistant. I work 60 hours a week in the hospital and care for my children when I am home with the assistance of my parents. My 10 -20 Year plan is to run for senate and help legislation impose positive changes with healthcare reform. I attend church regularly, I do not smoke, drink, or use any drugs and in my spare time I like to read bedtime stories to my children and spend time with my family.

I have known Mike since I was 18 years old when I first moved to Florida from New Jersey. I was young and naive and impressionable and I am thankful everyday for meeting Mike and having an amazing friend to look up to. Mike is someone I believe is more a part of our family that just a friend, he knows my

children, my parents, my siblings and even my extended family in New Jersey. Mike has helped me out when I have been in a "jam" many times. I also know Mike's entire family and love them all "to pieces". They raised a man with a heart of gold; he is quiet mostly, yet carries with him an amazing inner strength.

He is also vulnerable and sometimes his weakness is he cares too much for others and ends up getting hurt in the end for being kind to so many.

Mike was the best man in my wedding. Mike was also present at the birth of my daughter when my husband was away on business. He sat in the waiting room for hours as a true concerned friend. I finally saw him after the birth, he looked pale yet relieved we were both ok. This is when I first saw the sadness in Mike's face and realized how much he wanted children. He always kept his distance from relationships because of the impending trial. He was selfless and to this he still puts others first. It still causes him pain and we have spent many nights crying (possibly more crying on my end) over his deep desire to have a child. I am currently separated and I have been for the past year. Mike was there for me as a friend through the entire process. I could call him crying and he would just listen from afar.

My father was diagnosed with prostate cancer, the second Mike found out he called my father and went to visit him the following day. Mike demanded he be called if my family needed anything. Mike has also been visiting my father and sister for years, sitting with them on Father's Day or for special occasions. In fact, my family and Mike even attend church together.

I am not trying to tell you that he is perfect sir. I am simply trying to convey accurate facts about a man whom you have only seen and known through the trial. His tremendous strength and respect for others has allowed him to keep his cool

in any situation. He has never raised his voice to anyone in my presence, never cursed at me, nor been disrespectful to anyone especially a lady, this is a man whom most truly admire. He is funny, sweet, strong, and passionate. He came to this country from Guyana poor and rode a bicycle around delivering Chinese food. He saved money and worked very hard. Mike was able to convince others to believe in him and he eventually opened his own company. Mike has put his personal life and his dreams of being a father on hold to support his parents and spend time with them, especially because his father is not well. Unfortunately he is now facing the unknown fear of never being able to fulfill his greatest dreams.

Mike is an honest person. He served his country in Guyana for nearly 8 Years. He came here to pursue the American dream. He has never

participated in anything illegal. In fact, he resents people who use or sell drugs, abuse alcohol or do anything to endanger others. Mike has a vision of the World and he has a gift that allows him to think rationally and smart. Every move he has made has been precisely calculated and executed to ensure that in the long run he would be able to support his parents and support a family without harm to others.

The crash was obviously devastating and I saw a happy, strong man lose everything. You Honor, Mike spent a few Months in jail when the Government refused to offer him bond. He has been on "house arrest" for over 2 Years and literally goes nowhere. He has never once violated the terms of his bond. He lost his home to foreclosure due to the fact that he lost his ability to earn a living, his car was re-possessed, his ability to earn a living has been permanently affected in the aviation environment. His pilot's license which is invaluable is now

revoked and finally he will most likely be deported. He has suffered tremendously and he just wants to take care of his father and mother.

Mike spent days and nights in the hospital ensuring the speedy recovery of the pilots. He offered to help both their families in any way he could. He helped the flight attendant with grief counseling and ensured she received an insurance settlement when everyone was trying to ignore her troubles.

I am not a lawyer and I understand his charges are aviation related. Your Honor these are not violent crimes, Mike never hurt anyone intentionally, these are all civil infractions. I do know that Mike is honest and he would never place a fellow person in danger nor ever harm anyone. Your Honor, the Mike I know would give his own life to save someone else's.

This brief glimpse of a man that has been labeled a "Criminal" is unjust and I am ashamed that this is all I can write as it does not completely offer you a true "picture" of Mike. I cried while writing this as I wish I didn't have to defend a friend and plead with you to not take him from so many that need him including myself. I wish I had a video camera to "show" you this person, there is lots of laughter, smiles and good tears around Mike. Your Honor, without trying to sound dramatic, I cry quietly for the children he wishes he could have, he would make an amazing father. He deserves the chance to have a family and be able

to grow old with them and teach them about the beauty this world holds. Please, I beg of you, do not take this man away and lock him up. He is no prisoner, this will not benefit society. He is still needed by his family, more so by his very sick father and I too still need my "rock", he has been there for so many your Honor.

Thank you for your time and God Bless You and your family.

Danielle Hernandez

9545937922

January 14, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh
United States District Judge
Newark, New Jersey

Re: Michael Brassington Jr.

My Name is Sandra Hernandez, I am a United States citizen and have been living in this country for 11 years, I have worked for Vacation Village for the past 5 years and I have been for the last 3 years one of the top sellers of the company, nation wide. I have two daughters and a son, Natalia, Daniela and Sebastian Blandon. My two daughters are very close friends with Michael Brassington Jr, He has shared a lot of time in my house and with my family for the past years, and I have a very sincere and high concept of Mike. He has been an incredible friend to my daughters, lovable, caring, and respectful friend.

It has been of great comfort to have Mike be part of my family and close friend of my daughters. He is always there for them supporting, sharing and helping my daughters in everything they need. When it comes to an honest and clear advice in my daughters lived, Mike's opinion is highly taken in consideration because of all his great achievements in life, his values and his respect for him self and others.

Mike has always been a family person, humble, honest, with no criminal history and lovable of my family. I speak very highly of him as he has been a positive person in my daughters life. I have only positive memories and positive thoughts when describing Michael Brassington Jr. and it is highly appreciate it for taking your time to read and conceder my letter as part of this process, so you can have a better understanding of who is Michael Brassington Jr. and the great person he is.

Best regards

Sandra Hernandez

954.385.3455

# SHEILA HOLDER, MP

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh, United States District Judge, United States of America Newark, New Jersey

12th January, 2011

I have known Mr. Michael Brassington since he was a toddler. He is a child of one of the much respected families in my neighbourhood. Michael grew up as a remarkable individual, the livewire of the community, kind and loving to my children with whom he grew up sharing many hours playing, talking, reading and planning their lives, at times adventurous and sometimes over-enthusiastic. At the same time Michael was always respectful to us adults, willing to do errands for the elderly, taking part in social activities and acting as a role model to others.

His father was one of the country's leading entrepreneurs and founder and chairman of one of Guyana's first public companies. His mother dedicated her life to bringing up and caring for her family and serving the Guyana society with sincerity and generosity.

It was, therefore, with shock and dismay that we have learnt that Michael has run afoul of the laws of the United States of America, a country which he always admired as a model of what the world should be - full of opportunities, a beacon of hope and always willing to understand, to empathise and even to forgive.

By way of this short note, I and my family and, indeed, the rest of our neighbourhood in the suburbs of Guyana's capital city, Georgetown, hope and pray that the courts of the United States of America would show compassion and leniency to a person we still regard as one of our own.

Sheila Holder,

Member of Parliament

Guyana

PO BOX 10123 GPO Building Georgetwon GUYANA 2368 Denvale Dr Pickering, Ontario Canada, L1X 2H

The Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

#### Re: Character reference for Mr. Michael Brassington

Honorable Judge Cavanaugh,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Michael Brassington for over 27 years, first as a child growing up and now as a lifelong friend. We grew up together as neighbors and shared our most formidable years together, first as kids, then as teenagers and later in life as adults.

At all times I have found Mike to be honest and courteous. He has always displayed a high degree of integrity and character. In the many years I've known Michael I have never seen him stray from the principles under which he was raised even under circumstances when they were tested.

Michael has always demonstrated compassion and empathy for his neighbors and those less fortunate. In fact I distinctly remember during our teenage years Michael going out of his way to help someone he didn't know by stopping traffic, diverting from what he was doing, to give the individual who obviously needed help, a lift home even though it was in the opposite direction. It is this ability to feel compassion and understanding that has always endeared him to me.

Our families have been close growing up and we share the same principles. We also share in the same belief that hard work and sacrifice are the cornerstones of success. Michael is passionate about life and values his interactions with people. We were friends growing up 27 years ago and we continue to be friends today because of a shared belief system.

I hope that sharing my observations and experiences will help you make the appropriate decision in this case,

Thank you for your consideration,

Yale Holder President

Amber Killen Humanitarian Los Angeles, California

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

1/20/2011

Judge Dennis Cavanaugh

I have known Michael Brassington Jr. for 5 years. He has been nothing but a great influence and help in my life. He is the friend that is always there for me no matter what the issue, no matter the time, and no matter what the situation. He is truly a blessing.

I have been working in the operations of special events for the past 9 years and recently decided to take my experience in a new direction. I am now working full time with the Los Angeles Youth Network, helping to get homeless young between the ages of 12-17 off the streets of Los Angeles and into shelters. Our goal is to rehabilitate these kids and get them back into society. Although this is a great cause I have taken a big pay cut. Michael has been so giving and helpful in the survival of my daughter and I.

I was lucky enough to meet his family recently, and I can see now exactly why he is so humble, honest, and loving. I know that Michael is up for sentencing for some very serious criminal charges, which boggles my mind. Michael is no criminal! Michael and I are close, and I have never seen any illegal activity, heard of any of illegal activity, and I honestly would trust him with my life.

Judge, I respectfully ask you to take my opinion into consideration. It would be a shame to see such a up standing man be made an example of. I truly believe that he is innocent.

Thanks for your consideration,

Amberikilen

Humanitarian

The Best Service Between Two Points



Date: January 11, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanagh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

Dear Honorable Dennis M. Cavanagh:

#### Re: Mr. Michael Brassington Jr.

My name is Balram C. Lall, 41 years of age, and I am a United States Citizen residing in Ringwood, New Jersey with my wife and daughter. I currently own and operate Shawnee Trucking Co. in Carlstadt, New Jersey. I would like to give you an insight about Michael, whom I met in 1989 during a trip to Guyana, South America. He was a Lieutenant in the Guyana Defense Force at the time. We became friends immediately. We shared a passion for hunting, fishing, piloting and racing. Over the years I have watched him achieved his dreams of becoming a pilot. Michael is a very dedicated and passionate individual. His dedication goes beyond his career, and is true for his family and friends. He is from a wonderful family. His parents are kind and caring people. It is not difficult to see where Michael got his strong character traits of being a humble and honest person. As a matter of fact, he has always done his best to help others. I am proud of the fact that he calls me his friend.

