

[REDACTED]

Hon. Michael Toto
Middlesex County Courthouse
56 Paterson St.
PO Box 964
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0964

January 2, 2014

Re: Anthony Morales Jr. [REDACTED]

Dear Judge Toto,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Anthony Morales Jr. who is scheduled to appear before you the first week of January 2014.

In August I provided a letter of reference on his behalf which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. This letter is to asking you to consider several factors which when viewed cumulatively provide mitigating factors to overcome the presumption of incarceration.

FIRST TIME OFFENDER: Anthony has always led an exemplary life and this is the first time he has to confront any legal issue.

UNIQUE CHAREACTER – Anthony is a young man whose unique character has always distinguished him from others. He is known for his honesty, integrity, humility, compassion, selflessness and honorability, not just on one occasion but every day of his life. One example that makes him so unique goes back to his teens. As mentioned in my August 2013 letter his relationship with his great-grandmother who suffered from Alzheimer's was remarkable and steadfast. Being a teenage caregiver to someone with Alzheimer's was not easy. Anthony never complained and through it all he treated his Great-Grandmother with dignity, respect and most of all unwavering love. He managed to balance high school and caring for his Great-Grandmother while maintaining his Honor Roll status. Most teenagers would have walked away from such circumstances. Not Anthony. Even then he embraced the core values that guide him today: Integrity, Respect, Honor, and Kindness.

[REDACTED]

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST VS FULL-TIME TEACHER: It is important to distinguish between a Substitute and Full-time teacher. For the most part a Substitute teacher is more of a placeholder for the full-time

teacher. A Substitute Teacher has no authority over a student's grade or graduation status. A Substitute Teacher could be called in for one day at one school or class and the next day be assigned elsewhere. During the time frame involved Anthony was himself a full-time doctorate student with two Teaching Assistant positions. He was also on a "Substitute Teacher List". In Anthony's case his availability was limited. He only substituted a total of 14 days from 6/7/12 to 1/9/13. During that time the young lady was not a student in the class where he substituted.

NATURE OF OFFENSE: While the offense is serious in nature there are mitigating factors involved. There was neither force used nor threats made. This was consensual between two individuals who were in love.

DISTINGUISH PLEA While the offense itself is a second degree the sentencing parameters fall within a third-degree. Since this is the sentencing phase should not the presumption shift to a third degree offense as well?

Lastly I would like your Honor to take Judicial Notice of the fact that in this state and other states non-custodial sentences were imposed in similar cases.

Sentencing consideration should not be limited to punishment. They should seek the most just and fair outcome for all involved. Anthony has much to offer society, and would be of far more service outside the penal system than within it. In an emotional sense, Anthony has been imprisoned since March of 2013. The teaching path he worked so hard for and sacrificed so many years for is no longer available to him. In addition, his initial bail conditions prohibited him from being around children under the age of 18. Given his large extended family with many children, he was unable to attend several family functions, including his grandparents renewal of their 50th Anniversary vows, a once in a lifetime occurrence.

Thank you, your Honor, for taking these factors into consideration so that imposing a non-custodial sentence may remain a plausible option.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature and name of the person who wrote the letter.

[REDACTED]

August 5, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Anthony Morales Jr.

I provide this reference in full knowledge of his current legal issues which are surprising and out of character in the way he has comported himself throughout his life: with integrity, humility, honor, and strong family values.

I have known Anthony all his life. I am his great-aunt and was deeply honored when his parents asked me to be his Godmother. I want to share with you the following glimpse of how his life values were shaped alongside strong family influence.

When Anthony was in High School his parents moved to South Jersey. He begged his parents to allow him to stay in Perth Amboy so that he could finish High School but more importantly to continue to live and care for his Great-Grandmother.

Every day Anthony would come home from school and prepare dinner for her. He would often sit and keep her company, playing cards or dominos. It was also becoming increasingly evident that she was exhibiting signs of Alzheimer's. When she became agitated Anthony would play her favorite songs on the piano (he taught himself to play the piano and flute). Being a teenage caregiver to someone with Alzheimer's was not easy. Anthony never complained. Through it all he treated his Great-Grandmother with dignity, respect and most of all unwavering love. He managed to balance high school and caring for his Great-Grandmother while maintaining his Honor Roll status.

