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A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

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November 3, 2006

Honorable Ben W. Joseph, Chair
District Court Judge
2418 Airport Road, Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641

Re: Michael Stern

Dear Judge Joseph:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 27, 2006 requesting a character reference for Michael Stern who has applied for admission to the Bar of the Vermont Supreme Court.

I have known Mr. Stern for more than 10 years. I became acquainted with him as a result of a personal injury case where he represented a plaintiff. Mr. Stern's practice has primarily been involved in representing plaintiffs while mine is primarily representing defendants. We have been involved in a number of cases where we represented opposing parties.

In all of my dealings with Mr. Stern, he has exhibited competence and knowledge in the representation of his clients. He is a real advocate in pursuing the interests and causes for his clients, but at the same time, he does maintain a reasonable approach toward resolving claims on behalf of his clients.

Prior to his departure from Hawaii, Mr. Stern and I were involved in a case where we both represented the injured parties. There were other parties that were also injured as a result of an automobile accident. Because of the limited insurance funds, all attorneys, including Mr. Stern and myself, did our best in advocating the interests of our respective clients, while recognizing the fact that there were limited funds available for our clients. Mr. Stern was reasonable in his approach toward settlement and worked well with all of the attorneys to resolve the various claims without necessitating the respective parties to incur additional fees and costs.