I am aware of the charges against Michael. It was an unfortunate accident and he is thankful no one was terminally injured. Since the accident, Michael has not been himself, he is truly sorry. He has had a lot to reflect upon. I visited with him and his family at their Fort Lauderdale, Florida home in December 2010. We spent hours talking about what happened and also went to church together. Prior to this unfortunate incident, Michael spoke of becoming a husband and father. He adores children and often talks about his sister's kids as his own. To the best of my knowledge, Michael has had a zero criminal history. He has never broken any law nor has asked me to do so. Michael deserves a second chance.

If you require additional information, please contact me at 201-951-4798.

Sincerely Yours,

Balram C. Lall

# Case 2:09-cr-00045-DMC Document 326-2 Filed 09/08/11 Page 10 of 55 PageID: 9917 FLIGHT CREW TRAINING ASSOCIATES, INC.

Post Office Box 7629 Delray Beach, Florida 33482-7629

Robert H. Laseter Jr.

14 January 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey.

Subject: Michael Brassington Jr.

Sir:

To introduce myself, I am currently the owner of Flight Crew Training Associates, Inc. located in Delray Beach, Florida. I have worked in the FAR 135 Charter Industry since leaving the USAF in 1974 and am now [through contract with my company] the Chief Pilot of National Jets in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In addition I have held an Authorization as FAA Pilot Examiner since 1979. A Pilot Examiner is not an FAA employee, but rather operates on a Letter of Authorization from the FAA. As a Pilot Examiner, I am authorized to conduct Practical Tests for the issue of Pilot Certificates from Private thru Airline Transport Pilot, and Type Ratings in two [2] Business Jets.

It is in my capacity as an FAA Examiner and Aviation Consultant that I have worked with Michael Brassington. I first met Michael over fifteen years ago when I administered a FAA Practical Test for the issue of LR-JET Type Rating to his Airline Transport Pilot Certificate. Since that time I have worked with Mr. Brassington numerous times as a pilot, an instructor, and as an aviation consultant.

Over the last fifteen years I have grown to know Michael to be a good pilot, a good businessman, and a good friend. In all my dealings with Mr. Brassington, I have found him to be an Honorable Gentleman. I was raised in the "Old South" taught that a person's word and his integrity were the best indication of his character. I have always done my business dealings with Mr. Brassington on a "Handshake".

+ H Laseter fr

Sincerely,

Robert H. Laseter Jr.

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh

United States District Judge

Newark, New Jersey

United States of America

January 20, 2010

TESTIMONIAL - MR. MICHAEL BRASSINGTON Jr.

I Sergio Leite humbly offer this testimonial to your Honor about the personal experience I have had with Mike over the last 11 Years.

I am happily married and we are blessed with a son who is currently employed by a major airline flying Airbus commercial aircraft. I too am a professional pilot with over 30 Years of mostly International flying for major airlines, numerous fortune 500 companies and Royal families. I have enjoyed a blemish free, accident free career and I thank God for health, family and a successful career. I am rated as a captain on the following jet aircraft: Boeing 707, 727, MD DC-10, the Hawker 125 series jet aircraft, Gulfstream 550, Falcon 900EX and the Bombardier Challenger 604 and 605.

I met Mike in 1999 through a fellow aviator. My family and I were investigating the option of relocating to the United States and I came ahead to see the possibilities in South Florida. Mike offered a virtual stranger a bed in his home at no charge. I comfortably had a place to rest my head for approximately 2 Weeks until I found an apartment for my family and I. He also took time out of his busy work schedule at this most important transition time to drive me to various rental communities to find a home for my family to begin our "new lives". His generosity and kindness is unique and my family and I will forever be thankful to a gentleman and a true friend.

Over the Years while I pursued my personal aviation career, I had the pleasure of not only flying with Mike but also flying for him when he operated Challengers. Mike was always professional, "polished" and most important safe. I confidently state that he never lied, never falsified and certainly never asked me to ever do anything illegal.

I have tracked the case somewhat closely, not only because of my friendship with Mike, but because it has affected the aviation industry to some degree.

I am saddened that a jury found him guilty on the few counts. The gentleman I know today would never do anything illegal and certainly is no criminal your Honor.

I would like to offer to you sir that in my thirty plus Years of flying, I have never come across any aviator that would intentionally place his pilot's license, his family nor his life at risk. Your Honor, I am sure that because the jury was made up professionals that had little to zero aviation backgrounds is why they probably misunderstood the

technical details of the case and rendered guilty verdicts on some of the charges. I am a professional pilot your Honor, my family and I are living the American dream. Sir, I am a little worried that this great Country may steal the dreams from someone who has been so kind to so many through a process that is usually decided by the Federal Aviation Administration administrative legal system. Your Honor Mike was never convicted of a single Federal Aviation violation, these are the experts that the United States Government have entrusted with all aviation matters.

I ask you to please consider these facts and please give someone that has been there for so many a 2nd chance. Your Honor, I clearly remember a specific conversation Mike and I had approximately a Year ago. Mike explained to me that a person can always pursue any career after going through any difficult process. But he said will never plead guilty to something he never participated in nor did. He went on to say, most important was that in the "eyes" of his parents and God he had to prove his innocence.

Please humbly accept this letter from a fellow professional pilot and friend of Michael Brassington Jr. as a truthful and sincere reflection of a person that will never harm anyone nor did he ever intend for anyone to be harmed.

Captain Sergio Leite

To fit

Airline transport license number: 2645959



1301 W Newport Center Dr. Deerfield Beach, Ft. 33442 Phone: 954-360-6900 Ext. 1910

Fax: 954-360-6910

January 26, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey.

As a friend and a business woman, employed at Aqua-Gulf Transport as logistics manager it is to my great honor to write a personal reference on Michael Brassington Jr.'s behalf. It has been a pleasure knowing Michael and his family for the past three years. I was fortunate enough to meet him through a mutual friend at Calvary Chapel where I serve in the children's volunteer ministry.

Michael has proved over the years that he is a loyal friend and always putting others needs before his own. On several occasions he has offered his time, energy and finances to aide others in need. His actions have always shown to be selfless and genuine when helping the people around him expecting nothing in return.

Finding quality people in South Florida can be daunting however Michael has demonstrated that he is committed to live an honest, reliable and faithful lifestyle. His priorities in life are most clear to the people who know him best. He is an active member at Calvary Chapel and helps support the community outreach programs to assist those who are less fortunate. Michael also has a very giving heart one that is best seen when he is with his family. The love and support that Michael shares with his mother, father, brother and sisters are undeniably strong. He has always lent himself available to help drive his mother to get household items, aide in his father rehabilitation efforts to combat Parkinson disease, and be an emotional rock to his sisters and brother.

He also makes himself available to his friends when they are in need. There have been countless times when Michael has extended his good nature and have helped me out. One time in particular when I was stranded on the side of the road because my car broke down him and his brother left a business meeting to come to my aide to ensure my safety. Another time he extended kindness was when I was going through the headaches of home remodeling he held my hand every step of the way easing the burden through guidance.

I have the upmost respect for Michael's integrity, morals and ethics when it comes to friendship, family and his business practices. His influence on my life has made me become a better person encouraging me to appreciate the precious things in life. His kind and humble persona are attractive qualities to admire in a person. As his witness and sister in Christ I can attest he leads an honest lifestyle and abides by the law. It saddens me to hear that many individuals whom Michael treated like family have now deliberately and dishonestly took advantage of his good nature for their own selfish gain in this court case. I am proud of his perseverance towards the truth and justice throughout this whole process. I believe that Michael Brassington Jr. is an outstanding citizen and that this letter should be taken into account as to show his true character.

Thank You,

Valerie Locay
Aqua-Gulf Transport Logistics Manager
Vlocay@aquagulf.com

Valerie Focay

Green Flooring, LLC 9849 Arrowsmith Avenue South Seattle, Washington 98118

January 19, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

Your Honor, I Dung Mao respectfully offer this attestation letter regarding the exemplary character of Michael Brassington, Jr. Those who know him, call him Mike. Your Honor, although we are not actually related, I am proud to call Mike my brother. I live in Seattle, Washington and I am of Chinese/Vietnamese descent. I am a 35 year old self employed licensed contractor, a husband and a dad to a beautiful three year old girl. I have known Mike for only a few short years and in this short time, he has displayed a genuine most cherished friendship, generous hospitality, unwavering support, outstanding integrity, and a love for life that shines eternal upon those fortunate to meet him. Within a couple hours of meeting & conversing with him, Mike offered to host me in his home, knowing I've never been to Miami. Mike is very endearing, he is always caring and sharing. Mike noticed I have a skin disorder called psoriasis; so he sent me a bottle of lotion he thought would help me with my skin condition. He mailed it from Miami, Florida to Seattle, Washington. Mike also introduced me to NuVerus, they make a super juice called Euforia and it is amazing. It has changed my life profoundly. Mike will go the extra mile to make you smile, like when he called to wish me Happy Birthday! An act few of what I consider my closest friends, even family members, have yet to display. Mike has helped me through some very tough times so I cannot believe he would ever commit a crime. I have been to Miami on several occasions with my wife and we have never heard, read, nor seen Mike doing anything illegal or of criminal behavior. Such lawless acts are unacceptable and would not be tolerated. As a matter of fact, I have vacation plans to take my wife and daughter to visit Mike. Even with his case looming, Mike offered to let my family stay at his place.

Sincerely & humbly,

Dung Mao

July 11, 2011

Re: Michael Brassington

To Whom It May Concern:

Michael Brassington is a kind, generous, loving family man and good friend. He cares very deeply about other people whether it is his own family, friends, co-workers, customers and people in general.

He supports his family, and is an icon to those around him.

He will go out of his way to be helpful, considerate and assist anyone in need to the best of his knowledge and ability.

He has a deep belief in God and his fellow man.

We are very glad that we are his friends, but feel more like family.

Sincerely,

Don & Georgeanne Marese

1301 Washington St., Hollywood, FL. 33019

How Marese Glorgeanne Marein

954-924-0030

January 13, 2011

To: Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh

United States District Judge

Newark, New Jersey.

From: Edy Marsan

Imperial Jet S.A.L Markazia Building 7th Floor Solidere

P.O. Box 13 6705 | Chouran Beirut 1102-2060 | Lebanon

Subject: Character Letter

Dear Judge Dennis M Cavanaugh,

Please respectfully accept this Character Letter regarding of Mr. Brassington. My Name is Edy Marsan. I am Gulfstream III/V Captain for Imperial Jet located in Beirut Lebanon. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Michael Brassington in the past as a freelance pilot at his company for two of the several aircraft he was managing in Florida. During the two years, I was very impressed with his managing skills and his ability to work well with others and his ability to run an aviation company.

While working with Mr. Brassington, there was an occasions where one of the aircraft I was schedule to fly suffered a mechanical issue. Mr. Brassington was the first company representative on the scene to analyze the problem along with a mechanic. He never forced the issue nor asked that I fly the aircraft out of airworthiness. He "grounded" the aircraft until it was airworthy and we conducted the flight on another airworthy aircraft. As a professional pilot that is always protecting their license from any FAA violations, I would never work for a company or an individual if there were any "hint" of inappropriate behavior or if I discovered any illegal or criminal activity. I would never jeopardize my pilot license, my integrity or my families' livelihood for anyone.

