

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
BEAUFORT DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
)  
)  
v. )  
)  
)  
CORY HOWERTON FLEMING, )  
)  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Cr. No. 9:23-00394-RMG

**DEFENDANT CORY HOWERTON FLEMING’S SENTENCING MEMORANDUM  
AND MOTION FOR DOWNWARD VARIANCE FROM THE SENTENCING  
GUIDELINES**

Defendant Cory Howerton Fleming, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully files this sentencing memorandum. For the reasons set forth below, Mr. Fleming respectfully requests the Court recognize his cooperation, acceptance of responsibility, personal history, and nature of the offense and impose a sentence substantially below the guidelines range of 46 to 57 months which is “sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with” the goals of sentencing set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Fleming is the only person charged in connection with the crimes involving Alex Murdaugh who has come forward and expressed remorse; acknowledged his wrongdoing; agreed to be held accountable for his misconduct; and not objected to any portion of the Presentence Report (“PSR”). On May 25, 2023, pursuant to a written plea agreement, Mr. Fleming pled guilty plea to Count One of the one-count Information (ECF No. 1) which charged him with Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. (ECF Nos. 4, 13).

Not only has Mr. Fleming admitted to the criminal conduct for which he is pleading guilty, he is genuinely remorseful and ashamed of his conduct. Since he began cooperating, he has done everything possible to accept full responsibility and atone for his actions. Mr. Fleming did not attempt to evade prosecution; he has pled guilty and has been cooperating with the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Mr. Fleming acknowledges and regrets the pain that he has caused the victims in this case. Mr. Fleming respectfully requests that the Court sentence him keeping his entire life in perspective – including his acceptance of responsibility, personal history, and the nature of the offense. We ask that he be sentenced to a period of time which would be “sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with” the goals of sentencing set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

## **II. Procedural History**

On March 10, 2022, Mr. Fleming was charged in a state court Indictment with a total of thirty (30) counts, including Obtaining Goods or Services by False Pretenses; Money Laundering; Computer Crime; Criminal Conspiracy; False Statement or Misrepresentation; and Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent. The subject of this Indictment was the Gloria Satterfield case. On April 14, 2023, Mr. Fleming was charged in another state court Indictment with a total of eleven (11) counts including Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent; Computer Crime; and Criminal Conspiracy. The subject of this Indictment was the Hakeem Pinckney case. These state charges are currently pending and are for the same criminal conduct outlined in Mr. Fleming's PSR.

On May 25, 2023, Mr. Fleming made the very difficult decision to plead guilty to the federal charges without any assurances or plea agreement in state court. He pled guilty to Count One of the Information pursuant to a plea agreement. (ECF No. 13). In the plea agreement, the parties agreed that the total amount of money received in the Satterfield case by Mr. Fleming and

his former law firm (\$676,255.59) has been disgorged to the victim in this case. (ECF No. 4 ¶8). Mr. Fleming has agreed to be completely truthful and to cooperate in the government’s ongoing investigation. To date, Mr. Fleming has cooperated and been debriefed on multiple occasions for days at a time. He has also been cooperating with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (“ODC”) on a multitude of matters.

**III. A variance is justified based on the application of the § 3553(a) factors and the directive that a sentence be “sufficient but not greater than necessary.”**

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Booker* rendered the U.S. Sentencing Commission Guidelines advisory and returned greater discretion to judges at sentencing. *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005). The Courts now “may vary from Guideline ranges based solely on policy considerations including disagreements with the Guidelines.” *Kimbrough v. United States*, 552 U.S. 85, 101 (2007) (citation omitted). The sentencing Court must still “give respectful consideration” to the applicable guidelines range under the advisory guidelines; however, “*Booker* permits the court to tailor the sentence in light of other statutory concerns as well.” *Kimbrough*, 552 U.S. at 101 (citations and internal quotation marks omitted).

In *United States v. Martin*, 520 F.3d 87, 90-91 (1st. Cir. 2008) the court stated that sentencing a defendant:

necessitates a case-by-case approach, the hallmark of which is flexibility. In the last analysis, a sentencing court should not consider itself constrained by the guidelines to the extent that there are sound, case-specific reasons for deviating from them. Nor should a sentencing court operate in the belief that substantial variances from the guidelines are always beyond the pale. Rather the Court should “consider every convicted person as an individual and every case as a unique study in the human failings that sometimes mitigate, sometimes magnify, the crime and the punishment to ensue.”

*Id.* at 91 (quoting *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 52 (2007)). Thus, mitigating circumstances and substantive policy arguments that were formerly irrelevant in all but the most unusual cases

are now post-*Booker* potentially relevant in every case. *United States v. Glover*, 431 F.3d 744, 752-753 (11th Cir. 2005) (Tjoflat, J. specially concurring). *See also, United States v. Huerta-Rodriguez*, 355 F. Supp.2d 1019, 1023 (D. Neb. 2005) (“post-Booker, the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) requires the sentencing court to regard the guidelines’ ranges as one of the many factors to consider in determining the sentence”).

In making a sentencing determination, “[a] district court must begin ‘by correctly calculating the applicable Guidelines range.’” *Gall*, 552 U.S. at 51. However, the Guidelines are merely the starting point and not the only consideration. *Id.* The court also must “ ‘make an individualized assessment based on the facts presented.’ ” *United States v. Carter*, 564 F.3d 325, 328 (4th Cir. 2009) (*quoting Gall*, 552 U.S. at 50). “That is, the sentencing court must apply the relevant § 3553(a) factors to the specific circumstances of the case before it.” *Id.*

The sentencing court’s “overarching” duty is to “impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary,” to accomplish the goals of sentencing and comply with the statutory directives set forth in § 3553(a). *Kimbrough*, 552 U.S. at 101. Thus, the Court should consider:

- (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant;
- (2) the need for the sentence imposed –
  - (A) to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense;
  - (B) to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct;
  - (C) to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and
  - (D) to provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner;
- (3) the kinds of sentences available;
- (4) the kinds of sentence and the sentencing range established...;
- (5) any pertinent policy statement...;
- (6) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and
- (7) the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense

18 U.S.C. §§ 3553(a)(1) - (7).

Moreover, as the Fourth Circuit recently reiterated, the sentencing court is required to specifically conduct individual assessments of a defendant's mitigating circumstances. In *United States v. Black* the court vacated and remanded for resentencing based on the district court's failure to expressly consider the defendant's mitigating evidence. No. 21-4022, 2022 WL 1223715, \* 4 (4th Cir. Apr. 26, 2022) (vacating and remanding for resentencing). The court held that while "many criminal defendants have experienced childhood traumas, suffer from various mental health and addiction issues, and have children that must grow up without them while they serve time," "sentencing courts are charged with conducting individualized assessments in each case to account for the boundless array of circumstances that might have informed a defendant's poor choices." *Id.* \*4 (citing *Gall*, 552 U.S. at 50 (requiring district judges to "make an individualized assessment based on the facts presented"). Rejecting the government's contention that Black's argument were merely routine and stock mitigation arguments, the Court held that Black presented more than mere platitudes, and it would not "trivialize Black's experiences by calling them 'stock' or 'routine.'" *Id.*

As the Court fashions a sentence based on a consideration of the Guidelines and the statutory factors, it must be mindful that no special weight is to be given to the advisory guidelines as opposed to the other factors mentioned in § 3553(a). *See Rita v. United States*, 551 U.S. 338 (2007) (holding that a sentencing court does not enjoy the benefit of a legal presumption that the guideline sentence should apply); *see also United States v. Biheiri*, 356 F. Supp. 2d 589, 594 (E.D. Va. 2005) (finding no individual factor is singled out as having greater weight, instead the richness of factual diversity in cases calls on sentencing judges to consider all of the factors and to accord each factor the weight it deserves under the circumstances). A district court may reject a sentence within the advisory Guidelines range because "the case at hand falls outside the 'heartland' " to

which the individual Guidelines apply or because a sentence within the Guidelines fails to reflect the other § 3553(a) factors or “because the case warrants a different sentence regardless.” *Rita*, 551 U.S. at 351.

Here, there are a variety of mitigating factors under § 3553(a) which weigh heavily in favor of a sentencing variance substantially below the advisory guidelines range and are discussed in more detail below. Moreover, Mr. Fleming has submitted numerous letters in support, all of which speak highly of his strong family ties, good character, and positive actions throughout his life, including his life-long dedication to various charities and his community. *See Exhibit 1 – Character Letters*. Further, Mr. Fleming has essentially no criminal history<sup>1</sup>; he has accepted responsibility; and there is little chance of him re-offending. He has submitted his resignation to both the South Carolina and Georgia Bars and he will never practice law again. Additionally, he is fifty-four years old, an age when recidivism declines significantly. *See generally*, *Older Offenders in the Federal System*, at 5, 42 (U.S. Sentencing Comm’n July 26, 2022), <https://www.ussc.gov/research/research-reports/older-offenders-federal-system> (finding that age and criminal history exerted a strong influence on recidivism and that the recidivism rate for older offenders (over 50) was less than half of offenders under 50). Finally, older offenders are also more likely to receive sentences that vary from the guidelines, *id.* at 45, and are sentenced to probation at twice the rate of offenders under the age of 50, *id.* at 54.

Based on these factors, a downward variance is appropriate. *See United States v. Oldani*, No. 3:09-cr-00010, 2009 WL 1770116, at \*7 (S.D.W. Va. June 16, 2009) (noting that a factor weighing in favor of reduced sentence is low statistical probability of recidivism for defendants

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<sup>1</sup> Aside from a misdemeanor conviction for possession of alcohol by a minor in 1987 when Mr. Fleming was 18 and an arrest for a liquor law violation in October 1990, when he was 22. He has a criminal history score of 0. (PSR ¶¶68-69).

with little to no criminal history); *see also United States v. Robinson*, No. 13-cr-436 JLL, 2014 WL 1400197, at \*5 (D.N.J. Apr. 9, 2014) (finding downward variance appropriate based on defendant’s dedication to charity, which was “not something that was just done after the charges,” and his “strong family values and family support,” and he had no prior criminal record); *United States v. Todd*, 618 F. Supp. 2d 1349, 1354 (M.D. Ala. 2009) (finding that the defendant’s “family ties . . . were exceptional” and supported request for downward variance). For all of these reasons, the Court should impose a sentence substantially below the guidelines.

**Consideration of Section 3553(a) Factors Favor a Sentence Substantially Below the Advisory Guidelines Range.**

**1. The History and Characteristics of the Defendant**

One of the first factors the Court must weigh in crafting a sentence is the history and characteristics of the offender. First and foremost, Mr. Fleming has done an enormous amount of self-reflection since this investigation began. He has not attempted to blame other people for his misconduct. He is ashamed and regretful of his actions and he has taken responsibility by pleading guilty.

**a. Personal History**

Mr. Fleming is currently fifty-four years old. He was born in Columbia, South Carolina to young, financially struggling parents. His father was attending the University of South Carolina and his mother was studying to be a dental hygienist at Midlands Technical College. His parents moved to Savannah, Georgia when he was seven years old and divorced when he was twelve (12). He is the only child of this marriage. Despite the divorce, Mr. Fleming grew up with two loving parents in Savannah, Georgia. To this day, he has an extremely close relationship with both of his

parents and step-parents.

Mr. Fleming attended the University of South Carolina obtaining an undergraduate degree in finance and a law degree in 1994. After he became a member of the South Carolina Bar in November of 1994, he began his law career as an Assistant Solicitor in the Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office working for Randolph Murdaugh and living in Hampton, South Carolina. In 1996 he began private practice in Beaufort, South Carolina at Moss and Kuhn which later became Moss, Kuhn & Fleming. His practice consisted of approximately 90% criminal cases and 10% civil cases.

On October 8, 2021, Mr. Fleming was placed on interim suspension from the South Carolina Bar. He has since submitted his voluntary resignation to both the South Carolina and Georgia Bars. By submitting this voluntary resignation, he has agreed to never reapply for admission to the South Carolina or Georgia Bars. This would be a difficult decision for most lawyers, particularly one who truly loved the practice of law like Mr. Fleming. However, Mr. Fleming is steadfast in his belief that he no longer deserves the privilege of practicing law.

As noted above, Mr. Fleming has essentially no prior criminal history.<sup>2</sup> As many of his

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<sup>2</sup>Of note, the United States Sentencing Commission has proposed an amendment to the Sentencing Guidelines, effective November 2023, for zero-point offenders, like Mr. Fleming. *See* USSG § 4C1.1. Under the proposed amendment, zero-point offenders would benefit from a two-level guideline reduction, except in limited circumstances, including cases in which the defendant's acts or omissions resulted in a substantial financial hardship to one or more victims. The two-level decrease may be retroactive and would only apply when the defendant did (1) not receive any criminal history points; (2) not receive a terrorism adjustment under 3A1.4; (3) not use violence or threats of violence in the offense; (4) not commit an offense resulting in death or serious bodily injury, or a sex offense; (5) not personally cause substantial financial hardship; (6) not possess of a gun or other dangerous weapon, or get someone else to do so; (7) not commit an offense involving individual rights, a hate crime, or serious human rights offense); or (8) not receive a USSG § 3B1.1 role adjustment and was not engaged in a 21 USC § 848 continuing criminal enterprise. As outlined in the guidelines, in determining whether conduct caused a substantial financial hardship, courts should consider, among other things, whether the offense resulted in the victim suffering a substantial loss of a retirement, education, or other savings or investment fund.

friends, colleagues, and family write, Mr. Fleming’s values are his family and community’s shared values. He has deep community roots and has always been willing to help others. (**Exhibit 1 - Character letters**). Mr. Fleming’s misconduct in this case is not representative of his true character as illustrated by his charitable actions and the many accomplishments he has attained in his life. According to those who know Mr. Fleming best, his actions in this case do not define him: his “bad decisions are not the total story of who this man is and who he will become in the years ahead.” As many of his friends, colleagues, and family write, Mr. Fleming is “generous,” “a true friend,” “kind,” “dedicated,” “hard-working,” —a person who has been generous with his time and advice, willing to give so that others can better their lives, and someone they can rely on when needed. It is apparent from reading these letters that Mr. Fleming is someone that they hold in high regard and that his conduct was an aberration.

**b. Mr. Fleming’s Family Life**

The success of Mr. Fleming’s family is, in part, a reflection of his character. Mr. Fleming has been married to his wife for over 25 years and they have raised two amazing children ages 22 and 19. The Flemings met shortly after law school. Mr. Fleming’s wife has devoted her career to being a Public Defender: First, in Richland County from 1988 until May 1993 and later in Beaufort County from June 1993 until March 2001. She worked part-time (practicing family law) while their children were younger and, then, in January 2017, she returned to the Beaufort County Public Defender’s Office where she spends her days representing juveniles – the majority from impoverished backgrounds. Although the work can be stressful and challenging, it is work she is proud of and passionate about.

Mr. Fleming has been a devoted husband and father. Due in part to his efforts, his children have grown into kind, hard-working, civic minded, and successful adults. The Flemings have

demonstrated and emphasized generosity, community involvement, and hard work in raising their children. Their daughter just graduated from college summa cum laude with a double major in Government and German. She was a member of the college's Division I cross country team for one season and ran in the Southern Conference Championship. She received the highest award in her department which is given by the faculty to the outstanding graduating senior on the basis of academic achievement, character and intellectual promise. She held part time jobs and volunteered while in college.

Mr. Fleming's son is a junior in college majoring in philosophy and minoring in economics. He has been active in student committees and children's theatre productions; has had part time jobs; and volunteers for a number of charities.

The fact that his children are thriving is not an accident. Many of the character letters written to the Court describe Mr. Fleming as an involved and engaged parent. One who was loving, supportive, and patient. He was the coach of his son's little league football and soccer teams. His daughter's love of running was inspired by Mr. Fleming who has always been an avid runner and has enjoyed sharing this activity with her throughout her life. With both of his children, Mr. Fleming attended every sports event; every school activity, every theatre production, and every Cub Scout outing.

The character letters also describe Mr. Fleming as someone who helped mentor, support, and guide other children in the Beaufort community. Mr. Fleming has also been a staple in the Beaufort community for parents that had children who were struggling. He was often asked to meet with and counsel a child who was starting to slip into some trouble and he always did so - without ever charging a fee. As expressed in several of the letters of support, there are many who have gratitude to Mr. Fleming for helping them through an extremely difficult time with a child in

legal trouble. There are also people who have appreciated Mr. Fleming's assistance in coaching and mentoring children who did not have that type of support at home. The Flemings' home has always been a home where children gathered because they felt loved without judgment. Mr. Fleming was there to offer advice, cook a big meal, and listen.

