

HUDSON
INSTITUTE

Michael J. Horowitz

April 2, 2007

Honorable Reggie Walton
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the
District of Columbia
333 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Walton:

I have sought for a lifetime to be, and to be regarded by others, as an honorable and an honest man.

The effort has of course been its own reward, but a moment is now at hand when I hope it will yield benefit for another – this because I now offer to the Court, and with every shred of credibility and integrity I have worked to earn, my judgment of Scooter Libby as one the most balanced and decent and honorable men I have known.

I have known Scooter for more than 20 years – as a law partner, colleague and friend -- and know him to be a model to his friends and colleagues on every count that makes a man a man. In a town where power corrupts, his ego to intelligence and ego to integrity ratios are unmatched; characteristically, Scooter treated others no differently while an intimate colleague of the Vice President and President than he did when he was one of many lawyers in a town filled with them. I have seen Scooter act with grace and caring in moments of crisis for others – as, for example, [REDACTED] when colleagues and clients endured like stress. Through the nightmare of the past year, I have seen ultimate evidence of his character: He has been the prime source of comfort to his friends, rather than seeking it from them. I have learned of the loving manner in which he has dealt with his children when they were cruelly taunted at school about their father. I have seen the remarkable tenderness he has shown his wife – on whom, typically for Scooter, he thought the burden had fallen much more heavily than it did on himself.

[REDACTED]

Hon. Reggie Walton

April 2, 2007

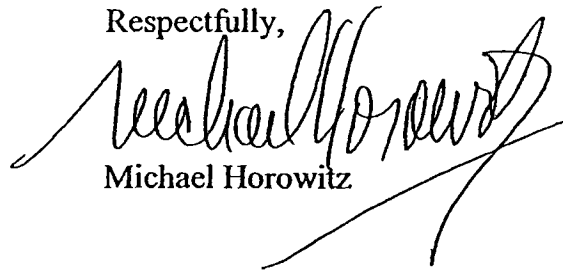
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I know that for the purpose of this letter I must not challenge the judgment of the jury but, knowing Scooter as I do, I believe him to be a man incapable of acting with criminal intent. This view is based on my knowledge of Scooter, and it is also based on the frightening personal experience of having offered information while being examined by federal investigators in a high profile, politically charged matter. In that case I unambivalently and unreservedly – but, as I soon learned, wrongly – denied having taken certain actions I had been asked about but did not (and still do not) recall. There, but for the discretion of the investigators to whom I had offered my information, might I have faced charges and might have been obliged to defend a failure to remember an episode that put me in an unfavorable light – perhaps even without being prudently able to take the stand on my behalf.

Many who know the iconic man now before the Court feel as I do about him -- and this is yet another ground on which I pray that the Court will find great and special stores of wisdom and courage to deal with the case before it. Disposition of the Libby case will have much to do with whether the country will further and gravely descend into "us v. them" feelings of bitterness and contention. As the Bork case led inexorably led to the Clinton impeachment, so can the case before the Court profoundly criminalize and poison the country's political process with calls for retribution on the part of many who will never believe – *never* – that Scooter merits criminal punishment or, God forbid, incarceration. It is an irony that Scooter would be the last to support such an embittering development, but the esteem in which he is held is such that any but the most Solomon-like disposition of his case could easily ensure this occurrence.

A good man stands before the Court, and I hope -- and know -- that the Court will take this into account as it performs its solemn duties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Horowitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Horowitz