I truly believe in my experience that Mr. Brassington puts safety first above all. He would not intentionally risk the crew, the aircraft and most of all safety just to earn an "extra dollar".

I have always known Mr. Brassington to be a thoughtful, considerate and respectful both in business and as an individual.

Mr. Brassington and I had numerous meetings. The one thing that stands out is Mr. Brassington's character and his ability to surround himself with positive people, both in the aviation field and in his personal life. Mr. Brassington has always followed and complied with Federal regulation while managing all flight operations. He never deviated or tried to persuade others to break the law in any aspect. As a professional pilot in this competitive field, I feel there are uncontrollable forces where individuals try to take advantage or discredit the competition in order to gain an advantage or leverage. Mr. Brassington never did this. He demonstrates a very high degree of diplomacy, his character and integrity are unquestioned by all who know him.

In closing, Mr. Brassington did not have to give me the opportunity to be one of the captains to fly the aircraft he was managing, but during this period he took the time to help someone that needed an opportunity after my previous employer sold their aircraft. Mr. Brassington is a true, loyal and dedicated individual who distinguishes himself as a professional in the field of aviation.

I confidently offer this letter of character regarding Mr. Brassington. Your Honor, this gentleman is no criminal and I ask you to please not sentence him to prison time. Please give him a chance to prove to you sir that he is of great moral character and an asset to society.

Sincerely,

Edy Marsan Captain GIII/V

# Case 2:09-cr-00045-DMC Document 326-2 Filed 09/08/11 Page 18 of 55 PageID: 9925

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge

# Jnited States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

January 5, 2010

Your Honor,

I would like to take this time to let you know who Mike Brassington is, through my personal experience and years I have known Mike. My name is Manuel Martinez, president of Firma Group S, A, a pre-engineered building system company. I am a business entrepreneur from the Bronx who before meeting Mike was not even given a chance to be heard. I have always pushed myself to get a better standard of living for my single mother and siblings. I have known Mike for almost 7 years now, and I can honestly say that this man has always been a man of God, Family and really making a difference in others. Mike gave me an opportunity when hundreds of doors closed in my face. Mike truly made all the effort to hear me out and work with me to make my possibility of success ever more great.

I remember once, we had bought some chicken for lunch and his sister was present. During the meal we discussed religion. At the time, his sister was completely stubborn in the fact that she didn't believe in God! I remember that Mike smiled and continued eating as he explained to her where her roots came from and the reality that he wasn't going to preach to her, but that in due time she would realize that just because we get don't get what we want, when we want it, it doesn't mean that God isn't there. I truly felt that regardless of what his sister at time was going through Mike always waits the calm and keeps his focus on making sure his family and loved ones walk the path of betterment, as he has always done for me through out our friendship.

In short Your HONOR, this man is a great man, great friend and truly a person who I admire and without a doubt is a law abiding citizen, who doesn't talk about making good things happen he actually acts on them.

Sincerely,

Manuel Martinez

President'

Firma Group SA

Pre-Engineered Building System

WORLDWIDE ELIFE AVIATION

1020 N.W. 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave Hangar 16B Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33309 Tel: (954) 588-4956 Fax: (954) 776-3344

Judge Dennis M Cavanaugh U.S. District Judge Newark, New Jersey

02/16/2011

#### **CHARACTER LETTER OF MICHAEL BRASSINGTON**

I have known Michael Brassington for over 15 years. I first met him when he was transferred to Air Corps from Special Forces as a young officer in the Guyana Defence Force to train as a pilot. After training at Flight Safety in Vero Beach, FL he returned to Air Corps as a co-pilot. He was always attentive and eager to learn. He paid attention to all the details when preparing for flights.

When I moved to the U.S. Mike was already here and was a co-pilot certified on many types of aircraft. Because of the quality of his flight preparation, piloting skills and hard work he was a much sought after co-pilot. When he became a captain he kept up his quality of preparation and piloting skills as he flew for some of the most prestigious corporate companies in South Florida.

My primary experience with Mike at Platinum Jet was primarily from a maintenance perspective. Mike Brassington continued his dedication for perfection, he always supported the maintenance personnel to get the training and tools necessary to kept the aircraft airworthy. Mike approved the very expensive aircraft type training for all the mechanics when we only needed one person to be trained to meet the FAR requirements. Mike supported the contracting of Bombardier Aerospace to assist the maintenance personnel when we didn't have the tools to do the job. We could have used other approved companies but Mike insisted that we use the aircraft manufacturer to ensure safety and perfection was always achieved. On one of our aircraft we once had a discrepancy that couldn't be duplicated on the ground by the maintenance department, per Mike's recommendation the aircraft was not returned to service until Bombardier Aerospace troubleshot the system. During the time I was associated and worked with Mike Brassington, he never once asked that I falsify or "turn a blind eye' to anything. He also always demanded we be upfront and honest period. The Mike Brassington I know is not the type of person that would intentionally break rules or ask persons to break rules, he is a person that has always done great preparation for any task he has to accomplish. He has always strived to do everything to the best of his ability, never cutting corners, preferring to go the hard route instead of the easy one. This is not the type of person I think should be sent to jail for the charges brought against him, he has always done everything to the best of his ability and always put safety and others before himself. Your Honor he is not a criminal and I ask that you please give this gentleman a second chance at life

Brian McKenzie

Director of Maintenance Worldwide Elite Aviation 6 URQUHART STREET
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA

P.O. BOX 10721 GEORGETOWN GUYANA

TEL: 225-3553 FAX: 225-3812

email: mpsgy@networksgy.com

January 19, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey.

Your Honor,

#### **Re: MICHAEL ANTHONY BRASSINGTON**

For your information, I am the CEO of Mings Products and Services Ltd., (MPS) which has the Guyana distribution rights for the various products manufactured by Yamaha Motor Company and Mitsubishi Motor Corporation of Japan.

Please be advised that I have known Michael for over 30 years. I had business dealings with his father for several years after he had resigned from a successful career in banking and established a major industrial complex in Guyana.

Over the years, I have visited the home of the Brassington family on numerous occasions and can say without any hesitation, that they are a highly respected and successful family.

Michael and his siblings have all been well educated and he had a successful career in the Guyana Defence Force which he joined in 1992 as a Cadet Officer. After he graduated, he went on to be trained as a pilot in Florida.

During the past years I have kept in touch with Michael and met with him several times in Florida when we shared a meal and good conversation, since we have similar interests including motorcycles and business development.

I have always admired Michael's tenacity, commitment, honesty, and humility along with his willingness to help anyone in need. He has always aspired to be successful in his endeavours with a keen eye on achieving excellence. He is also fully committed to the well being of his family and friends and well known for his hard working and peaceful disposition.

All for your information and guidance.

Yours faithfully

Stanley Ming

CEO

PRESTIGIOUS PROPERTIES

Honorable Judge Dennis Michael Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark New Jersey. United States of America.

June 20, 2011.

#### CHARACTER LETTER FOR MICHAEL BRASSINGTON JR.

Judge Cavanaugh, I write to you in the capacity as a business associate and friend of Michael Brassington. I have known Michael since 2007. I met Michael when I utilized his jet aircraft to travel between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Miami.

Judge Cavanaugh I am extensively involved in the real estate industry in the Turks and Caicos Islands and meet many people from around the World when they visit our islands to rent or purchase real estate. I happily share with you that Michael is a gentleman and a class act. Not once have I ever questioned his integrity or his honesty. When we first met in 2007, Michael wasted no time sharing the events surrounding the aircraft accident in 2005. This trait I found unique since most would probably attempt to hide any "negative" associated with them.

In 2008, my very ill elderly mother needed to return to her home in North Caicos in the Turks and Caicos Islands after undergoing a major medical procedure in South Florida. Judge, the personal involvement, overwhelming assistance, patience and great emotional aid offered by Michael made this extremely difficult situation very manageable and my mother returned home very comfortably and with a smile.

It is the selfless simple things that we do Judge that make a difference to others. There was no financial gain in offering this assistance, however Michael made a tremendous effort to assist which touched our family and we remember to this day.

I closing Judge, I ask you to not subject Michael to any sever punishment. My family and I have never seen a violent trait in this gentleman and I humbly ask on behalf of my family and I, more so my mother, to not sentence Michael to any prison time.

Phillip Misick

Desdeny Olexa 148 Heritage Way West Palm Beach, Fl. 33401

Honorable Judge Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey Reference: Michael Brassington Jr. 01-12-2011

Dear Honorable Judge Cavanaugh,

Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence that I am writing on behalf of my dear friend, Michael Brassington Jr. My name is Desdeny Olexa. I am a native of Pennsylvania and a current resident of Palm Beach, Florida, since 2004. I am employed as an elementary school teacher at the Benjamin School in West Palm. I love my job. I am a devout Christian who attends mass regularly to thank God for the blessings that he constantly bestows on me as well as my family. My older brother is an Asst. District Attorney and my younger sister is a Registered Nurse back in Hazleton, Pa. My parents have been married 37 years.

The only sad part of living in Florida is that my family still lives in Pa. My parents raised me with the constant reminder that the most important things in this world are God and family. My father always told us to choose our friends like we were choosing members of our family. I honestly think I'm pretty good at that. My father also said that if you go through life with a half dozen REAL friends, you are fortunate. I consider Michael Brassington Jr. to be one of those REAL friends.

Your Honor....I know relatively little about the law and even less about the guidelines that judges use to enforce it. I understand and believe that all adults are responsible for the consequences of their own actions and inactions. In short, I do have faith in the legal system.

But what I do know is that Michael Brassington Jr. is a good, honest person at heart. He cares about people. He is as family oriented as we are. He is the son of two wonderful parents as well as an uncle to two beautiful children. He is both kind and very considerate of others. The night that I met Michael Brassington and before I ever spoke a word to him, I saw him offer a cab for a stranger who had too much to drink. It was a genuine gesture Your Honor. It was an act of caring. His kindness was not intended to impress others including myself but simply to offer a fellow human being a safe way home. It is my deep conviction that Michael Brassington Jr. would never intentionally harm anyone nor place anyone in danger. I have seen him demonstrate acts of kindness for others on numerous occasions. He is a person that can be trusted and counted on. I pray that you strongly consider that this individual isn't a criminal. Michael deserves the right to achieve success again in life. It is also his most important mission for parents to truly see that he isn't a criminal and that he never lied or placed anyone in harm's way. Once again, thank you for your time.

Respectfully Yours,

Desdeny Olexa

Diesdeny Olexa

Randy Owner 1104 Inverness Circle New Castle, De. 19720 302-853-5626.

