LETTERS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF JOSEPH PERCOCO
United States v. Joseph Percoco, No. S2 16 CR 776 (VEC)

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Trunfio, Domenic (Rick)
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Werdiger, Sol
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Yacuzzo, Raymond

From: Joseph W. Bellacosa

[redacted]

To: Honorable Valerie E. Caproni
U. S. District Court Judge, S D N Y
Thurgood Marshall Courthouse
40 Foley Sq.
New York, New York10007

July 11, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni:

Re: U. S. vs. Joseph Percoco (Sentencing)

I respectfully proffer this letter for your consideration in connection with the upcoming sentencing of Joseph Percoco. Neither he nor his lawyers asked me to supply a letter. I volunteered to my fellow parishioner to prepare it on my own initiative. My comments are based solely on that relationship, strengthened over the last few years through mutual church activities at St. Mary's Parish in Ridgefield, Connecticut, where I reside in my retirement.

Mr. Percoco and I met almost 30 years ago, when he worked for the late Governor Mario M. Cuomo. We had a passing acquaintanceship during my tenure on the New York State Court of Appeals from 1987 to 2000. A considerable gap of years intervened, after I retired from my judicial post in 2000, and returned to St John's University School of Law, and then retired again from all professional affiliations in 2005. After I moved to Ridgefield in 2009, I re-met Mr. Percoco at the time of the funeral of Mario Cuomo.

I regularly met the entire Percoco family who were members of my parish and I began seeing them from time to time at various church services. Up close, I saw Mr. Percoco at a special group activity in which I have been active for many years – The St. Mary Parish Men's Ministry. This assembly of 50-70 men meets year-round each Saturday at 6:30 a m until about 8:30 a m. to discuss experiences and challenges that are intended to help with personal spiritual awareness and improvement in family and parental relationships. This dynamic of rotating table interactions brought his legal

troubles to my attention in a spiritual dimension. What has struck me poignantly is his basic decency, value system and family commitment.

My appreciation of this individual as a whole person has been formed by these direct and consistent observations - derived from the countless personal conversations and weekly engagements among candidly outspoken men from all walks of the community. In my opinion, these are truer measures of the individual than the media distortions caricatured out of the anomalous circumstances that have brought him to the bar of justice.

I should emphasize that I know little of the details of the case itself in any of its legal or evidentiary dimensions and ramifications. Frankly, I have avoided discussion with Joseph, or the gathering of any such information so I could keep my preparation and content of this letter focused on the good character of the friend I have come to know with soul-bearing intimacy. I have spoken, however, to about a half dozen of our fellow parishioners who also know Joseph from Men's Ministry about my idea to proffer this letter. These fellow parishioners urged me, out of concern for our mutual friend Joseph, and for his young family's well-being, to add that they concur in my strongly positive assessment of his good character.

I trust that this unsolicited letter and its content might be helpful to you concerning his sentencing cause for any human decency consideration that you may be able and persuaded to give it. I am hopeful that the letter might add a dimension in aid in your comprehensive and sensitive analysis of the humanized sentencing decision. My purpose in that regard is to provide you with a lens and an angle of appreciation of the person brought before you from my distinct perspective drawn from interaction within his faith community.

Please accept this letter in the constructive and helpful spirit with which I prepared it and intended it to have. Thank you for considering it, as you may deem fit and helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph W. Bellacosa

Joseph W. Bellacosa

Daniella Birrittieri
[redacted]

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am sure you read many documents each day, with letters such as this, being one of those documents. I am also positive that you are well aware of the purpose of this letter and why I am writing to you. Therefore, I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read this letter with regards to the sentence for my cousin, Joseph Percoco. I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Daniella Birrittieri. I am an elementary teacher who is 29 years old and resides in New City, New York. I am well aware that Joe has been convicted, and today I am writing on his behalf to provide some information that you will take into consideration when you decide the sentence that you will impose.