There are many stories of Mr. Fleming helping people in the Beaufort community *pro bono*. One in particular that stands out involves the long-term tenant the Flemings had in a rental house they owned. They rented the house for twelve years to a single mother of two children who was employed with the Department of Social Services. During that time, this woman struggled financially to make ends meet. The Flemings often forgave the rent for the months that she could not afford to pay. They also never raised the rent and allowed her to raise her children in this house much to their own financial detriment. These acts of kindness were done over a long period of time and outside of the public eye.

Mr. Fleming is a man of faith. Throughout their marriage, the Flemings have attended St. Helena Episcopal Church where they were married and both of their children were baptized. The Bible study led by the Associate Rector, has been critical in helping Mr. Fleming cope with the stress of both the state and federal investigations. The Bible study and the support that he has received there is the cornerstone of his week.

Finally, and perhaps, most importantly, in the character letters, many confirm Mr. Fleming has expressed sorrow and remorse for his misconduct. As one eloquently notes, "he places blame where it should be, on his own shoulders" and he has "recalibrated his moral compass in the direction of repentance and rehabilitation."

c. **Community Involvement**

Both Mr. Fleming and his wife have always been active in their church and community—

regularly volunteering, serving on local boards, and/or attending fundraisers. Almost every single character letter includes a comment about Mr. Fleming's community involvement or his importance to the community. As one writer notes, "[t]here were few philanthropic or volunteer community initiatives ... that did not involve Cory." He served on the YMCA Board of Directors for many years in the late 1990s to mid-2000s, serving as president of the Board during 2001-2002. The YMCA of Beaufort County was first chartered in 1994, and thus this period was critical in the development of the YMCA of Beaufort County. Mr. Fleming's leadership and commitment helped establish the YMCA of Beaufort as the positive force that it now is in the community. He has continued to support the YMCA through the years with financial contributions and participation in their sponsored events. He has also served on EC Montessori School Board during the 2012 – 2013 time period. Mr. Fleming has been a supporter of the Child Abuse Prevention Association; the local children's non-profit theatre group; the Lowcountry Montessori School; HELP of Beaufort; and the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

After his law licenses were suspended, Mr. Fleming searched for a way to use his time and skills for the betterment of his community and to cope with the stress of the investigation. He began attending community college at the Technical College of the Low Country with the long-term goal of improving his carpentry and construction skills. In November of 2021, Mr. Fleming became a weekly volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Beaufort, South Carolina. Habitat for Humanity has been a silver lining throughout this very difficult time for Mr. Fleming; he loves the work just as much as he appreciates the purpose and objective of the organization. He is committed to volunteering to Habitat for Humanity for the rest of his life. It is an endeavor that he did not have time to perform while he was still practicing law, but which has fulfilled a purpose that he didn't even realize was lacking in his life.

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**[REDACTED] Nature and Circumstances of the Offense**

Indeed, Mr. Murdaugh’s decades of misconduct against clients and the murder of his wife and child have been highly publicized. However, Mr. Murdaugh’s notoriety should not be to Mr. Fleming’s detriment. Mr. Fleming admits that as an attorney he abused a position of trust and that he had a role in the scheme to defraud the Satterfields. Yet, Mr. Fleming did not know the depth and extent of Mr. Murdaugh’s misconduct against the Satterfields and others. Like many people, Mr. Fleming was under the impression that Mr. Murdaugh was a successful attorney from a wealthy and influential family who was happily married and a loving father.

Mr. Fleming has admitted to significant failings in breaking the law and deceiving his clients. He was part of a scheme to defraud clients to obtain money through the improper handling, disbursement, and retention of settlement funds and the improper collection of expenses and attorney’s fees, Mr. Fleming is also mindful that, as an attorney, he has damaged the public’s trust in the legal profession, and he accepts that he must be held accountable.

Mr. Fleming, however, has assisted the government, accepted responsibility, and pled guilty for his role in the conspiracy.<sup>3</sup> Failure to consider and give significant weight to Mr. Fleming's cooperation and assistance would undermine a system that encourages cooperation and early acceptance of responsibility. Further, considering the nature and circumstances of the offense to which he has pled guilty and his cooperation, Mr. Fleming respectfully submits that a sentence below the guidelines is "sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes" of sentencing.

**3. The Need for the Sentence Imposed to Reflect the Seriousness of the Offense, Provide Just Punishment, Adequate Deterrence, and Protection from Future Crimes**

Relevant to this consideration is the defendant's degree of cooperation with law enforcement and early acceptance of responsibility. Weighing these factors promotes respect for the courts and rule of law because those who accept responsibility relieve the Government early of their obligation to prepare for trial. Further, it demonstrates that they acknowledge their wrongfulness of their actions and are remorseful. Mr. Fleming agrees his offense was serious, and he is deeply remorseful for his actions. He appreciates that his actions have impacted innocent people and he wants to atone for his mistakes. For these reasons, he has accepted responsibility, pled guilty, and cooperated with the Government.

Moreover, deterrence can be obtained by the prosecution and conviction itself. The personal and reputational consequences Mr. Fleming has suffered are more than sufficient to

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<sup>3</sup>"If a district court believes that the Guidelines' downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility is insufficient . . . it may express this belief by imposing a lower sentence." *See United States v. Aljabari*, 626 F.3d 940, 951 (7th Cir. 2010).

discourage him from engaging in similar conduct. Other than the instant conduct, Mr. Fleming has led an exemplary life. The consequences of his misconduct and subsequent prosecution (along with the extreme publicity surrounding his conviction) will serve as a significant general deterrence. *See, e.g. Wayte v. United States*, 470 U.S. 598, 607 (1985) (observing that any prosecution has a “general deterrence value”); *United States v. Gamarra*, 940 F.3d 1315, 1321 (D.C. Cir. 2019) (observing that prosecution itself provides general deterrence). Moreover, the additional collateral punishments, such as the loss of his law license, forced resignation from his position at his law firm, the loss of income, and harm to his reputation and that of his family, will adequately punish Mr. Fleming and deter him and others from participating in this type of crime. *See United States v. Pauley*, 511 F.3d 468 (4th Cir. 2007)(finding consideration of loss of pension and teaching certificate consistent with §3553(a)).

Because Mr. Fleming has essentially no prior criminal history, has accepted responsibility, and pled guilty to the charge against him, he has demonstrated that he is not at risk to recidivate. Further, given his circumstances and cooperation, he respectfully submits that an extended prison sentence for him will not serve any specific deterrent purpose. Accordingly, a sentence below the guidelines is “sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes” of sentencing.

**4. The Need for the Sentence Imposed to Provide the Defendant with Needed Educational or Vocational Training, Medical Care, or Other Correctional Treatment in the Most Effective Manner.**

Mr. Fleming is looking forward to continuing as a productive member of society in the future. Because Mr. Fleming will be unable to return to his legal career, he has already begun to pursue an alternate career path by taking courses in construction and carpentry at the Technical College of the Low Country. He would benefit from further educational or vocational training in these trades.

[REDACTED]

**5. The Kinds of Sentences Available**

Mr. Fleming asks that the Court recommend a kind of sentence that allows him to receive educational and vocational training, counseling, and release to halfway house, house arrest, or other transitional sentence at a certain point. Such a type of sentence would serve the statutory purposes of sentencing. In addition, based upon the location of Mr. Fleming’s family and extended family, Mr. Fleming requests that the Court recommend a Bureau of Prisons designation to FCI Jesup’s minimum security satellite prison. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3621 (providing that BOP shall designate the place of imprisonment considering, inter alia, the recommendation of the sentencing court).

**6. The Need to Avoid Unwarranted Sentence Disparities**

The sentencing guidelines range for Mr. Fleming is 46 to 57 months to be followed by a term of supervised release of one to three years. (PSR ¶¶ 100, 102, 107). This significant range reflects the inclusion of multiple sentencing enhancements which have a cumulative effect. (PSR ¶¶ 78, 79). Moreover, Mr. Fleming is facing state charges for the exact same conduct and has no agreement regarding the length of his sentence or that his state sentence will be run concurrent to his federal sentence. As a result, it is even more imperative that the Court also consider the need

to avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities for similar conduct among defendants with similar records.

Paragraphs 123-126 of the PSR contains the following relevant information from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's JSIN database (<https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines/judiciary-sentencing-information>):

During the last five fiscal years (FY2018-2022), there were 300 defendants whose primary guideline was § 2B1.1, with a Final Offense Level of 23 and a Criminal History Category of I, after excluding defendants who received a § 5K1.1 substantial assistance departure. For the 273 defendants (91%) who received a sentence of imprisonment in whole or in part, the average length of imprisonment imposed was 34 month(s) and the median length of imprisonment imposed was 36 month(s).

Although the sentencing data provided does not reflect the Commission's recommendation regarding the appropriate sentence to be imposed or represent the Commission's official position on any issue or case, it is appropriate information for the Court to consider as part of its consideration of the factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in imposing sentence.

When reviewing sentences in similar federal and state cases in South Carolina, Mr. Fleming's guideline range is significantly higher than many other defendants. Similarly, many of these cases involve attorneys and/or defendants who were in positions of trust. The attached table in **Exhibit 3** is a sampling of cases in South Carolina over the last twenty years that involved attorneys and/or public officials and/or elected officials. These cases are merely examples of analogous prosecutions and are by no means represent all of the economic crime cases prosecuted in South Carolina.

A very recent example of a similar defendant prosecuted by both the United States Attorney's Office and the South Carolina Attorney General's Office is the Kevin Marsh prosecution. Marsh was the former CEO of SCANA who pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to

commit wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 in federal court. Mr. Marsh acknowledged an integral role in the largest fraud scheme in the state's history. SCANA investors and customers were defrauded. Approximately \$9 billion dollars was misspent while gross misrepresentations were made to the public in the building of a nuclear powerplant. Mr. Marsh was sentenced to twenty-four (24) months on the federal charges and to ten (10) years suspended on the state charges by a state court judge. *See United States v. Marsh*, No. 3:20-cr-727-001-MGL (D.S.C. Oct. 7, 2021).

Perhaps even more egregious than the enormous loss amount in the SCANA case was the case involving the Richland County Fifth Circuit Solicitor, Dan Johnson. Mr. Johnson was also prosecuted by both the United States Attorney's Office and the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Mr. Johnson was an elected official and member of the South Carolina Bar who repeatedly abused the public's trust by stealing public money from solicitor/public accounts to use on personal purchases. Mr. Johnson pled guilty to wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and was sentenced to twelve (12) months and one (1) day imprisonment. *United States v. Johnson*, No. 3:18-cr-00863-CMC (D. S.C. Jun. 5, 2019),

The most recent attorney federal prosecution – other than the instant case - appears to be *United States v. Lord*, No 3:22-cr-00768-MGL (D.S.C. Mar. 21, 2023). Ray Lord, an attorney and former law enforcement officer, misappropriated \$1.5 million in COVID relief funding. In 2020 and 2021, he submitted fraudulent loan claims on behalf of his law firm, a business that he owned called Palmetto Safety Supply, and New Life Ministries of Irmo according to the federal Indictment. The Government described Mr. Lord's conduct as "egregious." Mr. Lord pled guilty to wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. *Id.*

Again, the above cited cases and the cases listed in Exhibit 3 are not an all-inclusive list, but merely a snapshot of the cases involving attorneys and public officials of which the undersigned counsel is aware. In comparing these cases with the facts of this case as they relate to Mr. Fleming and the nature of and circumstances of the offense, along with his cooperation and acceptance of responsibility, a sentence below the guidelines range is warranted to avoid any sentencing disparity. Additionally, a sentence below the guidelines is also supported by studies finding that non-Government-sponsored sentences in white collar cases generally fall well below the minimum Guidelines range, typically 50-70 percent lower.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Fleming submits that given the precedent of these cases, sentencing him to an extended sentence of incarceration would be greater than necessary and could create an unwarranted sentencing disparity.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Consideration of the factors of § 3553(a)— in particular, the “history and characteristics of the defendant” (§ 3553(a)(1)); the nature of the offense, the deterrence factor; the need to protect the public; and the need to avoid “unwarranted sentence disparities” (§ 3553(a)(7))—demonstrates that a variant sentence is necessary to achieve the key sentencing directive that the sentence be sufficient but not greater than necessary to fulfill the purposes of sentencing. Mr. Fleming respectfully requests that the Court consider a sentence below the guidelines as an appropriate sentence in this case.

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<sup>4</sup> For example, research conducted of white collar sentences in the Southern District of New York, showed that non-Government sponsored below-range sentences “were, on average, fifty to seventy percent shorter than the minimum Guidelines sentence.” Jillian Hewitt, Note, Fifty Shades of Gray: Sentencing Trends in Major White-Collar Cases, 125 Yale L.J. 1018, 1051 (2016).

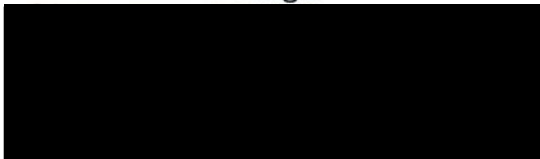
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Deborah B. Barbier  
Deborah B. Barbier, LLC (#6639)  
1811 Pickens Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803) 445-1032  
(803) 445-1036  
dbb@deborahbarbier.com

*Attorney for Defendant Cory Howerton Fleming*

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 9, 2023

Tina Stevens Hage



August 7, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Subject: Request for Leniency for Cory Fleming

Dear Honorable Gergel,

The time that we have to do good on this earth for others is limited, and it is for this reason that I am writing to respectfully request your consideration for leniency in the case of Cory Fleming, who is scheduled for sentencing on August 15. I have known Cory Fleming for twenty-two years and can attest to his character, his generosity, and the positive contributions he has made to our community. He changed the trajectory of my life, and he changed the trajectory of my twenty-two-year-old daughter's life.

I was eighteen, a new mother, and working my way through college when I met Cory and his wife, Eve Fleming. They were embarking on their journey of raising a first-born, and I was doing the same. They invited me to attend a playgroup they were hosting at their home, so I went. I am so glad that I went. Since that day, I have been a regular, and my daughter has been a regular in their home—a house whose doors are never locked to anyone. I know not a soul who gives the benefit of the doubt to others more than Cory Fleming, and it is through him that I gained a greater understanding of the law and a greater respect for our courts. In the Fleming kitchen during everyday conversation with Cory is how I came to view the courts not as a place to which people ambled and ruled, but a room to which the community extends itself and to which recalibration and reconciliation within the community is sought.

During the twenty-two years that I have known Cory, he has routinely extended community to me, and I've watched him do it time and time again for others. When I began my teaching career and needed someone to see my daughter off to school, it was Cory Fleming who extended himself. He drove her to school each day alongside his children and continued doing so for the next 15 years of her life and my career. He asked for nothing, expected nothing, and never once

made me or her feel like it was a burden to do it. That's a rarity, but it is who Cory Fleming is, and it's who I have seen him genuinely be for twenty-two years.

My daughter describes those aforementioned rides as opportunities for her to enjoy a guilt-free reprieve from the instability she sometimes felt in my home. The car rides with Cory and his children, she says, were filled with opportunities to be a child, engage in light-hearted banter, and opportunities to come of age and discuss real-world issues. Every day, she said, Cory would lead the children to pause, look out the window, and marvel with gratitude at their community and surroundings. He wanted them to see the beauty he saw and carry that worldview with them. For this, I am also grateful.

Additionally, Cory lent me a car when I needed it. He crafted fun outings and memorable experiences for my daughter so she could share in the experiences he shaped for his children and his family. Cory is a devoted father, and it was clear that he arranged his work life around his kids and family.

I firmly believe that the teen years weren't stocked with worry for me and regret for my daughter because my daughter and her friends often opted for healthy family fun at the Flemings' with Cory and Eve.

To this day, Cory continues to serve as a mentor and a point of light in my daughter's life. He continues to extend himself as he has always done.