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh Unites States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

Your Honor,

I have known Michael Brassington Jr. for the past 21 year. Initially our relationship started as friends, and over time our bond matured into a brotherhood. I was first introduced to Michael by his brother and high school class mate Paul Brassington. I immediately gravitated towards building a friendship with Paul because I saw in him a keen sense of integrity and sound family values. As our friendships grew I had the privilege of getting to know and being accepted into their household and they were accepted into mine. The depth of our friendship over the years created a lifelong merger between our families.

Over the years my interaction with Michael revealed to me that he is someone I can depend on to do the right thing, even when it may be perceived unpopular. Michael exuded a level of confidence and integrity, unwavering from the nurturing of his positively influencing parents; whom I have the utmost admiration and respect for. The quality I have always admired most in Michael is level of humility. Michael has an enormous amount of a love for caring for people, which I have see him demonstrate countless amount of times. I admire this most in him because he always took the time to notice even when it would have been easier just to ignore and accept as the norm. This proved to me that he was grounded and not allowing himself to be falsely secured in his better fortune, he in truth understood even at a young age what this life was really about. This theme was consistent throughout the Brassington household and Michael was privy to be a part of. As a result my admiration for him grew stronger and I delighted in being in his company.

As the years went by I grew apart from a few of my friends, as personalities and responsibilities changed and life took us through the various stages and changes. I am pleased to say that inspite of all life's changes our brotherhood continued to grow stronger. Michael and Paul went on to build their dreams as entrepreneurs and I in the field of Finance. Michael was there encouraging me every step of the way as I went on to earn my MBA in Finance and now working successfully in the field of my choice. However, my greatest accomplishment to day is being a husband and father to two sons. I watch my sons relate to Uncle Mike and it make us all very happy. They are now my greatest responsibility and Michael's influence in their lives is one that cannot be valued. I pray that we would always have him every present in our lives. In fact, I can boast with absolute surety that if I am ever called away it would me an honor to have Michael mentor to my sons, a task I will never be light hearted about.

I spent several years working for the Department of Corrections here in Delaware while I was attending University, working very closely with men who were placed behind bars for the rest of their lives. I shudder to think of this reality every affecting my love-ones. Well now this reality is ever more haunting and it really hurts my family and I to our cores. It hurts even more because I know Michael for the greater part of my life and this reality seems to me a mismatch. In all the years I never have seen Mike deliberately seek to endanger anyone; I pleases me to say the he has always done quite the opposite.

I humbly share with heartfelt joy in saying that having Michael as a friend, a brother and a confidant has truly been a blessing in my life and the lives of many people he encountered. Michael Brassington is a citizen of humanity whom I plea.

Respectfully,

Randy Owner



### EA Management Services Inc.

2685 NW 56 Ct. Hangar 52A, Ft. Lauderdale FL., 33309 Ph; 954-642-8614 Fax: 954-772-1581

www.eamsinc.com

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey. March 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

This letter serves to attest to the character of Michael Brassington, and is influenced by the experiences I have had with Michael over the years.

First some background on my association with him. Michael and I are from the same community in the East Coast Demerara region of Guyana in South America. As a matter of fact our homes were less than 10 minutes apart. We went to the same elementary school, where my father was a teacher. Michael was on of my father's favorite students due to his intelligence, perspicacity and sense of fun. Over the years, probably through their parent/teacher interactions, my father and Michael's father (Michael Sr.) began to associate on a social level and thus we saw a lot more of each other. In addition, Michael and his twin sister came to our home several days each week for private tutoring by my father.

Michael was a very well adjusted child. Though his father was an apparently wealthy CEO, Mike adopted no "airs" nor did he treat anyone else any less because their background was not as privileged as his. Mike paid no attention to the trappings of wealth, and was more likely to walk home from our home to his than to wait for his chauffeur driven transportation. On the other hand, he made no excuses for his family's material assets and which he would discuss noncommittally when prompted. When I reflect on these events, it was evident from an early age that Mike materialism was not very important to him. From this early age, Mike was wont to generously give to those less fortunate.

Although Mike proceeded to a different high school than I did, we continued to see a bit of each other since he was in school with my younger brother. I do know for certain that his values did not change during high school career, where he was looked up to as a "cool", albeit "rich", kid. Towards the end of his high school career, Mike's interest in aviation and engineering became evident and we had many conversations, given that I am a few years older and had already embarked on my career in aviation maintenance.

Mike proceeded into the military where he received training as a pilot, but we continued to stay in touch on a social and professional level. Once his training was over and he began flying as a military pilot, the frequency of our contact increased since many of his flights took him through the Ogle Airport where I was based. By this time Mike had developed a reputation as a talented pilot as well as a young man of impeccable and unassailable character – truly "an officer and a gentleman". My father took joy in following the exploits of his former students and I can attest that the reports he received of Michael Brassington Jr. pleased him greatly. Further, Mike's reputation for caring and giving had developed even further.

Mike's path and mine converged again when we both moved to Florida to continue our pursuit of our aviation dreams – mine to operate my own aviation maintenance company and Mike to operate his own aircraft operations firm whilst not relinquishing his love of flying. Over the past 10 years our friendship has solidified and Mike has been a frequent visitor at my home and vice versa. Never in any unguarded moment have I discerned that Mike's aviation operations were anything less than above board. Nor, have I ever observed anything suspect activity at his place of business. In my opinion Mike continued to comport himself in the most professional manner, in keeping with the person of fine morals that I knew him to be over the years.

In closing, I have known Michael Brassington Jr. for most of his life. Not only that, I know his family very well and I can attest to his fine upbringing, strength of the moral character of him and his family. Mike has never had any previous issue with the law, other than maybe speeding tickets - his need for speed is well known, but so are most other pilots I know!

I was appalled and dismayed to hear of the allegations that were made against him and was even more upset and horrified to hear that he had been convicted of those charges. I wish to repeat that Michael has always been a person of impeccable character and none of my associations with him over the past 30 years has EVER caused to doubt that. He comes from a fine, upstanding family whom also have a reputation of moral fiber. I urge your lenience when considering a sentence for Michael Francis Brassington Jr.

Best Regards,

Donald Pieters.

Owner EA Management Services Inc.

## Philip E. Pieters

54 Gates of Bramalea, Brampton, ON L6T 2X2 • (905) 281-2422 • ppieters@rogers.com

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey. February 24, 2011

Your Honour,

I was shocked to learn that Michael Brassington had been charged with a criminal offence. Given my knowledge of his upbringing and character, it was totally incomprehensible to me that Michael could have been accused of any crime! Imagine my complete stupefaction when I learnt that he had been found guilty of said crime.

I have known Mike for basically all his life. I am a father of two young children — my daughter is now around the age when Mike and I first met. Though I am a year older, we went to the same elementary and high schools and maintained the same circle of friends. My father was Mike's teacher and mine and he was also a private tutor to Mike and his sister. Since Mike's family lived in close proximity to mine, I walked to Mike's house daily and car pooled to school with him. I have read that usually a person would display signs of future criminality at an early age. Nothing in Mike's demeanour, personality or behaviour indicated any inclination. Mike was a caring, sharing individual from an early age with a healthy respect for authority. He was not a "bad boy" in school by any means and never had encouraged that type of person as a close friend who could lead him astray.

Mike was no snob, though he may have had a privileged upbringing. He seemed to bend over backward to relate with and include those who were the product of less advantageous circumstances and his group of friends to this day would validate that he always saw people for who they were, rather than where they were from. As mentioned before, Mike kept out of trouble at school and his forays into the neighbourhood were also incident free.

After school, Mike became an army officer and a pilot, but continued to find time for his old friends when on leave from his barracks, etc. This is further evidence that he did not change over the years, hence I am sure that the values he was raised with remained intact.

Back home in Guyana, the esteem that your elders hold you is a very important gauge of your character and I can tell you that my late, dear father was a big fan of the person that Michael Brassington had become. My father would hear of Mike's accomplishments from no less than Mike's father himself, who was also quite proud of him.

Mike and I may not have been very close over recent years, since geography separates us. However, whenever by proxy of my older brother I have been following his career and professional endeavours and my family and I are quite proud of his accomplishments.

I am completely confident that Mike is a person of great character, strong morals and great respect for law and order. Throughout his trial my friends and I had continued to hope that the allegations made against him would have proven to be prevarications, but alas this was not to be. Thus I beg the mercy of the court when delivering a sentence. Please have no doubt that Michael is a person of fine character and is an upstanding citizen with no previous criminal record.

Best Regards,

yiip Pieters

#### BRYNMOR T. I. POLLARD, S.C.

224 Peter Rose Street

Queenstown

Georgetown.

592-226-1984/223-5957

brynpollard2007@yahoo.com

29th December, 2010

Honorable Dennis Cavanauth United States District Judge United States Post Office & Courthouse 50 Walnut Street Newark New Jersey 07102 United States of America.

#### Testimonial - Michael and Paul Brassington

We have known Michael and Paul Brassington since their early youth being family friends living in the same neighbourhood for the past thirty-five years.

The Brassington family is highly respected in Guyana and enjoy a wide circle of friends. Mr. Brassington himself is well known and highly respected for his involvement in, and contributions to, private sector development in Guyana.

The involvement of the Brassingtons in the management and operation of the aircraft which crashed in New Jersey, USA in February 2005 is most unfortunate and was a surprising revelation to friends of the Brassington family. However, the incident itself should serve as a salutary lesson to the Brassington brothers in any enterprise in which they may become involved in the future.

Brynmor T.I. Pollard SC

Attorney - at - Law

Andrew Pollard Attorney- at - Law



Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey January 10th, 2011

Judge Cavanaugh,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a very dear friend of mine Michael Brassington Jr. I have had the pleasure of knowing Michael for 4 years. Since meeting, Michael has been a huge inspiration to my success as well as my Mothers' health. Michael introduced me to an organic juice business called Euforia. His leadership has helped me to become an executive director with Nuverus but more importantly the juice has saved my Mothers life. My Mother was very ill and dependant on a lot of medication that she could not afford and now due to drinking the juice she is medication free and feeling better than ever. I will be forever grateful to Michael for sharing that opportunity.

Michael is a very dedicated, honest, hardworking man. He has also helped me with my Real Estate Business by constantly referring quality clients. In addition to being a great business person Michael is very family oriented. He is very loving and has a great relationship with his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews. Michael is the type of person that will go out of his way to help his friends and family. I feel confident in saying that Michael would never knowingly break the law. Please keep in mind that Michael Brassington Jr. is a tremendous asset to society.

Thank You in advance, Shawndra Lee Potter Avanti Way Realty C 305-746-5302



DATE

January 11, 2011

TO

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh

United States District Judge

Newark, New Jersey United States of America

**FROM** 

Mr. Krishnanand Ramlachana Quality Assurance Manager OECS Aviation Maintenance Ltd. P.O. Box 1232, E.T. Joshua Airport

St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

West Indies

SUBJECT

**TESTIMONIAL** 

Dear Honorable Judge Dennis M. Cavanaugh,

I take great pride in writing this character reference to you in honor of a friend.