As previously stated, I am Joe's younger cousin. Being one of the youngest of twenty-five cousins, I had a huge selection of older cousins to look up to. Joseph has always been one of those cousins. Joe is a wonderful asset to our family. He is knowledgeable, courageous, and helpful. I have always admired Joe's determination and strong work ethic which resulted in his many successes. In addition to his successes, Joe is an excellent husband and father to his two young girls. While I have mentioned his many successes, it should be noted that they did not come easy for Joseph. Even though I wasn't born yet, I often hear family stories of how Joe stepped up the ladder of his successes, beginning with his newspaper route and only moving up from there. Throughout his life, Joseph has also endured the loss of both of his parents. Joseph's father passed away at a young age and he had to take the responsibility of being the "man of the house" in taking care of his mother and two sisters. Many years later, my aunt (Joe's mom) passed away [redacted] While I wasn't born when Joe's father passed, I was around to

experience my aunt's death with Joseph and the rest of our family. During this heartbreaking time, I could still picture Joseph pacing in the hallways and consistently being there for his mom and for all of us.

My cousin has been the "glue" of our family for as long as I can remember. Joe has never been in any trouble with the law. As a matter of fact, he is a role model for our family. I cannot say enough great things about him. Sometimes life brings joy, sorrow, and obstacles. With those obstacles, sometimes we make choices in life that are out of our "norm". Regardless of Joseph's current status with this case, based on the person I know and love, I am proud to call him my cousin. Therefore, I am asking you to take this letter into consideration as you impose my cousin's sentence.

Sincerely,

Daniella Birrittieri
[redacted]

Maria Birrittieri
[redacted]

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Maria Birrittieri. I am Joseph Percoco's aunt. His deceased mom and I were sisters. I reside at [redacted]. I am sixty-five years old and retired.

I have known my nephew since the day he was born. He is very loving and respectful. He is a great father, husband, cousin, and great brother to his two sisters. What touched me the most about him, was when Joe was 24 years old and his father passed away suddenly. In 1994, Joe stepped up like a man and took care of my sister and his sisters by getting a couple of jobs to help keep the family on the right track. He wanted to ensure that his mom never had the stress of falling behind with the bills during this trying time. Joe is an amazing person. He is always there to help at all kinds of hours and never gets mad. He has a great personality and a great sense of humor. Everybody loves him. He does not have a mean bone on him. Not to mention, when his mom was in Hospice, he was by her side day and night. We will never forget that.

I want to thank you for taking my letter into consideration when you impose my nephew's sentence. I am asking you to please have a heart. Joseph has endured many hardships in his life and is truly a wonderful person.

Sincerely,

Maria Birrittieri

[redacted]

SAINT MARY PARISH
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July 11, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United Sates District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

With this letter I write on behalf of Joseph Percoco. Aware that Joe has been convicted, I am hoping that this letter along with others from his friends, family or former colleagues will help you to better understand the Joe I know and decide on a fair and lenient sentence for him.

For the past fifteen years I have been the Pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Joe who lives in South Salem, New York, is a member of our Parish Family along with his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters, sixteen year old V[redacted] and twelve year old J[redacted]. Because of the proximity of New York State we have a large number of New York parishioners. May I also add that I have been a Catholic priest for 45 years, having been ordained on July 2, 1973; I am 71 years of age. Along with our Parochial Vicar, I reside at [redacted] in Ridgefield, and my cell phone number, in case the Court wishes to contact me, is [redacted].

Joe and his family began their relationship with our Parish back in August of 2012. In the past, his wife, Lisa, has served as a Teacher in our Parish Religious Education Program. Along with his family, Joe has been a regular worshipper here in our Parish and active in our Saint Mary Parish Men's Ministry which meets weekly on Saturday mornings from 6:30 AM to 8 AM. It is through his regular participation at Mass and his commitment to our Men's Ministry that I have come to know and respect Joe whom I consider an honest and forthright gentleman.