In closing, I humbly request that Your Honor consider a more lenient sentence for Cory Fleming. I believe you can multiply the good that Cory Fleming does if you extend mercy and forbearance.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my request. I understand the complexity of your role and am grateful for your dedication to upholding justice. If you require any additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843-521-7707 or [Tinahageeducation@gmail.com](mailto:Tinahageeducation@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Tina Stevens Hage

# Bauer | Metro

LAW FIRM • PC

Monday, August 7, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
Post Office Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

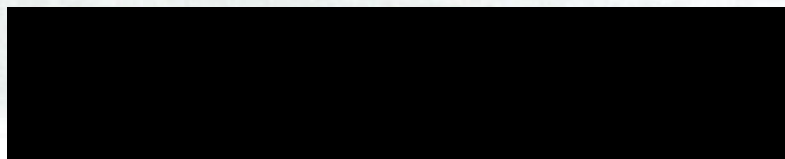
RE: CORY H. FLEMING

Dear Judge Gergel:

This is probably the hardest letter I have had to write in both my legal career and personal life. How do I as an officer of the Court stand as a character witness for someone who has admitted to a felony? I can't excuse the crime or even put it in an understandable context. This crime is simply inconsistent with the character of my friend Cory Fleming. But, as all of us are better than the worst thing we have ever done, a fair and just sentence must take into account not just the crime, but, to the extent possible, the uniqueness of the defendant being sentenced. A friend of mine, a person I held in the highest regard, has admitted in open court that he is a criminal, and he has thrown himself at the mercy of the Court. I simply cannot understand this crime, and I cannot reconcile it with my 30-plus years of knowledge of Cory. I did not know Alex Murdaugh well enough to be anything but shocked; with Cory I am heartbroken.

Cory has been a good friend, and he was good a lawyer. Cory was someone that I talked with regularly, and discussed thorny issues of UIM coverage, trial strategies, and Fourth Amendment issues. By his own actions, he has thrown that gift away. There is an African proverb, that "when an old person dies, a library has burned to the ground." Cory's actions have similarly burned a law library to the ground. I miss seeing my friend in the Courtroom. There is no point in belabouring his skill as a lawyer, but it is worthwhile for the Court to know how many young lawyers he helped. Young lawyers are too often turned loose into criminal courtrooms without a mentor. Sadly, there is no required apprenticeship for young lawyers. Cory was always there helping the young lawyers of Beaufort County. He made himself available to them. Cory was never too busy to give help, guidance, and advice. Cory cheered them on to victory or comforted them in their loss. The newspapers don't tell this story.

I also am in a unique position to tell you about Cory's service to the community. Our magistrate's and municipal courts are where misdemeanour offenses are tried. A Venn diagram of the defendants in lower court would show a massive intersection of poverty, mental illness, disability, and drug addiction. Tragically, these same courts are underserved by the public defender system. I cannot



CORY H. FLEMING  
PAGE 2

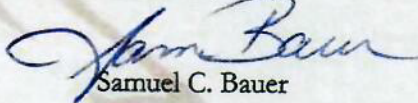
tell you how many countless times Cory took up helping these people without a thought of a fee or tallying up pro bono hours. Cory simply saw people in need and rushed to help. His simple selfless acts of kindness helped so many of the most needy and desperate members of our community. On this topic too, the newspapers are silent.

I also can tell you a little bit about Cory as a person. When any of us had time to talk with Cory, he did not want to sit around and tell war stories about some courtroom victory. Cory was not concerned about the trappings of wealth, and he had no time to discuss which iron he used on his approach shot on the seventh green of some golf course. Cory's focus was his family. He wanted to talk about how great a lawyer his Wife, Eve is; how she had defended some child who was being railroaded by the system. He wanted to talk about his children and their accomplishments and sometimes their struggles. He cherished every minute of time with his family. Newspapers do not tell the story of Cory being a great father and devoted husband.

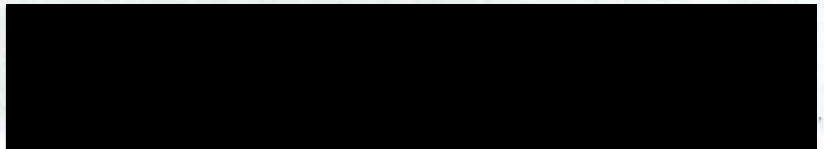
Newspapers only tell the story of the crime. I know that my friend Cory has to pay for his crime. I know that his actions have profound consequences. Cory now is a felon. He will carry that brand with him forever. To some defendants, that may mean little, but to be a felon, by itself, is a punishment for Cory. I've talked with Cory, and I know that he is not just remorseful because he got caught. Cory is genuinely ashamed of what he has done, ashamed of what he has done to his Wife and ashamed of what he has done to his children. None of us can see into the hearts of others; we can simply judge by what we see. I see Cory as humbled, ashamed, and genuinely sincerely full of remorse. He will continue to punish himself for this crime for as long as he lives.

Judge, thank you for taking the time to hear from all of us, and thank you for taking the time to read all of these letters. We know that there must be punishment for every crime. There must be justice, but mercy and justice are not incompatible.

Yours very truly,

  
Samuel C. Bauer

/amh



Abigail Chiaviello

The Honorable Richard Gergel U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Your Honor,

Knowing Cory Fleming has been one of the most tremendous blessings. Cory's daughter, Quinn, and my older sister, Annalee, have been close friends since they were only a few months old in 2001. Two years later, I was born only four days before his son, Jack. With children so close in age, our families quickly became very close and I can honestly say that I do not know a time in which they were not.

As I write to you, I find it difficult to articulate how profound Cory's role has been in my life. He is a kind and loyal man who has loved and treated myself and Annalee as if we were his own children. My childhood is filled with fond memories of summer days where my sister and I would spend endless nights at "Camp Flemi-viello" as we called it where Cory would play as if he were one of us kids. He is a humble man who is known among his community as moral and trustworthy. He is a symbol of what a man should be and I have always been and will continue to be proud to call him a part of my family.

I remember being very young and my parents telling me that if I were ever in any trouble, to call Cory, that he would drop whatever he was doing to make sure that myself or either of my sisters were alright and safe. To me, Cory Fleming is *safe*. I have always known that if something had happened to either one of my parents, Cory would have welcomed my sisters and I with open arms. I have always known that if I needed him, Cory would be there. Cory would be there as I graduated, moved me into college or my first apartment, and walked me down the aisle. Cory Fleming has forever been a father figure to me and I am eternally grateful for having someone so full of love and compassion always standing with me.

One quality of Cory's that I have always admired is his graciousness. In addition to myself and my sisters, Cory has opened his home to a number of friends as a safe place to turn to when in trouble. I have seen Cory be a remarkable host parent to a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and welcomed her back into his home as she wished to obtain her high school diploma in the United States. Cory has taken Annalee and myself to Disney World along with his children as a Christmas Gift. When I was younger and frustrated about being excluded by the "big girls," Cory took me to the store where he bought me my first Lego set that we built together. On weekends, Cory would take Annalee and I out on the boat where we not only learned our way around the Beaufort and Battery Creek Rivers but we also discovered our love for early rock icons such as Jimi Hendrix and Bruce Springsteen. When another community member and friend of my family opened a toy store in Beaufort, Cory told his children, my sister, and myself that it is important to support your community and its small businesses and allowed each of us to choose a toy to purchase. Cory has run in almost every school fundraiser 5k and purchased every discount card and box of Girl Scout cookies from any kid that has come knocking on his door. He is a man that does what he can to support his community and treats every man woman and child he meets

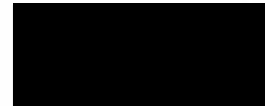
Abigail Chiaviello  
2501 N. Royal Oaks Dr.  
Beaufort, SC 29902

with the same dignity and respect as he does his family. Cory is a proud member of his community, a proud father to many kids that are not his own and an incredible man whom I am proud to know.

I am sure that all of us who are writing to you are desperate to depict the Cory Fleming we all know in addition to the information you have heard during this trial. As much as we all wish to be the voice that changes your opinion of Cory, I would like you to know that in all of my time knowing Cory, I have never known him to be the man as presented in this case. It has been profoundly shocking, for myself and our community, to hear all the information that has come to light during this trial. I mention this because I wish that you know that Cory Fleming is so much more than this gross error in judgment. In determining his sentence, I would like to ask that you take this information into consideration and for leniency when making your decision.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Chiaviello

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abigail Chiaviello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

RE: Cory Fleming, "The Rest of the Story"

Beaufort is an old community with some families going back for many generations. Each generation of those families comes to know the grandparents, parents, and children in our own lifetime. Along the way we see the full spectrum of human behavior. We also see the growth and change from childhood to full maturity to old age. You can see remarkable changes over time. We also see how real mistakes and misjudgments can be made and then great changes occur as those lessons are experienced and lead to changes in their lives.

Our own family has gone through this when my brother was involved in the Jackpot smuggling operations in South Carolina. He was found guilty and served several years in prison. Then came the Paul Harvey "Rest of the Story" moment. He came back to Beaufort, became a successful home builder, married, and had two children, became a boy scout leader and over the next 18 years actively helped his son earn Eagle Scout status. He is the President of the Homebuilders association, a Southern Living featured -certified builder, member of several community planning committees. He is a major contributor to our community. Now you may ask so what. What has this to do with Cory Fleming?

Cory's story is the same as he comes from a family with the same deep community roots. His values are his family and community's shared values. He knows right from wrong. And both know there is a price to pay and justice to be served when bad decisions are made. Those bad decisions are not the total story of who this man is and who he will also become in the years ahead. I have seen Cory reach out and help people and in particular young people. He is a good and faithful father. Cory contributes to this community and teaches this to his children and others. This is the fundamental value that sustains a community.

In summary, Cory now stands before a court of justice and a judge who have a duty to uphold the law and render a judgement and a sentence. In coming to that judgment, I would ask that not only the acts he has been accused of in court be considered but also the character of the man that has been clearly demonstrated for many years be taken into consideration. Not only will the judgment affect the next few years but also the many years to come in Cory's later life. I would ask that Cory be given the opportunity to be able to tell his Paul Harvey " Rest of the Story" sooner than later.

*Handwritten initials*



*Merritt Patterson*

Merritt Patterson



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Your Honor,

This letter is regarding Cory Fleming.

My name is Thomas B. Parham. I am a retired YMCA CEO. I retired two years ago from Mount Desert Island YMCA in Bar Harbor, Maine and still reside in the area. During my career, I also served as CEO for the Four Seasons YMCA in Tazewell, VA and The YMCA of Beaufort County in Port Royal, SC. It was during my tenure in Beaufort County (1993 – 2007) that I came to know Cory Fleming.

Cory was an active member of the YMCA, became a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA and served as President of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Beaufort County for the years 2001 and 2002. During that time, I got to know Cory very well. In addition to board meetings and committee meetings, Cory and I met informally on a weekly basis to discuss YMCA issues. We communicated frequently by phone; he often dropped by my office on his way to work out as well. In addition, I saw Cory and his wife Eve on Sundays at St. Helena's Episcopal Church where we were both members.

The period that Cory served on the YMCA Board of Directors and as Board President were critical years in the development of The YMCA of Beaufort County. Chartered by the YMCA of the USA in 1994, it was one of the youngest YMCAs in the country. Success was not guaranteed. Cory unselfishly spent volunteer hours providing leadership and making decisions that helped establish The YMCA in Beaufort County as the positive force in the community that it is today. Even though Cory is a good bit younger than I am, he provided me with valuable feedback, support and counsel that is characteristic of an excellent Board President.

Having observed Cory in various situations and having known him socially, Cory is a good husband to Eve, a good father to his children, a good neighbor in his community, and when I was there to witness, an active member of his church.

Cory dedicated hundreds of tireless hours providing volunteer leadership to what has become a major community service organization in Beaufort County. He has demonstrated unselfish devotion to the betterment and welfare of others, and the Beaufort community is a better place because of his volunteer work.

I hope that you will take this letter into consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Parham

**Annalee Chiaviello**



3rd August 2023

**The Honorable Richard Gergel**

U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Annalee Chiaviello. I am a twenty-two-year-old college student and I have been a close friend to Cory Fleming and his family for my entire life. His oldest daughter, Quinn, and I are a month apart in age. Our families became friends shortly after I was born. Cory's son, Jack, and my younger sister, Abigail, were born four days apart.

From my earliest days, I considered Cory's children my best friends and I saw Eve and Cory as bonus parents to my sisters and I. Growing up, I spent as much time at Cory's house as my own. In the summertime, Cory would take us and other children in the neighborhood out on the boat tubing around the river. My family and I were included in holiday celebrations and the Fleming's included my sister and I in family trips to Disney World and football games in Columbia.

Cory is the type of person to treat strangers like friends, and his friends like family. In 2017, Cory's daughter participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and spent a year abroad. Cory and Eve hosted an exchange student, Michela, from Italy for several months. She was immediately treated as part of the family. After her exchange year had ended, Michela wanted to return to Beaufort Academy for her senior year. She was welcomed back with open arms. Not only did the Fleming's house her for the entire year, Cory had their home renovated to create an extra bedroom so that Michela would have her own space. They remain close to this day, and this summer Michela came to stay with them.

I know that if I were ever in need of help, Cory would move heaven and earth to make sure I was safe. Growing up my parents instructed my sisters and I to call Cory Fleming if we were in danger and could not reach them. My family's

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trust in Cory extended so far that my parents have remarked that if anything had happened to them when we were children, they would have wanted Cory and Eve to take us in.

Cory Fleming is the last man on Earth whom I expected to write a letter of this nature. However, because of the man I know him to be, an honest, generous, humble, and kind man, I write this letter with zero hesitation. Your Honor, I ask that you show my friend Cory leniency. I ask that you show him and his family mercy and offer him the lightest sentence that is allowed.

Sincerely,

Annalee Chiaviello

# THOMAS E. DANIELS

July 30, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Mr. Cory Howerton Flemming

Dear Judge Gergel,

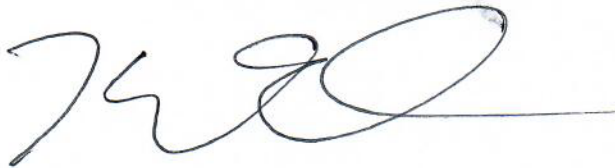
Thank you for your consideration in receiving this correspondence, on behalf of Mr. Flemming. It is my privilege to share with you aspects of his character as a husband, father, friend and human being.

I moved to South Carolina just under a decade ago, to continue my work as an Educational Psychologist serving the special needs population in the region. I was lucky enough to purchase a house on the same street as Mr. Flemming. He and another neighbor hustled over on my family's move-in day to offer us both help unloading our life's possessions, as well as dinner that very evening. Cory and his family, which includes his lovely wife Eve Flemming, Esq., and their two college aged children, Quinn and Jack, have been helping, hosting and supporting my own family since that very day.

Though I am now retired, through my training as an Educational Psychologist, revealed to me a common link between the character of the children I've served and the quality of their family/parents. Through the parental modeling I'd witness a corresponding social "core" in the child which would enable them to both function in an academic environment but also display the ability to become a solid "citizens," if you will, within society. In other words, good parents who provide an environment of structure and safety, most often produces wonderful children. I'm a 62 year old man and if my experience holds true then one of the greatest things Mr. Flemming has done, which is a testament to his character, is produce two spectacular children: Quinn is a recent graduate of Wofford and was on the college's Cross Country team while Jack is a rising Junior in college, looking into serving his country after graduation via the JAG program.

Beyond being the person I described above, Cory is also an active community volunteer – donating his time to Habitat for Humanity while also providing free legal counsel to both myself and a family in need I'd served. And I know, through sitting with him on so many recent occasions over that he's wondering if all the positives he's done in his life to help others, to raise a family and be a giving member to his community might be erased or ignored at this critical juncture in the measurement of his life. I hope this letter helps you in judging the composite and merit of his person.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Thomas E. Daniels, MA., EDS.



Richard S. Chiaviello



July 29, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

RE: Cory Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

We understand that on August 15<sup>th</sup> you are sentencing our friend Cory Fleming. The purpose in writing this letter is to hopefully let you have a better understanding of the Cory we know.

We first met Cory in the summer of 2001. He and his wife Eve welcomed their first child Quinn in March and my wife Brenna and I had our first child Annalee in May. We quickly became close family friends. Twenty months later we were both fortunate to welcome our second children. We had another daughter, Abigail and days after her birth they welcomed a son, Jack.

Over the years, our love and affection for Cory, Eve, Quinn and Jack has grown. They took two of our children with them on a family vacation to Disney. We have never been in the position to reciprocate, but this never deterred them from including our children when possible.

We have come to know his parents and step parents. My children have spent weekends at his father Rusty and his wife Kitty's home in Georgia. Every time there was a parade in Beaufort, his mother Caroline and her husband Frank would invite us all to her home for a party on her porch after the parade. We mention this, because Cory and his family are not casual acquaintances of ours. Our girls refer to Cory's parents by the same names that Quinn and Jack do (Bug/Dee and Kitty/Pop).