However, first please allow me the opportunity to formally introduce myself. My name is Krishnanand Ramlachana and I was born in Guyana. I was a member of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Air Corps from 1981 to 1991 during which time I attained the rank of Sergeant and became a Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. I worked at the Guyana Airways Corporation from 1991 to 1998 and was later reemployed by the Air Corps from 2000 to 2004 as the Quality Assurance Manager for the Air Corps' Approved Maintenance Organisation. I then went on to work with the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (the equivalent of the US FAA) from 2005 to 2010 and am presently employed at OECS Aviation Maintenance Ltd. as its Quality Assurance Manager.

It was during my tenure in the GDF Air Corps that I met Mr. Michael Brassington jr. who, after military cadet training, came to the Air Corps as a trainee pilot in 1992. During his stint in the Air corps he attained the rank of Lieutenant and was a first officer on the Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander aircraft.

Sir, during our sojourn in the Army I found Mr. Brassington to be of exemplary character, excellent demeanor, sociable and charitable. He would go out of his way to help others in time of need even if it meant to short himself. In summarizing his qualities as an officer human being, friend and trend setter, it would be remiss of me not to describe him as an Officer and a Gentleman.

I, therefore, without regret or hesitation, hereby solicit your understanding on the matter he is facing before you in Court and humbly plead on behalf him, his family and friends for your compassion and mercy.

I now thank you for your indulgence and sympathy and in anticipation of a favorable outcome extend my utmost gratitude to you and the administration of the Court.

With very high regards.

Sincerely,

Krishnanand Ramlachana Quality Assurance Manager OECS AML

K. Rom Cachana

# VICTOR M REINOSA 661 Clarence Ave Bronx, NY 10465

Dear Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh

My name is Victor M Reinosa, I am writing on behalf of a dear friend Michael Brassington Jr whom I've have known since 2004. I am a retired NYPD detective with 18yrs of exemplary service. I was forced to retire due to line of duty injury while working "undercover". I meet Mr. Brassington shortly after my retirement while working as a private bodyguard for a client. Mr. Brassington was the pilot of the private jet my client had charted. Upon arriving for my advance security check of the plane, I found Mr. Brassington to be very helpful and knowledgeable regarding integral items I needed checked for the safety of my client. I flew with Mr. Brassington on numerous occasions whilst he was the Captain. I also flew on aircraft he arranged with other pilots and have always felt that safety was his first priority.

On one flight from Los Angeles to New York in 2004, we arrived at the aircraft with one too many passengers. The 2nd crew member was approached by persons in the group about the additionally passenger and this crew member was willing to accommodate this carriage of an additional passenger disregarding the fact that there was not enough seats on this particular aircraft. The leader of the group I was providing protection services for finally approached Mr. Brassington and without delay he rejected any thought of transporting this additional passenger. My client was very upset; despite his persistence Mr. Brassington said "no". I was that passenger who was forced to take a commercial jetliner back to New York. This incident highlighted to me that Mr. Brassington is not the type of person who would jeopardize the safety of others just to "make a buck". Through the years I got the opportunity to get to know him away from the plane business and found him to be a very trust worthy individual and he always put the needs of others before his. He is someone I completely trust. I ask that you please see it in your heart to show mercy and not allow a great trustworthy individual like Mr. Brassington to be removed from society by serving jail time. Society could use more people like him and it would be a

great injustice to loose that. In my years of service as a law enforcement officer and private security professional, it is very hard to trust people out in the "field", Mr. Brassington made it very easy. Your Honor, I thank you in advance for any consideration given to him, I understand a gentleman in your position with your extensive experience must come across many different types, sir based upon the 18 Years I served with the NYPD, I submit to you that Mr. Brassington is a great individual, a true friend and certainly not a criminal.

Sincerely yours,

Victor M Reinosa

Judge Dennis Cavanaugh United States District Judge, United States District Court, District of New Jersey.

July 20, 2011

Your Honor.

I thank you for taking a moment to review my salutation and assure you that it is coming from someone that has been involved in the private aviation industry for in excess of 8 Years and I offer an unbiased opinion and reference where Michael Brassington Jr. is concerned.

I am sure that many others in the aviation industry have submitted similar letters and I assure you sure this gentleman has been an inspiration, a mentor and he has stood out amongst all that have guided me over the Years. Michael never encouraged me to lie, Michael never told me to cut corners, he always offered technical opinions and calculated suggestions toward assisting me with the various flight departments I worked with. Your Honor, I am not a pilot, but on occasion, crews and managers would try to "pull a fast one" because of my lack of technical knowledge. I would get into small confrontations with some of these pilots and managers as they tried to suggest deviations or attempted to cut corners for some reason or another. I called Michael when a few of these situations presented themself. Michael would point me to specific Federal regulations or he aircraft technical manual which clearly described in detail the "dos and the don'ts". I not only was able to earn credibility within my flight department but the knowledge Michael imparted was extremely helpful towards safety and ensured we never deviated from the Federal Aviation Regulations. It is therefore very confusing to many that know Michael to learn that he would ever ask anyone to falsify, lie and more shockingly put anyone's life at risk period. Furthermore, being extensively involved in the industry. I have never heard of a pilot that would put his own life at risk knowingly and intentionally. Sir, forget aviation, simple human reflex and self-preservation does not allow an individual to do this unless there is probably some mental disorder. There were at least 14 crewmembers that flew for Michael. Is the Government suggesting that all the crews were unstable? I have worked with pilots for many years and I have been present when a few owners of aircraft and mangers try to pressure and intimidate the crews into "cutting corners", Sir I have never seen a single pilot put their professional license nor their life at risk for anyone.

I wrote several letters trying to put my thoughts and opinions into words because I feel very strongly about the ultimate outcome. Your Honor, please permit a simple attempt at explaining this scenario. A driver attempts to drive an overloaded truck but it is too heavy, the truck more than likely won't move or its ability to drive properly will be greatly impeded. The driver may simply step out and after a few more "trial and error" attempts, they will finally be on their way despite the fact that the truck may still be overloaded. In aviation sir, there is no "trial and error", you get it wrong the first time, you crash and most likely you will die. No pilot will put their license, ability to earn a very comfortable living and last but obviously most important, no pilot would place his own life at risk intentionally. All jet pilots check and double check everything your Honor; this is "flying 101".

Sir this has taken a tremendous toll on Michael and his loved ones as well. Michael is a person of strong moral character. What I find unique is most people like and respect him to this very day. I have even tried recently to ask for assistance in aviation and even though we have become friends, he asked that I respect his restriction and not discuss aviation period. Sir, this is not a criminal, this gentleman to this day still aides by rules, laws and what he is told regardless the consequence. Michael, when I met him had been in the industry a little longer than me, I looked up to him because I knew he, like myself loved and had a passion for what he did. It was never about the money, I have never once experienced greed from Michael. I have personally witnessed him suffer losses to make others happy. With Michael, it was always about customer safety and satisfaction. He would take the time to put myself and others under his wing and share his knowledge so he could guide us in the right path for success. Never was he greedy, but always selfless. Michael would give you the "the shirt off his back".

He was and is always someone you can trust and count on. Sadly, he rarely received the same in return; this is so very evident considering all he did for so many that in turn testified against him falsely.

You Honor, Michael is a man of God and politely shares his faith constantly but never forces it upon anyone. I am ashamed to admit this, but he invites me to attend church with his family and writing this letter reminds me once more. He always says, "God never make mistakes". At times when I needed redirecting, he was there to coach and encourage me when no one else was. Sir, if you could only imagine, I am just one person, Michael has helped and assisted so many with their families, careers and today they have full time jobs because of the time Michael took to help and assist when no other person would.

#### 

Your Honor, I am also writing to you today because it is very sad that more people did not "step forward" and have the courage to come to assist Michael. We are from the aviation, administrative "world" Sir, we have never been exposed to the criminal environment, when persons discovered that the matter was in a criminal jurisdiction, first there was the utmost shock throughout the entire aviation community across America, but second was the immediate rush to distance one-self from any association regardless if it was just purely friendly and had nothing aviation nor business related. I personally know people that will not speak to Michael and not only are they not involved in any aviation business but they have also never had any interaction with aviation period, but Michael was there for them too, whether he assisted with a loan or helping a family member out or just being a friend, many have given him the cold shoulder for no reason.

Something pretty significant is the Michael has been stripped of one of his loves; he has lost his Federal aviation License. Your Honor, despite what you may have heard in trial, Michael is still to this day one of the most talked about, respected and loved pilots. His reputation for attention to detail, safety and customer service has left a void in the industry and I am yet to come across someone that makes the effort he did when he was the pilot in command of any aircraft. People still remark about his perfection to this day. It brings great sadness and disappointment to me personally that he and his family are going through this terrible turmoil and intentional destruction for what has always been handled through technical administrative sanction.

Amazingly, Michael is trying to prepare himself for sentencing, he still lives by one statement to this day: "God never makes mistakes". He has shared that this unfair process has destroyed his father's health he has less time with him and this hurts him more than anything else. He really does not complain about much else other than the hurt from his own friends "turning on him". Your Honor, in this salutation, I have attempted to give you as much insight as I possibly could without writing a 50 page book, please accept this as a accurate conveyance of a gentleman, a son and brother to so many that would never break any law nor ever put anyone in harms way. He has lost everything, is this not justice enough for a matter which is not even considered criminal. He will never fly again his life and reputation is destroyed permanently.

Sir, please at the very least allow this gentleman to be with his father and loved ones and not put him in prison where the punishment is in my opinion very severe. He is no murderer and definitely no criminal, this was an administrative matter and sir I plead with you with all the respect in the world for your Authority to appropriately hand down administrative sanctions in this matter.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this your Honor,

Yours very respectfully,

Yolanda/Vanessa Sandoval Steel Jet Charters, LLC 700 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street,

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

EDWIN GARCIA Notary Public - State of Florida My Contin. Expires Mar 10, 2015 Commission # EE 72708

FOWIN GARLING

January 5, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh
United States District Judge
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Judge Cavanaugh,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a character reference for Michael Brassington Jr., whom I have known for six years.

As a friend, Michael is outstanding. He's one of the most humble, considerate and honest person who understands and always willing to discuss problems and give advice in a non-intimidating manner. He's extremely sensitive and never wants to see anyone in a difficult situation, always willing to help especially when it comes to the welfare of children, which I've observed in many occasions with a positive outcome.

A few months after meeting Michael, he took a great interest in the education welfare of my daughter. As a young adult, she was unsure of which direction to take to continue her education and her personal relationship with her mate. Michael continuously took time out of his busy schedule to either call or stop by to help, not necessarily monetarily but out of concern. As a disabled single parent, he has always made sure we were okay, so needless to say I have the utmost respect and appreciation for Michael.

It was never a doubt of Michael's sincerity after meeting his parents. The love, affection and respect he has for his parents, revealed he was brought up in a very close net family, he has been a parishioner at Calvary church for many years and is very active in the community. He takes ultimate care of his father who has Parkinson disease making sure all his needs are met and gives his mother all of the support and help she needs on a regular basis.

