

THE LAW OFFICES OF
David F. Simons

November 8, 2006

Via Express Mail
Honorable Ben W. Joseph, Chair,
Character and Fitness Committee
Bar of the Vermont Supreme Court
2418 Airport Road, Suite 2
Barre, Vermont 05641

Re: Reference for Bar Applicant Michael Stern

Dear Judge Joseph:

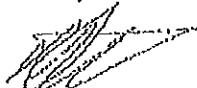
It gives me great pleasure to serve as a personal reference for Michael Stern, with whom I have enjoyed a collegial professional relationship for almost 20 years. I know his family and friends, and have worked together with him on many cases. Michael is completely honorable in all that he does. I have watched him in very trying circumstances, including going through a divorce, and the death of both his parents during a short time period. Through it all, he was a consummate professional. He took care of his clients very well, all the time, every one. He watches out for their money and guards it assiduously. If I had a family member who needed a lawyer in Vermont, there is no doubt that, assuming Michael is granted the honor of being admitted to the Vermont bar, I would refer that family member to him.

We worked together in the same law office for approximately three years. This was early in Mike's career when he was a young associate right out of law school. Following that, we both had our own independent practices, and would often meet to talk over cases. On occasion, Michael would help me out with an assignment, and on occasion he would ask me to do the same. Occasionally, we would co-counsel on cases together. I had an opportunity to review his work on many cases, and have always been impressed with it. He has great imagination and compassion for his clients, and topnotch legal research and writing skills.

As a member of the Bar in Hawaii for 30 years, I am also familiar with his reputation around town. He is well loved and highly respected by members of both the plaintiff's and defense bars. He is also respected by members of the judiciary.

Mike Stern comes with my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



David F. Simons

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