Cory is always the first to respond when asked for help whether personally or professionally. When we were overwhelmed with a kitchen remodel project in our home, Cory showed up no questions asked and helped us assemble an entire kitchen's worth of cabinets. When we tried to pay him, he refused even though his law license had been suspended by this time. Prior to the suspension of his law license, our youngest child was bit by a dog. Needless to say, we were all very upset, Cory volunteered his time to handle the case for us at no charge.

In 2017, his daughter Quinn went on a Rotary Youth Exchange to Germany. As a result, Cory and Eve were obligated to host a young lady from Italy for half of the school year. When this same student

wished to return to Beaufort and complete her senior year of high school, the Flemings graciously welcomed her back for the whole school year. They even renovated their home to create an additional bedroom so she had her own space. She returned this summer to visit with them.

We have only known Cory to be a dedicated and caring family man. He is also committed to the community we all live in. He has volunteered his time to help raise money for CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Association) by participating in a community event called Dancing with Our Stars. This is a large event where contestant spends months practicing and raising money all for the benefit of CAPA.

In all of Cory's acts of kindness, we have never known him to ever do it for personal gain or recognition of any kind.

Losing his license to practice law has been devastating both financially and personally to Cory. The notoriety in the press has been very hard on all of his family and friends. We are very proud of the way he; Eve, Quinn and Jack have all handled themselves though this whole ordeal. They have shown nothing but poise and grace from the beginning. We are proud to call them our friends.

Except for the fact that we have to move two of our daughters into college on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, we would be at the courthouse in support of Cory on the day of his sentencing.

We ask that you consider the little we have shared with you about our dear friend Cory and show him as much leniency and mercy as the court will allow. Please consider the losses he has already endured in making your decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is for Richard S. Chiaviello and the second is for Brenna Chiaviello. The signatures are written in a cursive style.

Richard S. Chiaviello

Brenna Chiaviello

Richard Keaton

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Sentencing hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

This is submitted for the Court's consideration on imposing a sentence for Cory H. Fleming.

My name is Richard Keaton. I am a 70 year old resident of Beaufort, SC. I met Cory Fleming approximately 5 years ago through mutual friends.

Shortly after I met Cory, I was hospitalized with a stroke, and upon release from the hospital, I was not allowed to drive and had no way to get home. Upon hearing of my dilemma, Cory went out of his way to arrange transportation to get me home. I have never forgotten his act of kindness.

Since that time, I have had numerous encounters with Cory, his wife Eve and their 2 children. It has always been a happy, positive experience and during those times, Cory in particular has exhibited his devotion to his family, a genuine caring for others and willingness to help whenever needed.

Cory hasn't spoken to me very much about his case, except in a few instances where he acknowledged his lack of good judgment and regret for not following a higher course.

Having made many mistakes in my life, probably more than the average person, it has given me insight in being able to form an opinion about most people to a fairly good degree of accuracy. My view of Cory Fleming through our personal interactions is that he is a person of sound values who has made one bad mistake that will alter his and his family's life forever. Hopefully Cory and his family will recover from this and be able to continue their lives as the caring people that they are.

In the hope that they will be able to do just that, I am asking that the Court consider what I have written and bestow a sentence that is just and merciful, which will allow the Fleming family to heal, and continue to be caring, productive members of our society.

Thank you in advance, Judge Gergel, for your consideration of my concerns and thoughts about Cory Fleming.

Sincerely,



Richard Keaton

The Honorable Richard Gergel

U.S. District Judge

P. O. Box 835

Charleston, S. C. 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

My relationship with Cory Fleming began in 2018 when I had his daughter, Quinn, in my Models of Leadership Class at Beaufort Academy. What struck me was Cory's genuineness and interest in his daughter, her education, the welfare of other students, and the volunteer work they did as a team. There were few philanthropic or volunteer community initiatives, like Habitat for Humanity or the February Pool Plunge for Multiple Sclerosis, that did not involve Cory.


As a frequenter of the YMCA, Cory was an equal opportunity presence and superb listener; there was no one with whom he would not stop to chat, always offering support, a kind word, and leaving them happier than they were moments before. It was as if they were the only other person in the gym. In all my discussions with Cory, I never heard him utter an unkind or defamatory word about another individual.

That one of the burdens of being human is our feet of clay, my recent conversations with Cory are with a man who apportions blame where it should be, on his own shoulders. Equally, he has reached out for therapy, in both individual and group sessions, and has recalibrated his moral compass in the direction of repentance and rehabilitation.

My father defined a friend as someone who will not abandon another, even when it seems the logical and 'smart' thing to do. It is in that spirit that I will be in your courtroom on August 15.

My hope is that you will consider the above and dispense a portion of mercy to Cory in your decision.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Miller

August 5, 2023

Cory Fleming

Anne Valle Helm [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This is the letter I I wrote to Judge

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergen  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O.B. 835  
Charleston, S. C. 29402

Dear Judge Gergen,

Cory Fleming has volunteered with me at the building site at Habitat for Humanity for almost two years. Besides being an accomplished carpenter, Cory is prompt, listens, works with all skill levels of volunteers and is extremely knowledgeable in various construction areas. His volunteering has helped Habitat complete 2 homes for needy families.

Cory brings kindness, talent and humor to the work site. He is a true asset to my volunteer team.

Sincerely,

Anne Helm

Sent from my iPad

8/1/23

**Dear Judge Gergel,**

I am unfortunately unable to attend today's sentencing for my friend Cory Fleming. My only child is confined in a local nursing home due to a very rare brain disease and is now paralyzed and my wife and I share each day as her caregivers, therefore my daily time is needed down here in Beaufort. I would definitely rather be in Charleston today with a medically intact daughter.

I do want to share my experience and feelings for Cory and I hope this letter will be received in a positive manner from me, just as if I were present in your courtroom.

I truly believe that trust in a man is the most important emotion one can have in another person and I trust Cory despite any aspect of his case.

I met Cory when he first began his law practice down here in Beaufort. We both did criminal defense law and Cory was always available to me whenever I needed advice on how to properly proceed in any given case. Cory would call on me, if he needed my advice, and I was always willing to discuss both legal and factual issues in an effort to assist his clients who were in need of our help. For many years we helped each other and Cory definitely became a very trusted friend in our respective law practices.

From a personal standpoint, I know Cory's reputation in our community to be exceptional. He helped many through his church and was looked upon as a generous and kind citizen.

I know personally that Cory was an excellent husband and father.

In conclusion, I would definitely appreciate any leniency, mercy, or grace when you finalize your sentencing decision. On behalf of many in Beaufort, both in the legal field as well as other citizens, I humbly ask for a minimum sentence.

With all due respect and friendship, I remain yours truly,

  
Bruce Marshall



**Law Offices of Jim Brown, P.A.**



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Sentencing Hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Judge Gergel:

My name is Jim Brown and I am writing to you as a friend of Cory Fleming. I have known Cory and his wife since 1998 when I moved to Beaufort from Columbia. His wife was my direct supervisor at the Beaufort County Public Defender's office when I started there after leaving Richland County.

Neither my wife nor I grew up in Beaufort so I am grateful to Cory for his introduction to the community. When I moved here, my twin sons were only two years old and he was always interested in their well being. Eventually, our families grew closer as my third son and Cory's two children went to high school at the same time.

Cory was always willing to talk about the practice of law and offer suggestions to help me adjust to new court personnel and a different pace at the courthouse. He endeavored to find a place for me to fit into this insular community and some of my work with him involved me ghost writing federal sentencing memorandums for the very same court over which you now preside. In fact, Cory and I have represented co-defendants in both federal and state proceedings and I could not have chosen more competent counsel for this role even if I had the opportunity.

Cory also provided me with common sense advice when I ran for the state house in 2008. If I ever had any concerns, personal or professional, I knew that I could just drive over to his office at any time. His schedule was never too busy for me to stop and talk.

I ask that you consider these characteristics when you decide if leniency is appropriate. I have never seen or heard of him being hard, mean, or vindictive in any facet of his life. To the contrary, he always has been willing to help others.

Thank you, your Honor, for considering my thoughts and I ask that you show your strength by extending mercy to Cory when you make your tough decisions in his case.

Sincerely,

Jim Brown

A blue ink handwritten signature of Jim Brown, written over the typed name.

July 30, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

My name is Caroline Cory Coslick and I am Cory H. Fleming's mother. This is perhaps the most difficult, but the most important letter that I have ever written.

I will say to you what my former mother-in-law told me years ago that Cory is a wonderful human being. Cory was born to very young parents who had no training or aptitude for raising a child. When people have told me what a fine person Cory is, I always confess that he pretty much raised himself. This is not completely true because Cory has always been surrounded by our wonderful friends and family who have impacted his life as much as his parents. Cory is my only child and I have truly been blessed.

Anyone who knows Cory, recognizes the joy he exudes and genuinely shares with all. His laughter is contagious and as a mother, he always has a positive outlook, even in the darkest of times. However, his finest qualities are his love, kindness, and loyalty for his family and friends and clients. My pride is in his actions of helping others...providing a thanksgiving dinner for a client's family, offering work for homeless people, securing counseling for a young friend going through difficult times, giving his longtime tenant financial breaks during hard times and talking into the late hours with a mother whose son was facing incarceration. People and former clients around our town often come up to me to tell me of the kindness Cory has given them during difficult times.

Cory's younger days included typical events in school, sports, scouts, church and social events. That's not to say that there weren't glitches and growing pains along the way. Cory's high school days at Benedictine Military School and his college days at USC were at times challenging. The good news is that he has always recognized, attempted to rectified and learned from his missteps. The result was a young man with an exceptional work ethic--- whether mopping floors at the Red & White, delivering pizzas at USC, cleaning chemical containers at his father's business or working at a law firm in Columbia during his law school time. His success in college and law school speak to his determination to become a contributing citizen.....but the best was yet to come!

When Cory married and became a father, I was so very fortunate to see the real Cory! He has never faltered as a steadfast and loving husband. By far, his greatest achievement has been his role as a father. All parents love their children, but I saw what being a father really looks like. Total dedication in everything. There was never an event or a meal or a family activity he would miss. All this while becoming a successful attorney and a contributing community member. The Fleming home continues to be the go-to place even when his own children are not home. It is a welcoming environment in which young friends can enjoy good food, interesting music and unconditional love.

Knowing that your child has made a grave misjudgment and compromised his integrity has been devastating and totally unexpected. Cory is the one who never lets even his mother drive home after having a beer. Cory's devotion and respect for the law is deep-rooted in both his personal and professional life. I am very proud of how he has been such an upright man, facing his mistake and the subsequent consequences. Consequences that as a mother, I recognize are so incredibly painful for my son. He often speaks and apologizes for the pain and disappointment his action has caused our family.

The fact that Cory and his family have lost everything they have strived to achieve in the past 26 or more years is the outward consequence of his action. Cory has worked tirelessly since his fall from grace, to develop his talents and skills so that he can continue to provide for his family. It will not be easy to reinvent himself and time is not in his favor. I believe his dedication to providing for his family and his need to repair his standing in the community, will be his driving force. I know he has so much to offer his community and all he encounters. Cory's spiritual growth and compassion for others who have suffered tragedies, much more painful than ours, continues to amaze me. Especially when he has been facing his own hardships. This is just another example of Cory putting the needs of others first.

After reading this letter, I'm sure you realize that I am simply a mother, a grandmother, a mother-in-law, and a retired special education teacher seeking leniency for her son. Cory has been my life and my side kick since I was 19. We have been through good times and bad times. He often had to eat junk meals because his mother had a paper due or a final exam. Cory never complained and he was always my champion. When he became an attorney and moved to Beaufort, I knew that we would continue to have our special bond often experienced by families who had travelled a winding road. As Cory became a well-respected attorney helping many individuals and families, I was overwhelmed with pride. Cory has only himself to make retribution to his family, his community and his God. I plead that you take all of this into consideration as you make your decision as to the future of my son, my wonderful human being son, my champion, Cory Fleming.

Very respectfully yours,

  
Caroline Cory Coslick

Crickett W. Scoggins



July 31, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U. S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

Please allow me to express my appreciation in being allowed to speak on behalf of who I know Cory Fleming to be.

I have known Cory since birth. His Mom, Caroline, and I were close friends in high school and have remained close through the years. Therefore, I have known and enjoyed a close relationship with Cory, his wife Eve, and their delightful children Quinn and Jack. Cory has always been a wonderful, hands-on father, and a dedicated husband. His family always came first.

Cory has devoted his life to helping others with wisdom, kindness, and heartfelt compassion. He has always been heavily involved with his community, and has been a diligent fundraiser for Beaufort Academy, CAPA, and works tirelessly for Habitat for Humanity, his Church and countless others. Serving and giving back is just what Cory does.

I would humbly ask for leniency and grace in the matter before the court. Cory would be a productive citizen if allowed community restitution. Cory is a good man with vast knowledge that could help so many who are at a crossroads in their life. I would ask Your Honor for consideration in allowing Cory to make amends and accountability with a sentence of court approved community restitution.

We all make mistakes and show poor judgement in life, but as God is a forgiving God, I humbly ask your consideration of all of his goodness, as well as his wrongdoing in this matter.

I appreciate the opportunity to tell my Cory Fleming story and hope perhaps to have pointed out what a productive citizen he would be.

I am grateful for your time, wisdom, and consideration Judge Gergel.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crickett W. Scoggins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Crickett W. Scoggins

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Court  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Leonard O'Connell

  
August 4, 2023

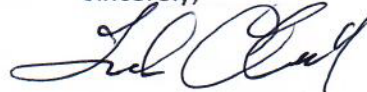
Your Honor,

I would like to tell you a few things that reflect the kindness and character of my friend Corey Fleming. I have been very close friends with Corey for thirty years. He has given me advice and help whenever needed. He helped my son set up his general contractor business. and helped my daughter achieve her dream of opening a flower shop. He helped my Parents with their final wishes in their last days. He has always been there for me and my family. He even took time this spring, with everything he has going on in his life, to spend some long days helping me install new floors in my newly purchased home/fixer upper...as a friend. He's never Asks for much in return. He's a good man and I'm better for knowing him.

But at his best, he is a family man. He's good to his Mother, and her husband Frank. And his Father, who lives in Georgia. And to me it's obvious how much he loves his wife and kids.

He is a son, a father, a husband, and a friend that will be missed even for a day. So, I ask Your Honor for leniency. It would mean so much to a lot of good people.

Sincerely,



Leonard O'Connell

Fridrik E. Tiedemann



July 28, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Honorable Judge Richard Gergel,

I am writing this letter in reference to my friend Mr. Cory Fleming former Partner and Attorney at the Moss & Kuhn Law Firm in Beaufort, SC. I am a retired SC State Trooper and I have worked with the 14th Circuit Solicitor's office for over twenty years. During my tenure as a Trooper and a Court Security Officer for the U.S. Marshal's Service I had the opportunity to meet and work with Mr. Fleming. There are not enough accolades in the English language to describe his personality and character. I also had the pleasure of meeting and working with his wife Eve. Mr. Fleming was always very willing to help people out "Pro Bono". I have seen him interact with his two children and he always impressed me as a wonderful and loving Father. I know there are many people in the Low Country that respect and admire him. Let me add one more important thing, he is a man of Faith.

In conclusion I would humbly and prayerfully ask your Honor to give Mr. Fleming a measure of leniency, mercy and grace in this case and that the Court take the aforesaid information in consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Tiedemann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fridrik E. Tiedemann

August 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
US District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, South Carolina, 29402

Re: Cory Fleming

To: The Honorable Richard Gergel,

This letter is written in support of Cory Howerton Fleming and his family. It is not our intent in writing this to diminish any adverse effects Cory's recently publicized actions have had on others. Our knowledge of his character is based primarily on the years we knew him best – his formative years. Though we have not seen him as much since he left Columbia for Beaufort, we have kept up with Cory through his parents, Caroline and Rusty.

We have known Cory since before he was born. In 1968 we were all young families attending USC and Midlands Tech. Caroline, Rusty and Cory lived below us in government subsidized housing where Rusty was the resident manager in addition to his studies. We spent most of our free time with them and the other apartment dwellers and we all became lifelong friends.

After Cory's birth we realized what faithful strong parents he had. Although they divorced when Cory was in high school they both remained devoted to him and were determined for Cory to learn responsibility, courage, trustworthiness and consideration for others. They encouraged his generosity and independence along with his passion for learning. During his youth Caroline and Rusty encouraged Cory's participation in both baseball and football. He learned the importance of teamwork and camaraderie along with respect and admiration for his coaches.