Michael is not a person to be dishonest, disrespectful, say or do anything derogatory as long as I've have known him, he is extremely conscious of the rules of the law and has never broken one and always encourages others to do so.

Overall, I would have to say Michael Brassington Jr., is a humble, well-balanced person with a wealth of positive attributes.

Respectfully yours

Donna M. Singh

Linden Lea 31 Royal Evescent Dunoon PII23 7AQ Tet : (01369) 702620

e-mail: d-psmall@supanet.com

17 January 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Court Judge United States Post Office and Courthouse 50 Walnut Street Newark, N.J. 07102 U.S.A.

Dear Judge Cavanaugh,

I am responding to a request for a character reference from Mr and Mrs Michael Brassington, the parents of Michael and Paul Brassington who were convicted in October 2010 and are, I understand, due to appear before you for sentencing on 11 April 2011. I am very happy to comply with their request.

I became very well acquainted with Mike and Gloria Brassington and their children when I was British High Commissioner heading our diplomatic mission in Georgetown, Guyana from 1987-1990. During this period, when Mike Brassington was in charge of a refrigeration company on the outskirts of Georgetown, we met from time to time to discuss business and industry matters, a difficult area in a country seriously bereft of foreign exchange reserves and with a poor economy. Mike, with Gloria's support, strove very hard to overcome great obstacles to make his company a success, despite the odds and thus provide a stable and happy environment for his children.

My late wife Patricia and I visited the Brassington family home on numerous occasions over the three years we were in Guyana and we were deeply impressed by the excellent manners and good behaviour of the children, from Michael in his early teens to the youngest of the family. This was undoubtedly due to the happy and contented home which Mike and Gloria Brassington created for their children, resting entirely on quietly enforced discipline when necessary and a devotion to educational studies to which the children took readily.

I left Guyana in September 1990 when we returned to Scotland on retirement and since then have maintained constant contact with Mike and Gloria through Christmas, birthday and anniversary greetings, exchanging news of our families and we were delighted when we heard of the children's accomplishments, both in Guyana and in the United States in later years, clearly a source of great satisfaction to their parents.

Over the years I have maintained the highest regard for the Brassington family whose friendship brightened our stay in Guyana and who left me with clear memories of loving and caring parents in harmony with their children and I am pleased to have this opportunity to submit my thoughts and recollections about them.

Yours sincerely

David P. Small

June 8, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh, U.S.D.J. US District Court U.S.P.O. & Courthouse Bldg. Rm 451 One Federal Square Newark, NJ 07101-0999

Re: Michael Brassington, Jr.

### Dear Judge Cavanaugh:

My name is Robin G. Smith, I am a retired Lieutenant with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol with 21 years in service, I am 68 years old. I have raised two (2) sons that are in law enforcement, my oldest is retired from the federal level and my youngest is a state officer in Oklahoma with 13 years in service.

As a result of my background in the U.S. Air Force and as a Troop Commander of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Aircraft Division, I own a company that is a professional pilot facility for jet aircrafts. I first met Mr. Michael Brassington, Jr. in Melborne, Florida in 1986 after contracting for pilot training services for an air taxi operation.

I found Mr. Brassington to be a very nice and courteous young man with a lot of integrity. I have spoken to Michael many hours both professionally and personally. I know Michael Brassington to be a very honest and law abiding person and that opinion has not changed in 16 years.

I do not believe for one minute that Michael is a criminal. The young man I know could not and would not willingly violate the law. I believe in the justice system of punishment and rehabilitation and I have lived and worked in that system all of my life and respect it.

I do not believe that putting Michael Brassington in prison would accomplish anything except damaging him for the rest of his life. I would be proud to have Michael as a member of my family.

Sir, I hope you understand that this is my honest opinion.

Respectfully,

Robin G. Smith Owner, Jet Contrail

2576 Folkestone Avenue Clermont, FL 34711

Phone: (813) 390-3062 Fax: (775) 256-3940

www.jetcontrail.com e-mail: JContrail@aol.com

### HOWARD SOHN, ESQUIRE ATTORNEY AT LAW

12230 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite 110i Wellington, Florida, 33414 (561) 214-2464

January 10, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge United States District Court Newark, New Jersey

Re: Michael Brassington Jr.

Dear Judge Cavanaugh:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Michael Brassington Jr., an individual I have had the pleasure of knowing on a personal and professional basis for approximately two (2) years.

By way of background, I am a criminal trial and appellate attorney and have been practicing and a member of the Florida and Massachusetts Bars for more than 30 years. I have represented thousands of individuals during this time throughout the State of Florida and the United States in both State and Federal Court. I am admitted to the United States Supreme Court, Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, as well as the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal.

In addition to my law practice, I am a partner in several ongoing businesses in South Florida, including business consulting, medical office consulting, situational leadership training, automotive product distribution and mortgage note acquisition.

It was during the course of these business ventures and not my criminal defense practice that I met and was first introduced to Michael Brassington Jr. through mutual friends and business acquaintances.

From the moment I first met Michael I found him to be a very softspoken, respectful, honest, compassionate and intelligent individual. He was and has been completely and in all respects above board, trustworthy and diligent in all of our business discussions and meetings. Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh January 10, 2011 Page Two

From the outset Michael made me aware of his pending criminal case in New Jersey before Your Honor and he thoroughly explained to me all of the surrounding facts and circumstances so that I could decide if I wanted to continue with our business discussions.

After receiving this information from Michael and conducting my own independent investigation, I believed then and fully believe now that Michael is anything but a criminal and I had no hesitation whatsoever in continuing with our business relationship.

Additionally, during this time I had the pleasure of meeting Michael's brother, Paul, as well as his mother and father. Paul and his parents were extremely polite, courteous and soft-spoken as well and it was easy to see how important Michael's parents were in his development as a man of such substance, quality and integrity.

Michael's parents unfortunately became entangled in certain elements of this case, when Chase Bank cancelled their accounts due to Michael's long-standing battles with the Federal government. I assisted Michael's parents on a pro bono basis in dealing with Chase Bank.

What has become abundantly clear to me after meeting and dealing with Michael during this time period is that he is not the criminal the Government has apparently portrayed him to be.

As far as I can ascertain, Michael is nothing but an honest, hard-working and exceptionally ambitious businessman, trying to do his best to operate a charter jet service. I have had the opportunity to review certain reports of several State and Federal investigations subsequent to the accident, all of which found Michael not responsible for the accident.

While the accident in question was unfortunate, other persons and not Michael appear to be at fault for the accident. While they were never held accountable by the Government is a question only the Government can answer.

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh January 10, 2011 Page Three

Unlike certain criminal clients I have represented over the years whose criminal records were a mile long and incarceration was not a concern to them, Michael has never been in trouble with the law prior to this case and certainly does not need to go to prison for rehabilitation.

Michael has been a productive and responsible member of society his entire adult life. There is no question in my mind that Michael has the intelligence, dedication, work ethic, compassion and character and possesses all the tools necessary to become an exceptional and highly qualified businessman. Incarceration would serve no purpose in this case and would simply deprive society and this community of someone who still has a lot to offer.

Hopefully, this Court has the option of placing Michael on probation, for in my opinion he would be an ideal candidate.

Unlike other persons appearing before Your Honor for sentencing who you know you will see sometime again in the future for the same or more serious charges, there is no questions that Your Honor and the criminal justice system will never see Michael Brassington again after this case is concluded.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my comments and input and if you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD SOHN Florida Bar # 282995

Oakland Flight Operations One Airport Dr. Box 19 Oakland, CA 94621

January 4, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge

Your Honor,

I have known Mr. Michael Brassington for the last 18 years. Mike and I met in Vero Beach, FI during our initial flight training at FlightSafety International. We quickly became friends, and decided to be roommates during the second phase of a four phase training program and moved off campus into a 2 bedroom apartment. It was during this time spent together that I was able to see Mike as a true person and can attest to the fact that he is a genuine and sincere man whom I've found to be personally be trustworthy. He also possesses a rare quality found in few people: he's a good listener. I've bent his ear more than once in my life. He's heard it all and continues to hear it all - I have trusted him with all my secrets and shared a great deal of my life with him.

We've remained friends after flight training and although we've chosen different career paths I can assure you that Mike's integrity and professionalism have not changed in the least. I've always known him to be honest and never to my knowledge broken any law, nor has asked me or put me in a position to do so either. Mike has NO criminal record of any kind and has made it a point to keep us all out of trouble when he was able.

For your information, I am currently a pilot for Southwest Airlines and have been for close to 7 years. Before that I was a pilot for Skywest Airlines as both a Co-pilot and a Captain. Prior to that I was a Training Captain and Check Pilot for Ameriflight Cargo Inc. I have an flawless record with each.

Please feel free to contact me anytime:

Yours sincerely,

Michael Takahashi

510-393-1310

swaspilotmike@aol.com



## FBO Professionals Group

James Torrey President 5360 NW 20<sup>th</sup> Terrace Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 February 11, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

### Dear Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh:

I have been compelled this evening to construct a letter to your attention attesting to the character, as I know it, of one Michael Brassington Jr. I am writing on my own behalf and under no request from any one individual, but rather my personal and professional decision that I have felt compelled to do so. I am saddened and shocked as I write this letter to your court since this seems to be more of a regulatory or administrative issue rather than criminal in nature.

It was many years ago that I was first introduced to Mr. Michael Brassington when I was personally trying to recruit his aviation business for a company that I was then and executive with, Banyan Air Service. At the time I had first met Mr. Brassington I had been in the aviation industry for just over seven years, and today I am proud to say I have just over seventeen years aviation management experience. These years have been solely dedicated to private aviation transportation. I hold BS degrees in Aviation Management and Flight Operations from one the top aviation schools in the country, Daniel Webster College, in which I graduated near top of my class with a 3.87 GPA and have been trained in multiple areas of aviation with a concentration in fueling and ground handling of aircraft. I am a commercially trained pilot and have a full understanding of weights and balances of an aircraft and the operation of an airplane in our country's national air transportation system.

I have decided to bring to light my experiences in aviation in hopes that you will hold this letter in high regard as I am not just a friend of Mr. Michael Brassington, but additionally a very experienced professional in the industry. With knowing Michael Brassington for just over ten years and having a FULL understanding of the Federal Aviation Regulations, I am saddened to be having to write this letter to your court. I personally have never seen Mr. Michael Brassington, nor would ever expect Mr. Brassington to willfully par take nor personally be involved in any illegal activity. In fact he has ALWAYS done quite the contrary. Mike has always taken a personal interest in the professional growth of development of his employees and quite frankly anyone he has professionally come in contact with. Mike is that kind of guy that has a magical personality with a unwavering desire to always help anyone in need, whether he had the means or not. He would always take time out of his life to help anyone who asked for his assistance. He has



# FBO Professionals Group

always tried to do things right and by the law as he understands it and as it has been explained to him. Additionally, I have never seen nor do I know of any situation in life that Michael has willfully made a decision to harm or put anyone in harms way, much less endanger the life of a person or safety of an aircraft. I feel these personal qualities are what afforded Michael the ability to grow a very successful company known as Platinum Jet Aviation, until that terrible day that life as he knew it took a turn for the worst in 2004.