Most teenagers would have walked away from such circumstances. Not Anthony. Even then he embraced the core values that guide him today: Integrity, Respect, Honor, and Kindness.

His Great-Grandmother did not get to see Anthony walk across the stage to receive his High School diploma or the numerous academic awards and recognitions he received. Her Alzheimer's, which had slowly taken her memory, also took her life. But the core values she helped shape only made Anthony a stronger person.

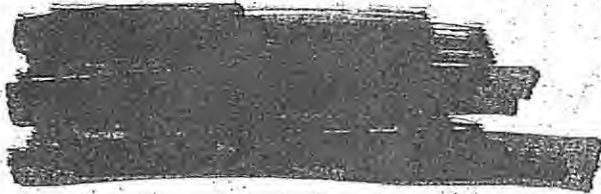
Anthony went on to graduate from Rutgers University and began teaching. Not surprising he was highly respected by his peers in the school system. While maintaining a full work schedule Anthony pursued and acquired his Masters from Montclair. But like many Americans when the recession hit and he found himself without a job. While others may view that as an obstacle Anthony saw this as an opportunity. He applied for and was accepted into a Doctorate program at Temple University where he also took on a Teaching Assistant position. He did so well in that area that his Academic Advisor recommended him for

an additional Teaching Assistant Position at LaSalle University. This past year he carried a full-time academic schedule along with two Teaching Assistant positions.

Today Anthony faces an uncertain future. What he worked so hard for and sacrificed himself for so many years may no longer be an option, a Doctorate in Spanish Literature. But true to his character Anthony is once again looking at what he can do as opposed to what he may *not* be able to do. His interests include music and culinary arts. Starting at the ground floor in the restaurant business he is now working in an entry-level position as a food prep person earning little more than minimum wage. His job is to peel shrimp, dice onions, slice tomatoes, and shred lettuce. Not a glamorous job but one that requires hard work and the resilience of Anthony's character

I have faith in Anthony and I have faith in the judicial system.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redaction mark covering the signature area of the letter.

[REDACTED]

Judge Michael Toto
56 Paterson Street
P.O. Box 964
5th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Your Honor,

I provide this reference in full knowledge of Mr. Anthony Morales charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

I have known Mr. Morales for over 10 years; as his friend and former classmate, this charge against him at once strikes me as a completely uncharacteristic aberration, and one that I believe he sincerely and fully regrets

Mr. Morales has always had a strong commitment and desire to give back to his community and make a positive impact in the lives of others. Mr. Morales is a man of integrity and compassion who has focused both his career and life in serving the needs of others before himself. Mr. Morales has commented to me personally of the immense joy it brings him to be a positive influence to children and help them achieve their goals. This is quite evident in his actions. Mr. Morales dedicated a huge part of his life sharing his love of music both as a pianist for his church and the school choir. He was actively involved in bringing a science program to underprivileged elementary school children, and he also volunteered in programs such as the Special Olympics and Odyssey of the Mind.

With this said, I was exceptionally disheartened to hear of Mr. Morales' offense. I have spoken to him in regards to the events and it is a source of intense regret for him. He has never had any prior offenses, nor, I believe is likely to again. I wholeheartedly believe he would like to take responsibility for his actions and move on from this, so he may continue to positively contribute to society.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns [REDACTED]

Kindest Regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 2, 2014

Dear Judge Michael A. Toto:

I am hoping this letter finds you well. I am writing you in reference to my nephew Anthony Morales Jr. (6/1/83)

Anthony, or as we call him TJ, is a hard working, dedicated person. He has achieved what no one in our family has thus far. His goals are set high and we are so proud of him and all his accomplishments. But one can have all the certificates in the world, and unfortunately, when it comes to matters of the heart, no one can prepare you for that. Some of the choices TJ has made in his past may not have been made with much thought, but rather with his heart. Being a woman myself, I know that not every man is the seducer but rather the seduced. I know that TJ is extremely sorry for his poor judgment and knows this is a lesson well learned.

TJ has demonstrated his strength of character in innumerable ways. One such example was when I was preparing for my college level courses, he would come to my house weekly to help me study and achieve my goals. He did it out of the kindness of his heart and never asked for anything in return. He has also been an inspiration to my children who look up to him as someone who reaches for the stars and comes as close as he can to attaining them. He will continue to be an example of perseverance in times of distress.