Throughout his years in Boy Scouts Cory lived up to the slogan of "doing something to help others each day", along with becoming more environmentally aware. In fact it was Cory who taught us the importance of recycling.

Cory's faith began in the Methodist Church where he became an acolyte. We understand his commitment to God continues as he is a member of a weekly Bible study.

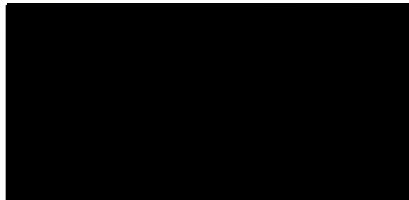
As a happily married man to Eve, he has raised two very fine children, Quinn and Jack. Quinn is a 2023 honor graduate of Wofford College where Jack is currently a rising junior. Over the years Cory has been an active community leader serving for two years with Habitat for Humanity, as president and board member of the YMCA and in various coaching positions for youth sports. He recently participated in the annual fundraiser for CAPA "Dancing with the Stars". We believe Cory is a valuable member of the Beaufort community and the strength of his family.

In closing we believe the Cory we have known would want to right any wrongs that have occurred from any poor decisions and grace from the Court may afford that opportunity. With regard to his sentencing we ask for leniency and hope this information is useful in making that determination.

Respectfully submitted,

Cam and Sandra McLain

(Dr. and Mrs. William Campbell McLain III





**GRIFFITH FREEMAN LIIPFERT**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

O. Edworth Liipfert III  
Griffith, Freeman & Liipfert, LLC



Griffith, Freeman & Liipfert, LLC  
E. MITCHELL GRIFFITH+  
O. EDWORTH LIIPFERT III+  
MICHAEL D. FREEMAN+\*  
KELLY DENNIS DEAN

+ certified mediator  
\* also admitted in the District of  
Columbia

August 2, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

**RE: Sentence Hearing for Cory H. Fleming**

Dear Judge Gergel:

This is submitted for the Court's consideration on imposing a sentence for Cory H. Fleming. I have known Cory for my entire twenty-year legal career and have a very high opinion of him personally and professionally. We have been opposed to each other on numerous cases and I always enjoyed dealing with him. As Beaufort is a small town, I'd frequently see him socially as well.

Cory truly loved being a lawyer, and his enthusiasm is contagious. He loves being a father and husband even more. Whenever I spoke to him, the conversation inevitably turned to our families, and he truly cared about how I was doing and what I was doing. His mother was my neighbor for years, and I know from seeing him helping her that he's a loving and devoted son. For several years, I solicited donations for the bar Christmas party to benefit a local hospice, and Cory was always one of the first and most generous donors. He never meets a stranger and always makes time to help someone out or just to listen.

I had the unusual job of handling an appointed PCR hearing for one of his criminal cases years ago, which gave me a rare "behind the scenes" look behind at his file. I still recall how impressed I was at the work Corey did for his client in that case. He left no stone unturned, and in my mind, he got a great result. I strongly recommended that the client abandon the PCR because I thought the case was handled exceptionally well, and I did not think the client was likely to get such a good sentence were the case re-tried. Obviously, Cory will never practice law again. From talking to him and his wife recently, he seems to have accepted that and has been devoting a much of his time recently to volunteering for Habitat for Humanity while studying to apply for a general contractor's license. Cory is a good and honorable man who made one terrible mistake. He owned up to it and is accepting the consequences. It has already cost him the career he loved. I still trust Cory and feel strongly that if shown leniency,



The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
August 2, 2023  
Page 2

he will continue to be an upstanding member of our community and will never appear before you again.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that you show grace and leniency when sentencing him. Please allow him to right his wrong by continuing to give back to our community rather than spending time behind bars. Please allow him to be defined by his proven track record of serving and helping the citizens of Beaufort rather than by the worst decision of his life.

Thank you in advance, Judge Gergel, for your consideration of my concerns and thoughts about Cory Fleming.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,



O. Edworth Liipfert III  
OEL/kal

# CHRISTOPHER J. GEIER

ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Sentencing hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

This is submitted for the Court's consideration on imposing a sentence for Cory H. Fleming. I met Cory seventeen years ago as a fellow member of the Beaufort County Bar. In that time, I interacted with Cory both socially and professionally. I had the pleasure of watching him successfully try a case and I spent two weeks with him chaperoning a school trip which included our two sons.

In my twenty years of practice in Washington State, in the United States Army and in South Carolina, I saw a number of excellent lawyers ply our trade to great success. Cory's ability in court stands second to none. He was engaging, persuasive and organized, while maintaining an extraordinary level of decorum toward opposing counsel and witnesses. The class and respect Cory displayed during that trial is regrettably uncommon in today's courtrooms. I learned how to be a better advocate watching Cory work and that is one of the highest compliments I can give a fellow lawyer.

I did not know Cory well before the school trip we took with our sons. From the start, Cory proved to be an excellent travel companion and chaperone. I was particularly impressed with how he handled his son. My son rarely wanted to spend time with his boring father and I did not see him much as he ran around with his friends. Cory's son Jack was much more reserved and was clearly uncomfortable around most of the other children. Jack spent a large majority of the trip with us and Cory never brow-beat him about it as I might have with my boy. Cory supported his decisions and he was extremely patient with Jack. On one occasion, Jack smashed a snowball on Cory's head in the middle of a guided tour. I cannot imagine how I would react under those

circumstances, but I assure you that I would not have handled it with the grace, humor and understanding that Cory exhibited that day. By the time the trip was over, I counted Cory as a friend.

In conclusion, I ask you to show Cory the greatest amount of leniency that is possible in this case. It is a shame that Cory finds himself in this position and that his legal carrier is over. Beaufort lost a talented trial lawyer. I hope that once Cory pays his debt to society and to the victims in this case, that he finds a way to teach law students or young lawyers. He is supremely capable of teaching others the art of trial advocacy and his personal story is a cautionary tale that would be incredibly impactful if it came from the man himself.

Thank you in advance, Judge Gergel, for your consideration of my thoughts about Cory H. Fleming.

Very Respectfully,



Christopher J. Geier

**CHARLES B. MACLOSKIE**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

August 2, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Judge  
Post Office Box 835  
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

**RE: UNITED STATES vs. CORY H. FLEMING**

Dear Judge Gergel:

I have known Cory's family since 1967 and have known Cory since he started practicing law with Jim Moss, I believe, sometime in the 1990's. My relationship with Cory has been mostly professional and infrequently social. Corey has been a remarkably skilled lawyer and I have associated him in accident and worker's compensation cases. He was industrious diligent and completely ethical and protective of our mutual clients' interests in everything he did with me. His value to the practice of law and his reputation for honesty were without blemish until the recent events which place him before you for sentencing.

My knowledge of those events is insufficient for meaningful comment. But, his involvement in anything dishonest defies my ability to explain.

Such conduct is completely contrary to my experience with Cory and to his otherwise excellent reputation as a decent and honest man and a very skilled lawyer.

By admitting his responsibility for his actions and accepting the consequences for such he has taken the first steps toward rehabilitating his place in community life as a useful and constructive citizen and restoring his reputation as a decent, honest man.

Page 2  
August 2, 2023  
Judge Gergel letter

He has a strong and faithful support system in some very close friends with whom he maintains frequent and positive contact. He is loyal to them and they remain loyal to him.

He has always been, and continues to be, dedicated to his close and extended family and those family members remain dedicated to him.

Those who know Cory have faith in his ability to learn all that this part of his life has to teach and, as a result, come out of this better and stronger and better able to resume his position as a very useful member of our community.

Cory has already shown a strong potential for complete rehabilitation, a deep sense of remorse and willingness to make amends as best he can. Please show Cory and his family the merciful side of justice imposing upon him the shortest possible sentence of confinement.

With respectful regards, I am

Sincerely,



Charles B. Macloskie

CBM/tmt

To:  
The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

8/3/23

RE: Sentencing of Corey Fleming

From:  
Kevin O. Green Sr. BS,PTA,MLDT-CDT,ARS SLPTA license #0948  
Partner at Carolina SportsCare and Physical Therapy, Beaufort, SC x 27 years  
United States Navy Veteran 1988-1998 (Gulf War Veteran) 8404 Medical Corpsman Fleet Marine Forces  
Ironman Triathlon Coach  
International Sports Science Assn:  
Tactical Fitness Instructor  
Personal Trainer  
Volunteer Activities/ Organizations  
American Red Cross:  
Disaster Shelter Manager x 27 years (current)  
Professional Rescuer CPR / First Aid Instructor x 33 years (current)  
YMCA Board Member (current)  
Scouts of America Committee Chairman, Outdoor Coordinator, Webmaster 2010-2018  
Eagle Councilor / Coach  
Father of 1 Son Kevin Green Jr. (Now 24)

Contact Information:



The Honorable Richard Gergel,

My name is Kevin O.Green of Beaufort SC. I am an owner and clinician at Carolina SportsCare and Physical Therapy, as well as community volunteer in various organizations. I have listed my background and credentials above so as not to distract from my words that I have written on behalf of Corey and his family. I have known Corey Fleming and his entire family for 27 years. I know Corey as a Father, Husband, Friend, Athlete and Attorney. My intent with this letter is to express my support and love for Corey and his family. I understand the seriousness of the charges against him, but stand in support of he and his family regardless of the outcome.

As stated above I have known Corey and his family for 27 years. I remember when Corey and Eve got married, and the start of their family. I have sat with Corey and Eve at countless swim meets, triathlons, 5Ks, and Scouting meetings. I have enjoyed watching Jack and Quinn over the years growing, going on to college, and preparing for the next stages in their lives. All along this route I have watched Corey and Eve's commitment to their family and unconditional love they have for their children. I have seen both Corey and Eve as examples of exemplary parenting over the years and have attempted to mirror their example with my own son. Their has never been a moment that the pride they feel for their children has not shown when they discuss them. I count myself fortunate to have such great examples of parents to emulate. I have witnessed countless examples of kindness and generosity by Corey to others, organizations and their families. One that stands out are Corey's words to young athletes after events. He generously gives accolades to all participants regardless of their skill level. These unconditional acts of kindness are one of the things I most respect about Corey. To me it shows the willingness to raise others.

I know Corey through his commitment to the community. Regularly attending community fundraisers, races, serving on local boards and just being willing to help at all times. What has most impressed me in the last few years even as this case came to light was that Corey and his family never retracted from helping the community. They were here, "in it" and committed to the community, knowing that their presence here makes a difference in all of the events that take place here in this place we call home. Home needs care, home needs presence, home needs people like the Flemings to grow and stay strong. Through it all Corey and his family remain exemplary members of the community.

On a more personal note. I was awarded full custody of My son in 2001. Corey was my initial consultation as an attorney. He served as council, councilor and friend. The advice that he provided to me and the example he set as a parent was irreplaceable. One of the lessons I have learned from watching, and listening to Corey is that there is always room for forgiveness. That lesson served me well over the years as a parent, professional and athlete. The love and respect I have for Corey and Eve to care for me and my family at that most difficult time (and after) moves me to be here for them without exception and with unconditional love.

Page 1 of 2

In conclusion, what I know of Corey and his family through my 27 years of interacting with him, personally, professionally, athletically, and with community service activities, is one of a person that I love, respect and am proud to call friend. My hope in this letter is that The Honorable Judge Gergel sees how much the community of Beaufort, Corey's family, and my family need his continued example and leadership in our town and lives. With that I hope that The Honorable Judge Gergel would consider leniency with sentencing.

It's with respect to the court that I offer my personal feelings regarding Corey Fleming and his family. Thank you Judge Gergel for the opportunity to share my history with you about Corey Fleming and his caring nature. I hope my words have properly conveyed my intent to support Corey and his family.

I am at the service of the court in any way that I can assist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.O. Green Sr.", followed by the date "8/3/23". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin O. Green Sr.  
Beaufort, SC  
Date: 8/3/23

Contact Information:  
133 Baynard Rd.  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
843-441-4482C / 843-521-1970 W  
Email: Kogpta@gmail.com

Page 2 of 2

Dear Judge Gergel,

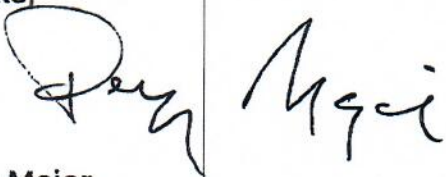
I'd like to make an introduction to this letter by making a mention that I am single father of a special-needs parent and now also serve as I his guardian. Cory Fleming worked unconditional care attention with me in achieving the safety and the life direction for my son in obtaining guardian status. Cory is my brother-in-law of 20+ years.

With the highest level of sincerity, I want to express the positive impact Cory Fleming has had on the lives of my family, to my kids, to his community simply remains invaluable.

From the Upstate SC of where I live, his fellow contemporaries, attorneys, friends of families and in general....as a collective, there has been no shortage of them that have made mention of the high character and professionalism in which Cory carries himself and continues to throughout this process and remains to do so under scrutiny of challenges he has faced.

In the world of real estate, we work with referrals through our own clients, as well as friends and families. Cory's timing is no different than a large majority of the business community that we all work in, within the state of South Carolina. We need the Cory Fleming's of the world to remain constant in our lives whether it's working with our peers and/or friends and family or the kindness displayed time and time again with unconditional care and help he gives to those in need. There's none I know of with higher integrity that represents someone that should stay in constant presence of our lives.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Major". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Perry Major

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge P. O. Box 835 Charleston, SC 29402  
Re: Sentencing hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to submit this letter for your consideration as you impose a sentence for Cory H. Fleming. I have had the privilege of knowing Cory since 2009, and I am eager to share my insights about his character and the positive impact he has had on our community.

I first met Cory at the Beaufort-Jasper YMCA, where our mutual passion for competitive running and physical fitness brought us together. Over the years, we participated in numerous local running events, forging a strong bond based on our shared interests and values. As the Healthy Living Director at the Beaufort YMCA, I had the opportunity to witness firsthand Cory's dedication to our organization. He, along with his family, has been a founding member of our YMCA, and his commitment to its success has been unwavering.

Cory's involvement extended beyond mere membership; he served on the Y's Board of Directors for five years and even assumed the role of Board Chair during his tenure. Not only did he generously contribute his time and expertise to our YMCA, but he also extended his financial support to our causes. For the past eight years, I have overseen the Y's River Swim, our signature fundraiser for the learn-to-swim program. Cory, together with his daughter, took part in the challenging 3.2-mile swim, and when I approached him for sponsorship, he readily agreed to support our worthy cause.

In addition to the YMCA's Learn to Swim fundraiser, I could always count on Cory to sponsor and actively participate in a running event I chaired for Beaufort Academy's Parent Association. His generosity was not limited to financial contributions; he went out of his way to help others. I can attest to this personally, as I am a single mother of three sons. There have been times when I relied on Cory's expertise to fix various household issues, and he never hesitated to lend a hand. One vivid example is when my outdoor shower pipe froze and started spraying water everywhere on Christmas morning. Despite the holiday festivities, Cory was there to help me fix the pipe in the freezing weather without a moment's hesitation.

Furthermore, Cory has been a guiding figure in the lives of my sons. He has been a mentor, providing them with support, advice, and an empathetic ear when they needed someone to confide in. His genuine care and interest in their well-being have made him a beloved figure in

our lives, leading my sons and me to affectionately refer to him as "Uncle Cory," despite not being related by blood.

Cory's character is one of unwavering generosity, acts of kindness, and a strong sense of responsibility towards his family, friends, and community. He has consistently demonstrated his commitment to making a positive impact, and his contributions have left a lasting mark on the lives of many.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you consider the information provided in this letter when determining Cory's sentence. I believe that his actions and the genuine goodwill he has shown throughout the years are a testament to his character. I kindly ask for your leniency, mercy, or grace in this matter, as I firmly believe that Cory's positive qualities should be considered during the sentencing process.

Thank you, Judge Gergel, for taking the time to read this letter and for your thoughtful consideration of my concerns and thoughts about Cory Fleming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denice Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Denice Davis



JOHNSON & DAVIS, PA  
ATTORNEYS

BARRY L. JOHNSON\*  
HUTSON S. DAVIS, JR. \*\*  
W. LAMAR JOHNSON, II  
MANNING R. CATHCART



\* Certified S.C. Mediator and Arbitrator  
\*\* Certified S.C. Mediator

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
US District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel:

I am writing you with the hope that something I write might give you cause to look favorably on Cory Fleming when you exercise your judicial duty of imposing sentence on him. I have known Cory Fleming and his family since Cory was about three years old. I lived in the same apartment complex with them when I was in Law School. I "babysat" Cory on occasion when his Mom and Dad had night classes. Since that time I was pleased to follow Cory as he grew into a fine young man. I know personally of the high moral and ethical family life in which he was raised. His parents are dear friends of mine and I would consider him to be that also. His family as well as I were so pleased when he became an attorney and began to practice in Beaufort. Cory and I practiced in different areas of the law so I did not interact with him much professionally. I did refer several of my clients and friends to him when the situation required. I do know that his reputation with the bar prior to the current issues with which you are now involved was excellent. Due to his and his lovely family's involvement in the community and his church, Cory was well thought of and admired. I would imagine that many people still hold Cory in high esteem as do I.