With my years of experience and understanding of this industry I must say I have never understood the charges against Michael, his brother, or any of his executives. I have always questioned whether a juror, without aviation experience, could accurately assess the facts in this case. However, the focal point of this letter is not the trial of Michael, but rather a testament to the exceptional character qualities that I have witnessed Michael to posses. I must tell you that I have not even spoken to Michael Brassington since one month after the day he was arrested. This was a decision made solely by me, but it has saddened me greatly for I feel I have lost one of my greatest personal friends. At the time of his arrest I was forced to make a personal decision upon the "strong" recommendation of U.S. Attorney Scott McBride and other council to disconnect all communications with Michael Brassington until his trial was over. This decision still hurts me personally till this day. I feel I have lost a true best friend, a confidant, a professional advisor, and those conversations with a truly amazing individual that many people only dream about.

Finally, I want to assure you your Honor that at no time has anyone even requested this letter, and I venture to say that Michael himself might even be surprised that I would take the time to construct such a letter. I hope I have been able to convey in words how much of a special person Michael is and I feel his conviction in this case in simply an additional tragedy adding to an already tragic set of events. I implore you to please be lenient with Michael's sentence. I feel no justice will be served with the incarceration of an individual whom has always tried to do the right things in life, both personally and professionally.

Sincerely,

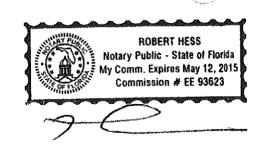
James Torrey President

FBO Professionals Group, Inc.

James Torrey FBO Professionals Group Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33309.

Judge Dennis Michael Cavanaugh United States District **Judge** United States District Court, District of **New Jersey** 

August 23, 2011



#### JAMES TORREY, SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD MCGRADE AND AUSA SCOTT MCBRIDE

Honorable Judge Cavanaugh, this affidavit is submitted at the request of Mr. Michael Brassington's legal council to bring to the forefront the facts surrounding the manner in which I was dealt with by Special Agent Richard Mcgrade and Assistant United States Attorney Scott Mcbride from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. In February 2009, shortly after Mr. Michael Brassington was arrested here in Ft. Lauderdale Florida, I assisted his family in securing legal assistance for his defense. I was in constant communication with his sisters and eventually met with Mr. Michael Salnick whom Michael Brassington ultimately selected to defend him. I agreed to assist Michael Brassington from the inception in any and everyway in the event he was ever arrested Months prior. I have known Michael Brassington since 2002 and considering my extensive interaction with him over the Years; we both felt I would be a great factual witness.

Additionally, in the beginning when Mr. Brassington relocated his jet aircraft to Banyan air service in Ft. Lauderdale. I was the person that helped coordinate their move. I personally over looked every aspect of the handling of their aircraft, this included all fuel uplifts. Mr. Michael Brassington never made fuel requests unless he was the captain for a specific flight. Banyan air services' policy was to fuel an aircraft at the captain's request. There was an incident where one of my "line" staff filled one of Mr. Brassington's aircraft to its limit. Mr. Steve Smyth was the captain of that day's program. This had never happened prior and to my knowledge never re-occurred, Mr. Brassington called me and complained that one of my line servicemen "topped" the aircraft with fuel without any captain's instructions. The aircraft was immediately defueled and Captain Steve Smyth departed with the fuel he required. At no time did I see any resistance from Mr. Brassington to defuel the aircraft despite the fact that there is a charge associated with the removal of each gallon of fuel. Afterwards, I conducted an investigation and the line serviceman's employment with Banyan air service was terminated immediately because he acted on his own. At no time did Mr. Brassington ever demand his aircraft be "topped off" with fuel as a normal practice. I explained our procedures to Mr. Brassington from the first day they arrived at Banyan and he happily agreed that the captain of each flight is the only person allowed to make fuel requests. This may be conveyed through the first officer but the Captain must be present. I think the clarification that is sought by Mr. Salnick is to firmly make it clear that Mr. Michael Brassington and Platinum Jet management's policy was never one where the aircraft was to be "topped off" with fuel unless a Captain requested this. This was not a "blanket arrangement but one where the captain had to make his fuel request for each and every

Approximately 3 weeks after Mr. Brassington's arrest, Mr. Andre Budhan came to me for a job. In being cautious I called AUSA Mcbride to ask if I was permitted to offer such a position since it would involve aviation. AUSA Mcbride said that it was ok to employ/ work with Mr. Budhan, but he firmly made it very clear and "strongly recommended" I not communicate with Mr. Brassington nor offer any assistance to him period. His waning was taken very sternly. Michael Brassington was released on bond but was restricted to 100% home confinement. He was also to remain in the State of New York. He called me and asked for assistance and said he would fly me to NY to get his defense preparation started based upon agreements we had prior to his arrest. Michael Brassington explained that since we knew each other since 2002 and I was the person in charge of fueling his aircraft during the time it was at Banyan air service that this would be paramount toward explaining that there was never any "tankering" scheme. I refused and said no, I never truly gave Michael Brassington any explanation but simply ignored all his attempts to meet with or communicate with me any further because of the strong warning from AUSA Mcbride. It was made perfectly clear that they had no problem with me communicating with any of the other witnesses or defendants, but they "Strongly Recommended" I stay away from Michael Brassington and not assist nor communicate with him.

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# Case 2:09-cr-00045-DMC Document 326-2 Filed 09/08/11 Page 48 of 55 PageID: 9955 Approximately a Year and a nail later, maybe September 2010, I was contacted by Danielle Hernandez. Mrs.

Hernandez was a very good friend of Mr. Michael Brassington and myself. Mr. Michael Brassington had discovered what I was strongly recommended to do by the Government a Year and a half prior and wanted to verify if this was factual. Mrs. Hernandez sent the messages to me because Mr. Brassington was afraid to communicate directly with me since he felt that my phone was being monitored or I was a Government withess. He was afraid of violating his bond. Mr. Brassington's text messages inquired whether I was ever intimidated by and if I was told by the Government not to assist him or communicate with him, etc.

The general "tone" of my reply was yes, I was scared and I wanted nothing to do with the case and I too asked that he not contact me until after the trial once more. Your Honor, when a United States Federal prosecutor tells you to do something, one definitely abides by his strong recommendations.

Less than 24 hours later, I received numerous calls from a New Jersey area code number. I ignored all the calls since I was unsure who it was. I then received a call from Andre Budhan and he told me that Special agent Mcgrade was desperately trying to get in touch with me and why was I not answering the phone. I told Mr. Budhan I was not sure of the caller but he could call back and I would answer. Special agent Richard Mcgrade then called immediately after and without delay asked who Danielle Hernandez was and what was her relationship to Michael Brassington. I knew once again communications were being monitored. Over the past Year I had explained this to Ms. Yolanda Sandoval, I told her my phone was monitored and she should always be careful with what she said over the phone. In order to finally prove this to her, I placed my phone on "speaker mode", I wanted Ms. Sandovol to finally see that I was very much accurate in my warnings to her and further make her understand why I had stayed away from Mr. Michael Brassington against my will all this time. Agent Mcgrade asked very specific questions about the text message exchange between Mrs. Hernandez and I. Agent Mcgrade then asked me if Mr. Brassington was trying to get me to assist him. I explained that I since I had not seen nor spoken to Mr. Brassington because of their strong recommendations that I was unsure. Agent Mcgrade then asked a few more questions about my opinion as it pertained to Mr. Brassington's innocence. I explained that the fuel price in Teterboro was probably was one of the most expensive in the country and it made no sense as to what they were accusing Mr. Brassington of. I explained that after a near 15-year career in aviation that was also supported by the fact that I am a certified FAA pilot, that any aviation expert knows it is impossible to benefit from over fueling. First, when a company calculates the fuel performance, they may save a mere \$115.00 for each "supposed" over fueled flight. I further explained that it cost more to take off and fly with the extra fuel and consequently this would reduce profits significantly. No operator would do this. Agent Mcgrade's reply was that at least a jury of 12 persons would decide Mr. Brassington's liberty. I understood from this statement that he meant it was good that it was not before a FAA Judge. Special agent Mcgrade then asked me to send him a copy of these text messages. I asked why since it was obvious that he already had these. He replied he still wanted a copy sent from me. I did as he requested and sent a copy of the messages to him. After receiving the messages Special Agent Mcgrade called me a few more times and asked additional questions.

In late June, 2011 I decided I had enough of being afraid and I needed to get the "truth" off my chest and share what actually transpired over the last 2 Years regarding my ignoring and avoiding Mr. Brassington. I asked Ms. Sandoval to arrange a meeting with Mr. Brassington. She attempted to do so numerous times, but Mr. Brassington never agreed initially. I persisted and he eventually agreed to meet with me as long as a witness was present. That person was Ms. Sandoval. We met at a restaurant on Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale. Upon Mr. Brassington's arrival I immediately removed the battery from my phone hopefully to ensure that Agent Mcgrade could no longer monitor my conversations. I explained and outlined all that has been written in this letter to Mr. Brassington in detail and explained why I never met with him nor assisted him with his defense. He was visibly very shaken and sad. He explained that I could have helped bring the truth to the forefront during the trial since I was the one that monitored all the fuelings for Platinum Jet management.

Mr. Brassington explained that he shared this new development with his attorneys and they asked that I write this affidavit for their records.

Your Honor, I feel like a rock has been lifted off my chest now that I have finally stepped forward and shared this with Mr. Michael Brassington. There is no doubt that upon looking back at the sequence of events that I was dreadfully afraid because of how I was spoken to by Agent Mcgrade and AUSA Mcbride. Without using specific language, they told me to never communicate, never meet with and never assist Mr. Michael Brassington. They stated they had zero issue with me meeting with anyone else involved with the case. I did whatever I could to avoid Mr. Michael Brassington because of their strong recommendations. I am sorry for this. I will never be afraid again to come forward and tell the truth.

Additional to this your Honor, Mr. Andre Budhan has repeatedly requested that I arrange a meeting between Michael Brassington and himself. He has asked this of me on at least 3 separate occasions since the trial concluded last

DES AP

Case 2:09-cr-00045-DMC Document 326-2 Filed 09/08/11 Page 49 of 55 PageID: 9956 November 2010. I told Mr. Brassington this for the first time at our meeting in Ft. Lauderdale in June 2011 and Mr.

Brassington explained that this would be a violation of his bond. Mr. Brassington further stated that he would never communicate with Mr. Budhan ever again after what Mr. Budhan has put his family through.

I will make myself available to you sir should you ever have any questions regarding this affidavit

Yours respectfully,

and lance James Tofrey.