This experience has brought great sadness to our family, especially the possibility of its consequences. I pray that this misfortune will not tarnish my nephew's credibility, therefore hindering his future plans, which he has worked so hard to achieve. I realize that the charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child is a serious one as I am a parent of teenage children myself. However, he has dedicated his life to helping others every time the needed it and I know he will continue to do so. One thing has always remained constant, his unwavering dedication to helping everyone he can. I thank you for your time and wish you all the best in this up coming year.

Should you require any other information please feel free to contact me [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Judge Michael Toto
56 Paterson Street
P.O. Box 964
5th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

20 December 2013

To Michael A. Toto:

Anthony Morales has been a teacher, mentor, and friend to me for the past four years. He has played an important role in my high school career, as he has taught me a lot of what I needed to know to become successful in the performing arts. Not only that, but he has been a friend to me. He always brightens up everyone's day with his jokes, and overall warm-heartedness.

Anthony also helped me out a lot personally during my college application and audition process. He has written me wonderful recommendation letters, and helped me with audition songs for theatre programs at different schools. If it weren't for Anthony, I most likely would not have gotten accepted into various theatre programs at different colleges. I cannot thank him enough for that!

With all that being said, Anthony Morales is a wonderful individual. He's constantly making people laugh, and helping out anyone in need, especially in the performing arts department. He is great at what he does, and continues to educate others in a positive manner. I understand the charge of Child Endangerment is severe but I firmly believe he deserves a second chance as he will not commit a crime like that again and has always been a valued member of the community dedicating his life to helping other people.

For any further questions or information, feel free to contact me at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

By: Jerry DeMarco, Cliffviewpilot.com

cliffviewpilot.com



EXCLUSIVE: A former girls varsity softball coach at Wood-Ridge High School received probation today for having sex with a male student there.

Under the terms of her plea agreement, 29-year-old Jillian Clementi Cooper of Glen Ridge won't be permitted to teach or coach again in the U.S., either paid or as a volunteer.

"I am very embarrassed and sorry about the offense, and it will never happen again," Clementi (above, in court today) told Superior Court Judge James J. Guida in Hackensack.

Clementi, who also taught at Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township, said that she is now "happily married" and "made a bad decision." She was 25 and the boy 17 at the time, prosecutors said.

The legal age of consent in New Jersey is 16, unless the

adult involved is in a position of authority.

As a result, the five-year probation deal was based, in part, on what Guida said was "difficult proof of supervisory control."

Although Clementi was a coach at the school, she "coached a girls' team and not the victim's," the judge said. Otherwise, she would have faced more serious criminal charges.

Guida said he agreed with prosecutors that Clementi isn't a risk for a repeat offense, especially since she won't be teaching or coaching anymore.

Although she must register as a sex offender under Megan's Law, the judge didn't require that Clementi undergo evaluation or treatment at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Avenel.

He called the incident "a significant lapse in judgment."

Senior Assistant Bergen County Prosecutor Catherine Fantuzzi told the judge that Clementi was simply an adult who made a bad decision and was paying the necessary price.

Defense attorney Brian Neary, meanwhile, called her "a talented young lady, a great athlete, who made a very bad choice with regard to misplaced affection ... from a different part of her life."

Neary told the judge that he expects his client, a graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, "will strongly succeed in probation."

Clementi, who was married in September 2011 and turns 30 next month, originally was charged with several instances of intercourse and oral sex with the boy between May and July 2009.

Authorities were contacted by Wood-Ridge High School officials after they learned of "sexual activities with the victim during his junior year in high school ... at her former [apartment] in Lyndhurst," Bergen County Prosecutor John L. Molinelli said after Clementi was arrested in May 2012.

Both IHA and Wood-Ridge High School immediately removed her from her positions.

She pleaded guilty last October to two fourth-degree counts of sexual contact, in exchange for which prosecutors dropped the remaining counts, including impairing or debauching the morals of a minor.

Four second-degree sexual contact charges were dropped as part of the plea agreement, and the remaining two counts were downgraded to fourth degree offenses.

STORY / PHOTO: Mary K. Miraglia, CLIFFVIEW PILOT Courthouse Reporter

cliffviewpilot.com

This article, *Former Wood-Ridge High School coach who admitted sex with male student gets probation*, is syndicated from Cliffview Pilot and is posted here with permission.

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