I do not know anything more about the issues before you than I have read or heard. I have not spoken about them with Cory or any of his representatives. I do believe that, at worst, Cory is a good and decent man who may have succumbed to a very unfortunate lapse of judgement for which he has already paid very dearly. Knowing his character as I do, I cannot imagine what he may be going through in his ownership of his actions. Whatever his involvement in the current legal issues are, Cory Fleming knows better than anyone else the hurt and disappointment he has brought to those who know him, love him and who he loves back. He has lost the profession he worked so hard to attain and the reputation he had within that profession. It is arguable that he cannot be punished more than he has been already but, I realize that his plea will exact a price.

As you consider your sentence for Cory, I would urge you to be mindful that a debt to society can be paid in many ways. Cory Fleming is a relatively young man. I believe that this

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
US District Judge  
August 1, 2023  
Page 2

chapter in his life will lead him into another one in which he has so much to give and share to the benefit of others. The Cory Fleming I know will come out of this with the same dedication to his family and his community that he has always had. Society will be very well compensated.

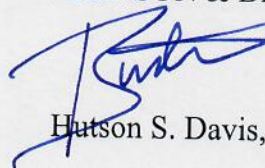
I know you to be a fair and impartial Judge. I simply ask that you consider the circumstances of Cory Fleming, his acceptance of his fault, his assumption of responsibility in a cooperative and truthful fashion. I request that when considering the deprivation of Cory's liberty, you be as lenient as possible knowing that he is still the good and decent man I described and, one day he will prove it again.

Thank you Your Honor for the privilege of offering these thoughts for the benefit of my friend, Cory Fleming.

With highest personal regards,

Very truly yours,

JOHNSON & DAVIS, PA



Hutson S. Davis, Jr.

HSD/dac

## HARVEY W. MCCORMICK, III

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Sentencing hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

I respectfully submit this letter for the Court's consideration on imposing a sentence for Cory H. Fleming. I have known Cory since we were in law school together in the early 1990's. I also practiced with Cory at the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitors office after law school and have been a friend and colleague of Cory's for the last thirty (30) years. I am familiar with Cory on a professional and personal level. Further, our children went to school together at Beaufort Academy and remain close.

Professionally, Cory's reputation as a knowledgeable and zealous advocate was well known throughout the state. He was always generous with his time for other attorneys, myself included, who looked to him for counsel and advice.

Away from the practice of law, Cory is known for his dedication to his family. It was rare to attend an event in which his children were involved that he was not present and supportive. He was also active in community events particularly when they involved any type of fitness.

I ask that you take the positive influence that Cory has had on his community and family into consideration in making your decision and grant some mercy to him.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



Harvey W. McCormick, III

Sarah B. Major

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

Subject: Character Letter for Cory Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel,

I am writing to express my strong support for my brother-in-law, Cory Fleming. My name is Sarah Major. I am writing this letter to offer my perspective on the remarkable individual that Cory is and to provide insights into his exceptional qualities as a devoted husband, father, community member, volunteer, and friend.

First and foremost, Cory has shown unwavering commitment and love for his family. As a father, he has displayed extraordinary dedication to his children, Quinn and Jack Fleming. Quinn recently achieved Summa Cum Laude honors upon graduating from Wofford University, which is a testament to Cory's nurturing and supportive parenting. Jack, his younger son, is a rising Junior at Wofford, further reflecting Cory's guidance and influence. Cory's role as a husband to his wife, Eve Fleming, has been equally impressive. Their strong and loving partnership is evident to all who know them, and their relationship has been a source of inspiration to me.

My husband and I faced the critical decision of designating guardianship for our child, Birdie who is now 4 years old, and we selected Cory and Eve as the individuals we trust wholeheartedly. Their exemplary parenting and unwavering dedication to their own children provided us with the utmost confidence in their ability to care for and guide our child should the need ever arise. This decision was made with the utmost consideration and reflects the profound respect and trust we have for Cory's character and values.

I have always been particularly struck by Cory and Eve's generosity and open-heartedness, one of the many reasons we decided on them as guardians. One example that exemplifies this is their hosting of a foreign exchange student from Italy for over a year in their home and welcoming her into their family. By providing a nurturing and supportive environment, Cory and Eve left a positive impact on this young woman's life. They are like that with everyone they meet and are truly wonderful people!

Additionally, Cory's involvement in community service underscores his commitment to making a positive impact. Since 2021, after being unable to practice law, he has dedicated his time and efforts to Habitat for Humanity, an organization that exemplifies his selflessness and desire to

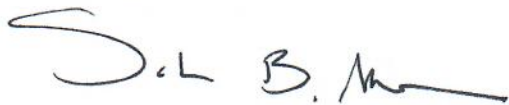
better the lives of others. His contributions to the YMCA Board further showcase his dedication to community development and well-being. Cory's active role as a supporter of the YMCA demonstrates his sincere belief in fostering strong, healthy, and thriving communities.

One of the most telling aspects of Cory's character is his love for his community in Beaufort. He possesses a deep sense of connection and responsibility for the well-being of those around him. His willingness to engage in meaningful volunteer work and his constant support for local initiatives illustrate his genuine care for the people and places that define the community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly vouch for Cory Fleming's integrity, compassion, and dedication to family. I am privileged to know him and to have witnessed firsthand the positive impact he has on the lives of those around him. I kindly request that you take my testimony into account when considering Cory's character and contributions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah B. Major". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah B. Major

Dear Honorable Richard Gergel

My name is Cathy Molina. I am happy to tell you about my good friend Cory Fleming. I first met Cory shortly after he graduated law school. Soon after he and his wife Eve asked me to be their house keeper. I gladly accepted. I have worked for them for 25 years. He has always been a good, Charitable person.

When Eve announced she was pregnant he was just beside himself. We were all very happy. I soon found myself babysitting. They are a committed happy family.

I was at their home at least once a week.

Holidays were just wonderful. Cory enjoyed doing the cooking. Everyone was invited, including my family. They have always treated me as part of the family.

Cory has always been very appreciative and considerate to me.

If I was there when he came home from work, he would give me a hug and made me feel important.

Cory is a wonderful man who would help anyone in need.

He is down to earth and has never been one to put on airs. This is just one of the many things I love about him.

He is a great son, husband and father and I am proud to call him my friend.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Molina

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

My name is Sara Oakley. I have been a friend of Cory Fleming's mother, Caroline Cory Coslick, for many years. We have taught school, traveled, and shared family time together. Cory and his family have been present at many special events at Caroline's home. He has always been kind and polite to my family and other guests.

Cory has been an active member of our community in Beaufort. He has been a good father to his two children and has taken pride in their education and activities. Cory has been a good husband to his wife, Eve. He is a hard worker and wants to develop a new career to support the family.

I believe that Cory has shown regret for his actions. My husband and I strongly hope that the Court will grant leniency in his sentencing.

Yours truly,

Sara Oakley

August 3, 2023

The Honorable Richard Bergen  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, S.C. 29402

Dear Judge Bergen,

Cory Fleming has volunteered with me at the building site at Habitat for Humanity for almost two years.

Besides being an accomplished Carpenter Cory is prompt, listens, works with all skill levels of volunteers and is extremely knowledgeable in various construction areas. His volunteering has helped Habitat complete two homes for needy families.

Cory brings kindness, talent and humor to the work site. He is a true asset to my volunteer team.

Sincerely,

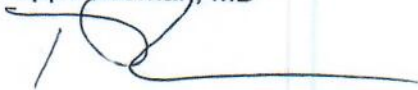
Ann DeLo

To Honorable Richard Gergel

Your Honor,

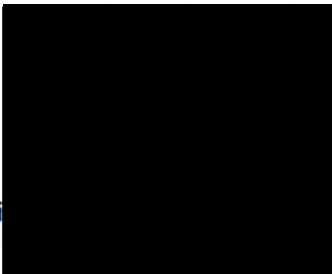
I have known Cory since we were children. His mother Caroline is my Godmother and our families have been close throughout my life. Cory is without a doubt one of the kindest and friendliest people I have ever known. His children, wife, friends and anyone who ever encountered him would agree. I have many friends who are attorneys and the thing that stands out to me about Cory and the tragedy of this situation is that I can honestly say I've never met anyone with as much passion for the practice of law as Cory. Fortunately, that passion is typical of everything he does. Without question, I believe that he will transfer that passion and commitment to whatever the next endeavor in life holds for him. I ask that you consider this and grant leniency with his sentence. In closing, Cory Fleming is at his core a good man and one who could be a force of good for his community and society in general if afforded the opportunity.

Respectfully,  
D. Tupper Iseman, MD

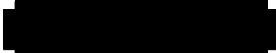
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Tupper Iseman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



Earning Trust - Building Relationships



Jay Taylor  
Kinghorn Insurance Agency of Beaufort



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard M. Gergel  
United States District Court Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Sentencing hearing for Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

I respectfully submit the following for the Court's consideration on imposing a sentence for Cory H. Fleming. I have known Cory and his family for approximately 25 years, 18 of which as neighbors. Our children have grown up together, we have vacationed together, and to date continue to spend a good deal of time together.

Over the years I have witnessed Cory as a loving father, faithful husband and committed friend. I have even modeled certain aspects of my parenting after observations from dealings with his children, including a foreign exchange student for 2 years. Mr. Fleming has also been a business leader, active and visible in community-minded organizations. Being in the insurance business, Cory and I have had many spirited but friendly conversations that have led me to a greater understanding of the law and have helped me develop better day to day practices for my clients. Cory has also been very active in a men's bible study in which I am also a member. Participation in and dedication to this bible study has led to a tremendous visible transformation. Through this ordeal, I have witnessed Cory be humbled, regretful for past actions, and become much more introspective and focused on things that truly matter in life.

In conclusion, I ask that you take these attributes into consideration when sentencing Mr. Fleming, as I ask for your leniency and mercy.

Thank you in advance your honor, for your consideration of my concerns and thoughts about Cory Fleming.

Sincerely,

Jay Taylor

Christopher W. Lempesis, Sr.

August 7, 2023

Honorable Judge Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Re: Cory Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel:

Shakespeare in the play, "Julius Caesar," said that the good that men do is often interred in their bones. He made reference to humanity's tendency to dwell on our mistakes. I think of Shakespeare's quote every time I see or hear a news article about Cory Fleming.

I have only known Cory for about two years but in that time, I have watched him as he interacted with his family, his friends, and especially my grandchildren. Cory is a gentle and sensitive individual who cares for people. As you deliberate on Cory's fate, I beg you to consider the good that he has done.

Sincerely,



Christopher W. Lempesis, Sr.

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergal  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

To The Honorable Richard Gergal,

I am writing to you regarding my family friend, Cory Fleming. I have known Cory for almost 30 years. His parents and my mother knew each other when he and my brother were infants in Columbia, SC. I met Cory when he and my brother were roommates after college in Beaufort. From day one, Cory has always been one of the most kind hearted people that I knew. As I got older, I kept up with Cory through my brother and his mother mostly. I saw how he became a supporting husband and loving father. He has always been there for his family throughout the years.

I was gone from Beaufort for many years, but when I returned, it was great to be reunited with Cory and his wonderful wife, Eve. He continues to be a generous and loving person. When I disclosed to him that my mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he sat there and cried. The next day he called her to make plans to meet for lunch. It made my mom's day for them to catch up and spend time together. It may not seem like a lot, but it meant so much to her. This is just one example of how kind hearted Cory is.

As I close this letter, I am asking that this court take this information into consideration. Please listen to all sides of his story and what his family and friends have to say about him.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shera Gibson Loveless". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shera Gibson Loveless

**Charles S. (Rip) Major III**

August 2, 2023

**The Honorable Richard Gergel**

U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Honorable Judge Gergel:

I am writing to you on behalf of my brother-in-law, Cory Fleming. We are very fortunate to have Cory as a member of our family. My parents, siblings, their children have all been the beneficiaries of Cory's help at some point in time.

He's my brother-in-law, my friend, my inspiration and my advisor. I've witnessed his caring and generous nature over decades. He's passionate about his family, his friends and his community. Even before his involvement in building houses for Habitat for Humanity, Cory has never been one to steer away from hard work, beginning with manual labor jobs in his teen years. I've witnessed the respect he has for those regardless of station in life. I have found him to be a man of high character, empathetic, and always willing to help. I will be forever grateful for what he has done for me through the health and lay-off challenges that I've incurred.

During my visits to Beaufort, it is easy to see that their home is an extension of Cory. It is filled with hospitality, but it has also served as a sanctuary for some in transition...one of his children's friends looking for mentorship and an opportunity for those who can't find employment....a client of his wife's looking for any type of work. I am truly proud of his son and daughter who carry the social conscience that he exhibits.

I submit this letter to ask for leniency for Cory and that the Court will take its content into consideration.

Thank You,



Rip Major



08/07/2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O Box 835  
Charleston S.C. 29402

Subject: Character Reference for Cory Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide a character reference for my brother-in-law, Cory Fleming, who is currently before your court. My name is Edmund Major, and I have had the privilege of knowing Cory for many years as a family member and close friend.

Cory Fleming is a remarkable individual who has consistently demonstrated his commitment to his family, community, and personal growth. Cory is married to my sister, Eve Fleming, and they are parents to two wonderful children, Jack and Quinn. Jack is a rising junior at Wofford College, and Quinn is a recent Wofford graduate with honors. Cory's dedication to his role as a father and husband is unparalleled; he consistently goes above and beyond to support and nurture his family.

In fact, Cory and Eve's parenting skills are so commendable that my wife and I have made provisions in the event of an unforeseen accident, entrusting Cory and Eve with the responsibility of raising our own daughter, Birdie, who is currently four years old. This decision is a testament to the deep trust and respect we hold for Cory's integrity and capabilities as a loving and responsible guardian.

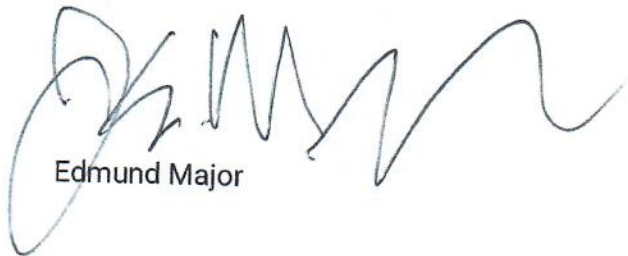
Cory's involvement in his community is also noteworthy. He has been an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, donating his time and skills to help provide safe and affordable housing for those in need. Additionally, Cory's pursuit of a contracting license through his educational endeavors underscores his determination to improve himself both personally and professionally. He believes in continuous learning and using his knowledge to contribute positively to society.

Having witnessed Cory's character and actions firsthand, I have no doubt that he is a person of high moral fiber and unwavering commitment to doing what is right. His actions consistently reflect his values of honesty, hard work, and compassion.

I humbly request that you consider Cory's character and his contributions to his family and community when making your decision. Cory is not only a devoted family man but also a responsible and compassionate member of society who is actively working to better himself and the lives of those around him.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you require any further information or if there is an opportunity for me to speak on Cory's behalf, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Edmund Major

July 26, 2023

Hon. Richard Gergel  
U. S. District  
Post Office Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

RE: Cory Fleming

Dear Sir:

I am Anne Darby Mobley and I worked for Cory Fleming at the Law Offices of Moss & Kuhn, PA as a paralegal when he first started working for the law office. Cory was always hard working, honest, and very caring for his clients and personnel. He took his time preparing for his cases which consisted mainly of criminal cases and some civil cases. I found him to be ethical, sincere, and honest. I worked with several different attorneys at that law firm, but Cory always stood above anyone else. I watched him grow in his practice and as a family man. I never saw Cory cut corners with his work and, if he told you he was going to do something for you or a client, he always came through.

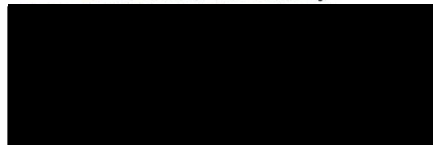
He has always been a good friend and I have always been proud to know him. He is a good father, husband, and is well liked in our community.