09/02/304

ROBERT HESS

Notary Public - State of Florida My Comm. Expires May 12, 2015 Commission # EE 93623

34'3 JF

August 30, 2011

Your Honor,

My name is Kirsten VanDonkelaar; I am 23 Years old and the younger of 2 children. My parents made the decision to relocate from Michigan to Tampa, Florida a few years ago where they reside presently.

I am currently a college student. I will graduate with a degree in Public Relations in December 2011.

Your Honor, I met Michael Brassington in 2007 when I moved to South Florida to further my education. Michael and I have maintained a great friendship over the last few Years. He has not only been a great friend, but a major role model in my life. Michael has assisted me with many decisions in my life that has greatly influenced my personal life and professional aspirations.

I have learned to surround myself with people that I want to be like in life. Michael is a perfect example of this for me. He always pushed me to excel in my studies and never allowed me to give up.

I have accompanied Michael around the world on a few business trips from time to time. I have personally witnessed a small number of meetings and the tenacity and professionalism Michael demonstrated was not that of a criminal. Michael was honest and upfront with everyone, even if this may have upset them or caused him to lose a potential client.

To this day, Michael still supports me with all that is on his "plate." Michael has a beautiful, down to earth family whom I feel blessed to be in the presence of. Michael's family needs him in their lives. Michael's father was unfortunately recently diagnosed with cancer and is too elder to receive treatments. Please, Your Honor let Michael stay with his family and his father in a time like this. Please give this very humble, kind friend of so many the opportunity at life where he will continue to be there for so many including myself. Please do not put him in prison; please show leniency for someone that I assure you is no violent criminal.

Thank you for your consideration and taking the time to read this Your Honor,

Yours respectively, Kuster Var Donkelson

Kirsten VanDonkelaar

2895 N.E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Unit #206 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306



ACP Jet Charters, Inc 1JCA141M

January, 26th 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States Districts Judge Newark, New Jersey.

The Honorable Judge Cavanaugh:

I am writing this letter to you as testament to my personal observations of Mr. Michael Brassington Jr. as a person and his character.

I am the Chief Operating Officer of ACP Jet Charters, Inc a part 135 Air Carrier that operates 6 turbojet aircraft that has approximately 30 employees that is proud of having a great reputation in the Business Aviation Community. I have known Mr. Brassington for 8 years in both a business and personal environment.

My first contact with Mr. Brassington was professional in nature, but very quickly it became apparent to me that Mike as I would call him, treated me personally in a manner that was beyond a business relationship. There was a genuine a kindness that I immediately took a liking to and Mike and I became not just business associates but friends.

There is never a catch or an agenda with Mike which is a very rare quality to find these days. For years I observed him as a friend as well as a role model and can honestly say that Mike's intentions no matter what he does were always genuine, with no thought or expectation of return. My Father would always tell me when I was growing up that everyone in the world can be neatly categorized into two distinct categories with no middle ground: Givers and Takers. I like many others can categorically say that Mike Brassington is truly a "Giver".

Beyond Mike Brassington as a friend, there also is the Mike Brassington who strived to be a consummate professional. I have personally witnessed decision making processes by Mike in reference to the operation and logistics of the aircraft that are not only safe but also meet current benchmark standards and best practices. On a flight, I witnessed firsthand Mike fly as a captain and not miss a single item on a checklist that most flight crew members are complacent with. He was exceptionally methodical and thorough to ensure that the flight was accomplished with passenger safety as his utmost concern.



ACP Jet Charters, Inc 1JCA141M

T: 561.686.5551 F: 561.686.5922

It is inconceivable for me, given my personal firsthand observations that Mike would knowingly endanger the safety of a flight and put others in harm's way. To the contrary Mike is an individual that would make sure that others are kept from harm no matter who they may be. He is by far not a criminal or has ever demonstrated a hint of wrongdoing in his life.

Your Honor, I can only ask you to consider the spirit of the law that these charges were written and realize that the character of this Individual, his moral ethics and true intentions are the very opposite to individuals these laws are meant to protect us from. Mike Brassington is a humble, honest, dignified person of pure heart and treated everyone with selfless kindness. He has never shown a single sign of malice towards anyone or in anything he has done. I ask you do not change the direction of a dignified person's life based on an unintentional mistake.

I thank you for your understanding. Please feel free to contact me at 561.686.5551 if you have any further questions.

Sincerel

Suran Wijayawardana

COO/VP of Flight Operations

ACP Jet Charters, Inc.

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Dennis M.Cavanaugh

United Sates District Jude

Newark, New Jersey

My name is Kibwe Williams, and I proudly pen this letter on behalf of my very good friend and confidant, Michael Brassington. I have followed with keen interest, but deep regret, the series of events which have unfolded over the past 5 years that has brought Michael to stand before you. It is therefore my intent, to provide to you, a different perspective of the character I have grown to know in Mike – the name I fondly refer to him as.

I am a Vice President at Goldman Sachs and Company, where I have worked for 8 years. I am Guyanese, and had spent a considerable amount of my adult life there before migrating to the United States. It is there that my friendship with Mike began, and it has matured in to a strong and lasting one to date.

The most striking image of Mike that remains fixed in my memory is this stately, respectful looking gentleman standing before the packed auditorium of a prominent high school in Guyana, pitching the message of career vision. Passionate about humanity, respectful, morally driven, intelligent, strong family structure and values, and extremely helpful are the words that come to mind as I think of Mike. He hails from a principled and highly respected family in Guyana; one that carries with it the reputation of honor and respect. It is from this framework that Mike emerges, and which forms the core of who he is.

Despite having the option to migrate to the United States post college Mike, driven by his principles and values, opted to serve his country in the army where he rose through the ranks in an impressive manner. He remains one of the most highly trained and respected officers of the Guyana Defense Force, and this tells something about his commitment to discipline and principle – mandatory qualities of a distinguished soldier.

I close by saying that I am respectful of the law, and appreciate the power of judgment which rests in your hands however, I hope that I am able to show the disconnect in the character that has been painted of Mike, versus the person I know him to be. Thank you in advance for your fair review of Mike.

Yours Truly.

KibWe Williams

### Randy A. Williams

1020 SW 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue Plantation, Florida 33317 (954) 801-3676 (954) 792-4776 rwilliams@researchfl.com

February 5, 2011

Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh United States District Judge Newark, New Jersey

RE: Character Letter – United States v. Michael Brassington and Paul Brassington; Case 2:09-cr-00045-DMC

Dear Sir.

Your Honor, to refresh your memory, I am currently in the employ of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a Senior Aviation Safety Inspector in South Florida. When subpoenaed to testify during the November 2010 jury trial in your court, the FAA provided me with very specific guidelines for my participation in the aforementioned case. You may recall that those guidelines limit the scope of my opinions to those formed during a period of time when I was not representing the Administrator in an official capacity. To continue to honor the spirit of those guidelines, I offer this correspondence for your consideration during the sentencing of this case. Additionally, I did not use the traditional agency letterhead for this in consideration of those concerns. Please accept my submission on my personal letterhead with the same weight given to any professional character reference.

It is my understanding in this case that the jury returned twenty-one (21) verdicts on Michael Brassington and five (5) verdicts on Paul Brassington. Regarding the guilty verdicts on Michael, I understand that 9 of the 21 charges were found to be guilty. One (1) for Conspiracy, Wire Fraud; Seven (7) for False Statements on flight logs; One (1) for Endangering the Safety of an Aircraft; and One (1) for making a False Statement to the NTSB. It is noted that not one single charge regarding Michael providing a false aircraft weight and balance were returned as guilty. I would like an opportunity to offer a few comments derived from my point of view.

As a FAA Safety Inspector, over the years, I have been involved in a host of investigations and enforcement actions that are very similar to what these charges imply. The FAA Administrator derives authority to create rules to oversee the safety in air commerce within Title 49 of the USC. The Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Parts 1-199) exist for that purpose. With the possible exceptions of matters related to drugs, smuggling, counterfeiting aircraft parts, or terrorist acts, I have never seen a situation where violations of those rules were criminal in nature. Yet, let it be noted that the FAA did not attain a single sanction for any of these charges against Michael, Paul or their company.

Regarding charge one, Conspiracy, Wire Fraud. For many years, the FAA imposed administrative sanctions to operators who conduct flight operations for compensation or hire without proper authorization. Specific guidance to conduct those sanctions exists within the administrative scheme of the FAA Compliance and Enforcement guidance.

As I understand charges two (2) through seven (7) are for providing false statements on flight logs. They were for flights being conducted for compensation but were not listed as such on the flight manifest. Again, the Administrator has various methods of administrative enforcement actions that were not pursued. Here the violation would have been directed towards the actual certificate holding company as the aircraft and flight crew were all properly installed on the Operations Specifications of that company during all six of these occurrences.

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The verdict for charge twenty (20) also baffles me. All of the charges related to falsification of the weight & balance form returned as not guilty (12 charges). Yet the charge for endangering the safety of an aircraft by providing incorrect weight and balance data was guilty to a reasonable doubt standard.

Regarding the charge of making a false statement to the NTSB detailed in charge twenty-one (21). I was there and saw first hand what had happened. That flight was marked as a part 91 flight on that form because Michael knew at this point that the flight could not have been possibly sanctioned as a part 135 flight. As related to the conduct of the crash investigation and probable cause findings of the NTSB, marking that flight as part 91 or 135 was purely de minimis.

The reason that I make a point to examine each charge and verdict herein is that I still cannot see where Michael and Paul's actions stepped out of administrative and leaped into criminal. It has been necessary for me to maintain a distance from the evolution of their case since shortly after the accident that triggered this serious of events. However, I can offer some things in mitigation of sentencing.

I have had the privilege of knowing Michael and Paul for several years. I know them through their work in the aviation industry in South Florida. I do not say lightly that I would trust the lives of my family to either of them. My specific dealings with Michael have found him competent and professional. If I were examining these regulatory violations as an enforcement action, I would be easily convinced that there would be a high probability of rehabilitation with much to contribute to the industry. He is a good pilot and instructor and I would trust my children on any aircraft that he is in command of. I have met their family and that I found them to be a wonderful bunch of folks. These are all facts. It is my opinion (albeit an opinion that I formed when I was not an Inspector) that the aviation community is better off with them then without them. Your Honor, respectfully, these are good people. I would ask you to consider this during sentencing.

As a closing thought, the FAA and the NTSB rely on the ability to collect investigation information without the airman fearing pursuit of criminal action based on their cooperation. These gentlemen voluntarily cooperated in good faith (I saw the cooperation first hand) with an administrative investigation and the data collected therein was later used to obtain these convictions. I shudder to imagine the difficulty that convictions such as these will foster with future of administrative investigations in the aviation community. I remember Michael and Paul being told repeatedly that the ongoing investigations were not criminal in nature and that their Fifth Amendment rights did not apply.

Sincerely,

Andy A. Williams
Aviation Safety Inspector

Federal Aviation Administration