I am asking you to take this information into your consideration and that you show him leniency, mercy or grace.

Thank you,



Anne Darby Mobley



The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

August 4, 2023

Judge Richard Gergel,

This letter is in support of Cory Fleming. I have known Cory's Mom, Caroline, since we attended grade school together and were cheerleaders in both middle and high school. We have remained the best of friends. The Fleming family is highly respected in our community. We got to know Cory when we moved back to Beaufort after my husband retired from the US Air Force after 28 years as a pilot.

We worked out at the YMCA with both Cory and his wife, Eve. We admired and respected Cory's dedication to keeping fit. We would see him jogging around Beaufort to stay in shape as well as working hard at the YMCA. He volunteered his time and effort to help run the YMCA; he even served as its president. He is well thought of and was trusted with running a successful program. He is a dedicated family man, actively involved and very concerned about his children's education. I am a retired high school teacher, and I remember one time Cory and I had a long conversation regarding how proud he was of his son, Jack's accomplishments.

We are asking the court for leniency in sentencing Cory Flemming. He is a good man, and the Beaufort community would miss his strength.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectively,



Henrietta M. Bayne



Lt. Colonel Howard L. Bayne III

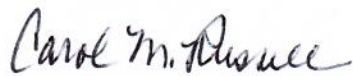
The Honorable Richard Gergen  
U. S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergen,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Cory Fleming, a long time and valued friend.

Cory has been an asset to his community, as well as a generous and kind gentleman. I have known him to be a devoted son, husband and father. I humbly request leniency for Cory and pray that the court takes this information into consideration.

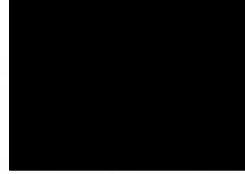
Respectfully,



Carol M. Russell



Charles Webb



The Honorable Richard Gergel

U.S. District Judge

P.O. Box 835

Charleston SC 29402

Re. Cory Fleming

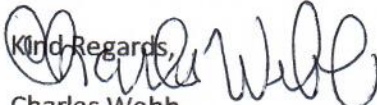
Dear Judge Gergel:

It is my understanding that you will be the presiding judge at an upcoming hearing for Corey Fleming.

I have known Corey and his Family since they moved to Beaufort . He has always impressed me as a caring husband and father . As a father of four wonderful children and nine grandchildren myself I feel now more than ever the strong need for a close and loving family unit to contend with all that children are exposed to in these trying times.

It is for this reason that I urge leniency in your deliberations that will allow Corey to continue as the Loving Father and Husband and practice care and healing that will result in the best outcome for all.

I thank you for your time and consideration .

Kind Regards,  
  
Charles Webb

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, S.C. 29402

August 8, 2023

Re: Cory H. Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel,

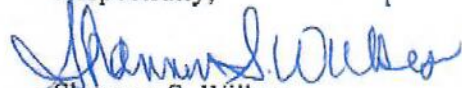
Please accept this letter as a positive character reference on behalf of my friend Cory Fleming.

I met Cory and his wife, Eve, in 1998 when I moved to Beaufort, S.C. I worked as Cory's paralegal for two and a half years while living in Beaufort. At that time, Cory was a relatively new attorney, and I was a new paralegal. Through working together we learned a lot from each other and developed a positive and open working relationship where he treated me like a colleague, rather than his Paralegal. Cory always treated his me and his clients with the utmost respect, compassion, and kindness. He made sure I knew that I was a valued part of his law practice.

Since leaving Cory's law firm, we have remained close friends. I am also close friends with his wife, Eve, and have followed his children since they were born. I was still working with Cory when his oldest daughter, Quinn, was born. He is a loving and supportive husband and father. I have witnessed first-hand the devotion that he has for his children.

Throughout our friendship over the last twenty-five years, I have never questioned Cory's integrity, generosity, or kindness. I understand he made a mistake in this case. I am proud of Cory for taking responsibility for his actions. I pray that you will take mercy on Cory when imposing a sentence.

Respectfully,



Shannon S. Wilkes  
Hartsville, SC

To: The Honorable Judge Richard Gergel

August 5, 2023

My name is Hi Williams I am a 73 year old retired Educator. I live in Beaufort SC and I have known Cory Fleming all of his life. I respect that Cory has accepted responsibility and pleaded guilty for his mistake. I am writing to give you a glimpse of Cory's life. I sincerely believe he is a far better person than the offense he pleaded guilty to would indicate.

Cory is an only child and was raised by a loving mother and father. His mother is an Educator and his father is a Chemical Engineer. Unfortunately, when he was in high school his parents divorced. However, Cory continued with his education and sports at Benedictine Military School in Savannah, GA. Despite dealing the challenges of a split family, he continued to be a high achiever, emotionally, academically, and in sports. After high school he graduated from the University of South Carolina earning a law degree.

After receiving his law degree, he moved to Beaufort where he began work with the Solicitor's Office, and then with a local prominent law firm. He and his wife Eve were married shortly after this. My husband Jim introduced him to Rotary soon after that and he became a member of the Sea Island Rotary Club.

Cory has a very strong work ethic. When he lost his law license he immediately started preparing for a new career. He is very concerned about his family, which now includes a daughter who just graduated from college and a son who is currently a Junior at Wofford. To better prepare for the future Cory has enrolled in classes at Lowcountry Technical College and currently volunteers for many different organizations in Beaufort.

I know Cory made a serious mistake and deserves to receive punishment. But deep down in my heart I know he is a good person who can be a productive and positive influence in our community in the future. Please consider this letter in your sentencing decision.

Respectfully,

*Hi Williams*

Hi Williams



The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U. S. District Court  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

August 7, 2023

Re: Cory H Fleming

Dear Judge Gergel,

I have known Cory H. Fleming for almost 30 years. He had just moved to Beaufort, working at the Solicitor's office and I was a mortgage banker in town. I rented from him in downtown Beaufort and we spent our free time hunting and fishing and became fast friends. Cory was a groomsman in my wedding and I was in his wedding. Cory, has always been a driven hard worker, a loyal friend and someone that I looked up to. He loved volunteering in the community with Rotary and with the YMCA. He is a devoted father and family man and one of the most caring people I know. I am writing this letter to ask the court to show leniency and mercy when sentencing Cory.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHG', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher H Gibson

3 August 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
Vs District Judge  
PO Box 835

Cory Flemming and I crossed paths when we both swam on the Parris Island Masters Swim Team. He was a fun and considerate team member, always cheering on others. He was always willing to swim any event that Coach Dick Fellers asked of him. He and his wife often hosted team parties in their home. He welcomed all of us with cheerful inclusion. He was a new father at that time and I saw first hand the joy he had in having his daughter in his life.

I ask you and the court to take his total life into account at this time.

Respectfully,  
Kristy Plouck Wood

August 6, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P. O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Honorable Judge Richard Gergel,

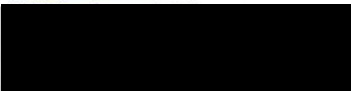
I am writing this letter in reference to my friend Mr. Cory Fleming. I first met Cory at the YMCA in Beaufort, SC where I was a cycling instructor. Cory, his wife Eve and their daughter Quinn were regulars in my classes. Throughout my 16 years at the YMCA, I have always found Cory to be an excellent person, volunteering his time, honest, kind, giving sacrificially, a solid family man and a very involved father.

In 2011, when our eldest son was violently attacked in his home, Cory offered to help us walk through the overwhelming process we would be facing in court with 5 offenders. Never once did Cory ask anything in return, he simply saw our anguish and he gave of his time and talents freely. He was a true Godsend to our family!

I saw Cory at the YMCA after his charges, he was humble and said, "This has taught me things about myself that I didn't know I needed to know." There was not one ounce of pride or denial verbalized, only sorrow and remorse. I very humbly ask Your Honor, if possible, to show leniency when sentencing Mr. Fleming. I sincerely thank you for taking this into your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Lisa O'Brien



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

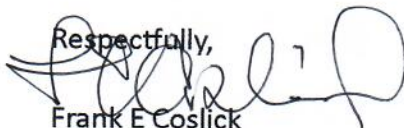
My name is Frank Coslick and Cory Fleming is my Stepson. I cannot address Cory's childhood years since his Mother, Caroline, and I were married some thirty-four years ago and Cory was at that time in his undergraduate years at USC in Columbia. I can, however, attest to the hard work and effort that he put forth in completing his undergraduate studies, law school, passing the bar exam and developing a successful law practice in Beaufort. That's a lot of water under the bridge, but over that period of time, one can learn a lot about a person's character and drive. Cory can have fun and enjoy life but he also knows the hard work and effort necessary to achieve ones goals. I have not been disapointed in what I have seen from him; Cory maturing from that young student to the accomplished man he is today. Serving his clients to the best of his ability.

A major highlight in our lives was when he married Eve Major Fleming and blessed us with two wonderful children, a daughter, Quinn and a son, Jack. Family means everything to Cory and his love and devotion to his family are exceptional. He certainly is a loving and faithful husband, but parenting is where he shines. He is always there for them to provide support and guidance, giving that positive influence that has helped to positively shape their lives.

Cory has always been a very outgoing individual, developing friendships easily. Understandably, the rest of the family does as well. When the children were younger, the Fleming home was a constant flow of neighborhood children in and out. Even now, the children's high school and college friends stop by to visit and catch up. The Fleming home is a welcoming place. A place where extended family and friends can gather for holidays, special occasions or to just watch a ball game on TV and share good food and company. Friends have always been very important; those that have been developed professionally as well as casually. Cory is a very giving individual to not only his friends and family, but also to his community and clients. He has served on several civic minded organizations and volunteered time and talents to others. The recent support the Cory family have received in return from their friends and community is a tribute to how much they have appreciated the friendship they had received.

Judge Gergel, I would hope that the information provided to you in this letter and others recently received would be given due consideration in your deliberations on the fate of Cory.

Respectfully,



Frank E Coslick

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel

U.S. District Judge

P.O. Box 835

Charleston, SC 29402


Your Honor, Judge Gergel,

My name is Tre Couturier and I am writing on behalf of Cory Fleming. I recognize the seriousness of his offense but would like to offer you a glimpse of the person that I have known for the last 35 years.

I have known Cory since we attended undergraduate college at USC as a classmate, fraternity brother and since then, a lifelong family friend. In my experience, I have always known Cory to be loyal and true to his moral beliefs and in everything he sets his mind to and with everyone he meets. He is a passionate athlete and an even more loving, married father of two. I have known him to be a humble husband yet also proud of his family, his wife, Eve and their two children, all while balancing a challenging career and community service. I have known Cory to be fair and responsible and witnessed him to be the first to offer compassion with the courage to stand up for those in need.

In conclusion, I recognize this is a serious offense and understand that Cory has taken responsibility for it. I would ask the court to please consider, with respect to your sentencing, the lifelong strengths and character of the whole person to help balance any human weakness or shortcomings and ask grace for Cory and his family.

Respectfully,

  
Tre Couturier

**Cory Fleming**

Louisa Dargan <louisa.dargan@gmail.com>

Sat 8/5/2023 2:05 PM

To:Deborah Barbier <dbb@deborahbarbier.com>

August 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
PO Box 835  
Charleston, SC 29402

RE: Sentencing hearing for Cory Fleming/August 15, 2023

Dear Judge Gergel:

I have known Cory Fleming for most of his life and was married to his uncle (Albert H. Cory Jr.) for 14 years until his death. During this time we lived in Mount Pleasant and visited Mr. Cory's sister (Caroline Cory Coslick) and her husband frequently. I still have a close relationship with them. While in Beaufort we often saw Cory, his wife Eve, and their children Quinn and Jack. We had Christmas dinner at Cory and Eve's home several times.

This is a lovely family. I have always found Cory to be kind, respectful to others, friendly and hospitable. He has always been a good son, nephew to my husband, and exceptional husband and father.

I ask for leniency and mercy for Cory.

With best regards,

Louisa Freeman Dargan



W

John and Deidre Dickens



The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, S.C. 29402

Dear Honorable Gergel:

Please allow this letter to serve as a character reference for Cory Fleming. We first met Cory when we became across-the-street-neighbors with the Fleming family on Wilmington Island in Savannah. Cory was in grammar school. He and our son were the same age and became joined-at-the-hip friends. Our daughter was two years younger. The children were always in our home or the Flemings home. Cory's mother was like a second Mom to our children and we grew to love Cory like our own. He was a polite, respectful, and honest young man. His manners were impeccable. He was taught the old school ways of yes Mam and Sir. Cory was a very happy, outgoing, honest and well-adjusted young man. He, along with our children, participated in the Wilmington Island Sports Club, the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, the local church and community activities. Cory's parents, Rusty and Caroline were terrific and became our close friends. They were hands-on-parents who were attentive, kind and loving. Cory excelled in school and sports.

We sadly left Savannah for a career advancement. We have never lost touch with Cory, through college graduation, law school, marriage, his own parenting of two remarkable children and his exemplary work as a lawyer and a prosecutor. It has been evident that the family and life values he was taught were passed on to his family. He is a hands-on-Dad, a loving son, a loving and faithful husband and friend to many, We know there will be many letters and testimonies to Cory's character. We just pray that ours will be read and used for leniency in his sentencing.

Most Sincerely,

John Wolfley Dickens

Retired VP/Director of Environmental Safety  
& Health, Tidewater Construction Corp.

Deidre W. Dickens

Retired Guidance Counselor  
Nansemond-Suffolk Academy

To whom it may concern:

My name is Tim Duerden, our family have been very close friends of Rusty and Catherine Fleming for many years. I first met Cory in the summer of 2000 when he was present at the wedding of Rusty and Catherine here in Yorkshire in the UK. I was immediately struck by his friendly demeanour and enjoyed his company immensely.

Since then I have spent time with Cory on our frequent visits to Georgia. He is a keen sports fan, baseball being his favourite! It's fabulous to listen to him discuss 'America's Passtime' with his Father Rusty who coached him in the junior leagues.

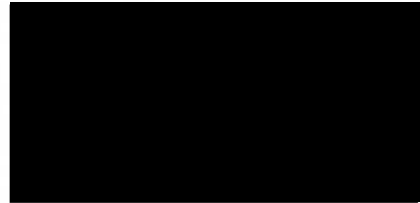
I have also been fortunate enough to attend sporting events, such as The Masters in Augusta with Cory. During such an event it was clear by his interactions, with people in his social and professional circles, that he is a well liked and respected member of the community, I wholeheartedly concur!

He is also a devoted husband to Eve, and a doting and loving father to Jack and Quinn. The children have grown into wonderful young people thanks to the love, support and guidance of their very special parents.

Yours sincerely

Tim AJ Duerden.

**Astor B. Fleming**



The Honorable Richard Gergel  
U. S. District Judge  
P.O. Box 835  
Charleston, S. C. 29402

Dear Judge Gergel,

Thank you Judge for considering my letter concerning my son Cory Fleming. There are many things I could say about my son to describe him as a father, son, and husband. He was raised with love, faith and the correct values of being a good citizen, a good father and someone who knows right from wrong. We all make mistakes in our lives. Some are worse mistakes than others. There is one thing that I am sure of, this nightmare in his life has made him a stronger man. How he has carried himself with his family, his friends, and his community is beyond admirable. I could not love him more or be prouder of the way he has conducted himself throughout this ordeal. When this is all over, he will come back to all of us having grown even more in fortitude and strength and be an even greater asset to the community. In closing, please take this letter into consideration and show mercy on my son. Please consider all the good things he has done previously in his profession and his community and what he can accomplish going forward.

Thank you again for allowing me to forward my thoughts to you.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Astor B. Fleming**

Delete Archive Report Reply Reply all Forward Read / Unread

Cory Fleming



CF Catherine Fleming <kittyfleming@att.net>  
To: Deborah Barbier



Mon 8/7/2023 3:39 PM

The Honourable Judge Gergel  
U.S. District Judge  
[P.O. Box 835](#)  
[Charleston, SC 29402](#)

Dear Judge Gergel,

Cory Fleming is my step son and I have been a part of his life and he mine for the last 24 years. I joined this family later in Cory's life and was embraced wholly and completely from day one. I know that cannot have been easy but says a great deal about him and his belief in the power of family.

A finer man, alongside his Father and my own, I do not know. He is a loving, involved, attentive, devoted and listening Father and a good, loyal, caring and respectful husband and son.

He fosters, encourages and participates in all his relationships and has lifelong friendships which says a lot about an individual. People seek his council. He is a generous man, especially with his time, and is always the first to offer a helping hand and to truly help in whatever way he can, no matter how big or small the request.

He has embraced fully community work with Habitat and I truly feel and see that he has gained much from that (if not more than) Habitat has gained from having him on their team.

A man of faith who attends a regular bible study group ( which has given him an even greater understanding of faith and a wonderful safe space to explore deeper questions ) and takes solace and healing in his daily devotionals.

I would humbly and respectfully ask you Judge Gergel to show leniency, Mercy and Grace on Cory Fleming who means the world to me and his family.

Thank you for your consideration  
Yours  
Catherine Fleming.

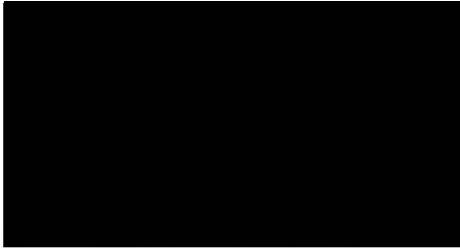
Sent from my iPhone

Reply

Forward

August 2, 2023

Joseph Barry Henson, Jr




TO: The Honorable Richard Gergel:

My name is Joseph B. Henson, Jr., aka Jody Henson, of Beaufort, South Carolina. I am writing to you about Cory Fleming, Esq, formerly of Moss, Kuhn and Fleming PA, Beaufort, South Carolina. I have known of Mr. Fleming, Cory, since birth due to having attended high school with his mother, a dear and close friend of my sister. However, I came to know Cory professionally through his standing within the Beaufort Law Community while I served as a Bailiff and Judicial Clerk for Beaufort County Clerk of Court, Jerri Ann Roseneau, from 2007 to 2021. During my years with the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, I had the opportunity to witness Cory's work.

I respect the fact that Cory has come forward to the court with his plea and I am writing this letter to offer a fuller picture of him in the eyes of an officer of the court and a friend. During my tenure with the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit and participation in any case Cory was involved in I found him to be a most professional individual and very respectful of the court and specific Judge while in session. Additionally, I assisted and worked with him through the office of the Clerk in properly handling the processing of legal documents in meeting state requirements. I personally considered him one of Beaufort's finest and most capable attorneys. Our age difference did not lead to very much social interaction, however, knowing his family we often enjoyed one another's brief company when running into each other. During my interactions with the Beaufort Bar Association, it was easy to see that many local attorney's shared my appreciation for Cory and his work.

I want to thank the court for taking the time to listen to me and would respectfully ask that these facts be weighed and considered in thoughts of leniency towards Cory. I am, and will be available, to confirm the facts of this letter should that be necessary.

Respectfully Submitted this Instant,

  
Joseph Barry Henson, Jr.  
Beaufort, South Carolina

Victoria Hill



The Honorable Richard Gergel

U.S. District Court

P.O. Box 835

Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Honorable Judge Gergel

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cory Fleming. I have known Cory for many years and in various capacities, business and personal. Cory is hard working, a wonderful father and husband, civic servant and excellent athlete. He has given back to his community in so many ways, too many to list here.

I understand this is not the best position for Cory to be in but I do believe he is truly remorseful for his actions and has already made positive changes to his life and those around him.

I would respectfully ask that you give heartfelt consideration in your decision for sentencing. And that you take all of the good that Cory has accomplished into consideration as well as all that he can contribute back to society.

Yours sincerely,

*Victoria Hill*

8/8/23

To the Court,

I have known Cory Fleming as a great friend, husband & father. Professionally he handled a personal injury case for me. I was hit by a man on a bicycle and had to have a skin graft. He was very caring and sweet to me. The case was settled quickly and with a good result.

Sincerely,  
Marta H. Perry

to whom it may concern,  
I'm known Corey to be  
a fabulous attorney. He has  
helped a number of my  
friends in cases and  
been honest and very  
caring. He has raised wonderful  
children and has a solid  
family behind him. I think  
he was caught up in a  
difficult situation with a  
childhood friend whose  
influence was criminal.  
I do not believe he would  
ever had done what he  
did without this criminal  
influence. This is not the  
Corey Aldman I know.  
Hulu.

**A Sampling of Sentences in South Carolina Cases**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Charge/Statute</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Background</b>
<i>U.S. v. David Kennealy</i> 6:19-cr-239-5 (Jul. 6, 2023)	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349.	3 years of probation and Ordered to pay \$76,052,564.00 in restitution.	Mr. Kennealy used the corporation Future Income Payments (FIP) as a vehicle for a nationwide Ponzi scheme, which caused more than \$310 million in losses to more than 2,500 retirees and had placed more than 13,000 veterans into exploitative loans.
<i>State v. John Courson</i> Apr. 30, 2023	Richland County General Sessions	Pled guilty to one count of misconduct in office	100 hours of community service	Former Senator John Courson pled guilty to taking \$159,000 from his campaign account and using for personal expenses on the advice of a prominent Republican political consultant at the center of the corruption investigation.
<i>State v. Tracy Edge</i> Apr. 30, 2023	Richland County General Sessions	Pled guilty to one count of a campaign finance violation	\$500 fine	Former Rep. Tracy Edge pled guilty to failing to report his campaign finances.
<i>US v. Stephen Byrne</i> 3:20-cr-00335 (Mar. 8, 2023)	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of 18 USC 371 conspiracy.	15 months imprisonment Fine of \$200,000	Former top executive at SCANA who defrauded investors and ratepayers in an \$11 billion dollar failed nuclear plant.
<i>State v. Collins,</i> 2017A1021000414 (Mar. 2, 2020)	Charleston County General Sessions	Pled guilty to Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value \$10,000 or more.	10 year suspended prison sentence and 5 years of probation.	Attorney David Athell Collins admitted that he stole \$450,000 from clients who hired him to help with a low-income housing project.

<i>US v. Lord</i> 3:22-CR-00768 Mar. 23, 2023	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 USC 1343	18 months imprisonment Fine of \$100,000	Attorney Ray Lord pleaded guilty for stealing \$1.5 million in COVID relief funding.
<i>US v. Joseph Hipp</i> 6:19-239-4 (Jan. 20, 2023)	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349.	3 years of probation and Ordered to pay \$305,494,594.63 in restitution.	Mr. Hipp used the corporation Future Income Payments (FIP) as a vehicle for a nationwide Ponzi scheme, which caused more than \$310 million in losses to more than 2,500 retirees and had placed more than 13,000 veterans into exploitative loans.
<i>U.S. v. Kraig Aiken</i> 6:19-239-4 (Jan. 20, 2023)	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349.	3 years of probation and Ordered to pay \$305,494,594.63 in restitution.	Mr. Aiken used the corporation Future Income Payments (FIP) as a vehicle for a nationwide Ponzi scheme, which caused more than \$310 million in losses to more than 2,500 retirees and had placed more than 13,000 veterans into exploitative loans.
<i>US v. Rodney Ellis</i> 3:22-cr-00443 (Sept. 26, 2022)	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.	33 months of imprisonment Ordered to pay \$812,259.07 in restitution.	Rodney Ellis was Chief Financial Officer of the Sumter Behavioral Health Services and he admitted to diverting funds from SBHS banking accounts to his own personal banking accounts.
<i>US v. Underwood</i> 0:19-cr-00420 July 12, 2022	U.S. District Court	Convicted at trial of conspiracy to violate federal law; and to commit federal program theft; deprivation of rights and wire fraud.	46 months of imprisonment	Chester County Sheriff George Underwood was convicted of conspiring to use his position to enrich himself by obtaining money to which he was not entitled; to cover up his misconduct; and to obstruct investigations into his misconduct.

<p><i>US v. Sprouse</i> 0:19-cr-00420 July 12, 2022</p>	<p>U.S. District Court</p>	<p>Convicted at trial of conspiracy to violate federal law; and to commit federal program theft; deprivation of rights and wire fraud.</p>	<p>46 months of imprisonment</p>	<p>Chester County Sheriff Chief Deputy Robert Sprouse was convicted of conspiring to use his position to enrich himself by obtaining money to which he was not entitled; to cover up his misconduct; and to obstruct investigations into his misconduct.</p>
<p><i>US v. Neal</i> 0:19-cr-00420 July 12, 2022</p>	<p>U.S. District Court</p>	<p>Convicted at trial of making false statements.</p>	<p>24 months of imprisonment</p>	<p>Chester County Sheriff Lt. Johnny Neal was convicted of making false statements to the FBI to cover up misconduct.</p>
<p><i>US v. Kevin Marsh</i> 3:20-727-001-MGL (S.C.D. Oct. 7, 2021)  (Guilty plea also included the state case: <i>South Carolina v. Marsh</i>)</p>	<p>U.S. District Court  Spartanburg County General Sessions Court</p>	<p><b>District Court:</b> Pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.  <b>State Court:</b> Pled guilty to one count of obtaining property by false pretenses under S.C. Code § 16-13-240(1).</p>	<p><b>District Court:</b> 24 month prison sentence \$5,000,000 in restitution  <b>State Court:</b> 10 year prison sentence that was suspended as a part of the guilty plea in federal court.</p>	<p>Kevin Marsh, in his role as CEO of SCANA, defrauded ratepayers and SCANA investors out of \$11 billion dollars in connection with the building of a failed nuclear powerplant.  As a part of Marsh’s guilty plea in federal court, the state court suspended his sentence.</p>
<p><i>State v. Vivian DuBose</i> Jun. 25, 2021</p>	<p>Sumter County General Sessions</p>	<p>Pled guilty to Theft of Property over \$10,000</p>	<p>5 years of probation Ordered to pay \$80,000 in restitution</p>	<p>Vivian DuBose was the former Sumter County School District Administrator admitted to taking money from the school district and overcharging time cards and improperly purchasing.</p>

<i>State v. Givens</i> , 2019A4620302387 (Apr. 28, 2021)	York County	Pled guilty to 3424-Breach / Breach of trust with fraudulent intent, value \$10,000 or more	5 years in prison, 5 years of probation, and ordered to pay restitution.	Attorney Tom Givens stole \$224,000 from clients in what was meant to be funds to pay off a mortgage.
<i>U.S. v. Johnson</i> , 3:18-cr-00863-CMC (S.C.D. Jun. 5, 2019)	US District Court	Pled guilty to wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.	12 months and one day imprisonment	Attorney and Former 5th Circuit Solicitor Dan Johnson stole money from accounts to use on personal purchases.
<i>State v. Harrison</i> Oct. 27, 2018	Richland County General Sessions	Convicted at trial of two counts of misconduct in office and one count of perjury	18 months of imprisonment	Attorney and legislator Jim Harrison was a powerful committee chair who was accused of accepting approximately \$900,000 in income that he did not earn.
<i>US v. Hart</i> 3:17-cr-00040-MGL Jul. 25, 2018	US District Court	Pled guilty to one count of 18 USC 371 conspiracy	5 years of probation Ordered to pay restitution of \$193,500	Attorney William Hart pled guilty to an internet scheme involving the sale of cars.
<i>U.S. v. Meehan</i> , 6:18-cr-00956-TMC (S.C.D. Oct. 16, 2018)	US District Court	Pled guilty to one count of bank fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344 in the Northern District of Alabama.	6 months imprisonment followed by 18 months of home detention.	South Carolina Attorney Jennifer Meehan stole \$375,000 by submitting fraudulent furniture invoices for furnishings and equipment for a University of Alabama sorority house.
<i>State v. Butler</i> (Mar. 20, 2017)	Charleston County General Sessions Court	Pled guilty to four counts of receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee; and Acceptance of rebates or extra compensation	Probationary sentence	Joe Edward Butler was a South Carolina Department of Transportation public official accused of stealing and selling SCDOT equipment.

<p><i>State v. Ray</i> (Mar. 20, 2017)</p>	<p>Charleston County General Sessions Court</p>	<p>Pled guilty to accessory after the fact to criminal conspiracy and Offering money for advice or assistance of public official.</p>	<p>Probationary sentence</p>	<p>Allen Kent was a South Carolina Department of Transportation public official accused of stealing and selling SCDOT equipment.</p>
<p><i>State v. Singleton</i> (Mar. 20, 2017)</p>	<p>Charleston County General Sessions Court</p>	<p>Pled guilty to Use of official position or office for financial gain and Receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee; and Official misconduct in office; Acceptance of rebates or extra compensation; Four counts of receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee; Official misconduct in office; and Acceptance of rebates or extra compensation.</p>	<p>Probationary sentence</p>	<p>Curtis Singleton was a South Carolina Department of Transportation public official accused of stealing and selling SCDOT equipment.</p>
<p><i>State v. Thompson</i> Dec. 16, 2016</p>	<p>Berkeley County General Sessions</p>	<p>Pled guilty to one count of using public funds, property and time to influence the outcome of an election.</p>	<p>1 year in jail suspended to one year's probation \$2500 fine.</p>	<p>Rodney Thompson was the former Berkeley County School Superintendent who admitted to using district time and resources while working on the Yes 4 Schools Campaign.</p>

<i>US v. Metts</i> 3:14-cr-00429 Apr. 27, 2015	U.S. District Court	Pled guilty to Conspiracy to Harbor Illegal Aliens, a violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I).	12 months and 1 day of imprisonment	Sheriff James Metts admitted that he agreed with a City Councilman, and an owner of local restaurants, to assist restaurant employees to avoid identification and processing by a federal immigration program housed at the Lexington County Detention Center.
<i>US v. Johnson</i> 3:14-cr-00093 (Apr. 1, 2015)	US District Court	Convicted at trial of conspiracy to commit wire fraud	30 months of imprisonment Ordered to pay restitution of \$15,875.00.	Michael Johnson was the elected Sheriff of Williamsburg County convicted in a credit cleaning scheme.
<i>US v. Woods</i> 3:14-cr-00093 (Apr. 1, 2015)	US District Court	Convicted at trial of conspiracy to commit wire fraud	33 months of imprisonment Ordered to pay restitution of \$15,875.00.	Lester Woods was convicted with the elected Sheriff of Williamsburg County convicted in a credit cleaning scheme.
<i>State v. Harrell,</i> 2014GS4007219 (Oct. 23, 2014)	Richland County	Pled guilty to 2985-Ethics / Penalty for violation of Article 13, campaign finance reform law	Six 1 year prison sentences, but they were suspended in exchange for cooperation. Received 3 years of probation.	Robert W. Harrell Jr. illegally misappropriated campaign finance funds.
<i>State v. Jason Booth</i> Aug. 6, 2012	Aiken County General Sessions	Pled guilty to one count of misconduct in office	12 months of imprisonment suspended upon the payment of \$900 fine and 5 years of probation	Jason Booth was the Saluda County sheriff who admitted to using an inmate to build a party shed, an ornate gate and other items at his home; allowing an inmate to live in a trailer outside of prison, have conjugal visits with his girlfriend; and offered to ask the governor to reduce the inmate's sentence.

<i>U.S. v. Cromartie</i> , 3:10-cr-00232- DCN (S.C.D. Oct 27, 2010)	US District Court	Pled guilty to one count of evasion of income tax payments structuring in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7201 and two counts of aggravated structuring in violation of 31 U.S.C. § 5324(a)(3).	1 year and 1 day prison sentence.	Former Columbia city councilman and attorney E.W. Cromartie II evaded income tax payments.
<i>U.S. v. Harte</i> , 1:09-cr-01019- MBS (S.C.D. Oct. 13, 2010)	US District Court	Pled guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.	1 year and 1 day prison sentence and ordered to pay \$483,250 in restitution.	Attorney John Harte pled guilty to money laundering and conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Was later reinstated to the practice of law.
<i>State v. Campbell</i> , 2008GS4009592 2007GS4011571 (Jan. 28, 2009)	Richland County	Convicted at trial of insurance fraud.	3 years of imprisonment Ordered to pay \$50,000 restitution	Russell Campbell was the deputy director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections who was convicted at trial of insurance fraud.
<i>U.S. v. Jordan</i> , 9:08-cr-00033- PMD (Dec. 2, 2008)	US District Court	Pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.	24 months imprisonment	Attorney Michael T. Jordan stole \$2.35 million from a client in a real estate transaction. Jordan faked his death to evade prosecution, but was apprehended near the Canadian border.
<i>U.S. v. Iseman</i> , 3:00-cr-00083-JFA (S.C.D. Dec. 7, 2000)	US District Court	Pled guilty to engaging in a scheme to defraud and obtain money by false pretenses.	12 months imprisonment	Attorney Marvin Daniel Iseman was a lawyer who engaged in a bank fraud scheme.