When I learned of the charges brought against Joe, I was more than surprised because they do not represent the man I know. At the same time I believe that he sincerely regrets any and all conduct that has led to the jury's verdict and his conviction. I hope that you will take my letter into consideration when imposing sentence. To the best of my knowledge Joe has had a distinguished working career which I offer as a very positive factor for your discernment. Even more importantly he is a good husband and father of two teenage daughters who need his paternal love and guidance at a crucial stage of their lives.

Very sincerely,

Msgr. Laurence R. Bronkiewicz, S.T.D.
Pastor

Christopher R. Bryant

[redacted]

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Re: Joseph Percoco

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am writing to you on behalf of Joseph Percoco, who I know has been convicted of certain offenses, to hopefully provide additional information that may be useful during sentencing.

Joe and I have been friends since about 1992 and came to know each other working for former Governor Mario Cuomo. At the time, I was one of the Governor's regional representatives based on Long Island and Joe was on the Governor's advance and scheduling team. We worked together closely for the Governor, and on his unsuccessful 1994 re-election bid. We then attended St. John's Law School together, as night students, from 1996 through 2000. During those years we were inseparable and relied on each other to get through law school, the bar exam, and to plan our lives and careers. In the years that have followed, we have remained friends while I pursued a career in law and Joe pursued his in government and politics. I am 49 years old, counsel at a large, international law firm in New York City, and live in Sayville, New York.

For the approximately 26 years I have known Joe, I have known him to be a kind, generous, honest, hard-working, and caring person. He is a devoted husband and father and has committed his adult life to his family. Through the years Joe has always been there for me and countless others. His advice and friendship helped steer my law school and career paths, and I know he has done the same for many others both in and out of government. Based on my long relationship with Joe, I am certain he regrets what has happened and I do not believe it is representative of Joe or his character as person, husband, father, lawyer or professional.

I respectfully ask that you take my letter into consideration when sentencing Joe and that you show Joe leniency and mercy.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher R. Bryant

Christopher R. Bryant

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am Maria Rotondo Callas, My brother Frank Coppola was married to Joe's mother in law Mary Ann but I consider him my nephew. I am 64 years old and live at [redacted]. My home phone number is [redacted] and my cell number is [redacted]. For the last 25 years I have worked for EAC Network, Staten Island TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities). I am a supervisor of Case Managers and our goal is to divert individuals who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues to court mandated treatment programs.

Judge Caproni, I am writing on behalf of Joe who has been convicted so you can better understand what type of individual he is. I hope you will consider my information about Joe when you decide on his sentencing.

I met Joe in 1991 when he began dating my niece Lisa who was Frank's step daughter. From the beginning I saw Joe as a compassionate, warm, kind person. He was a very family oriented young man who was always willing to assist in any way he could without hesitation. Joe developed an extremely deep special bond with my brother Frank from day one of meeting. They were much more than "in laws"; more like father and son. Joe's father had passed away and of course Frank was not a replacement for him but a special gift. Unfortunately Frank was diagnosed [redacted] in 2000. From the beginning of Frank's journey [redacted] Joe was extremely invested in his care. Joe conferred with Frank's [redacted], attending all appointments with him. Joe visited Frank at home and in the hospital countless countless times during his 3 year battle with this insidious disease. When Joe was unable to physically appear he checked in with Frank on a daily basis via telephone. My brother died on July 14, 2003 and Joe was at his bedside when he took his last breath. I watched as Joe mourned Frank so deeply and profoundly. I could never thank Joe enough for all he did those 3 years for my brother and the family. I felt that a son could not have been closer to my brother than Joe was. When Joe's mother fell ill he was there for her as he was for Frank, giving her daily devoted attention. Joe took a leadership role in the family, meeting with physicians, and handling all details of her care until her death.

As a husband, father and brother I have observed Joe to be so loving, extremely hardworking and family centered. Joe's wife Lisa and his daughters V[redacted] and J[redacted] are his heart and soul and he is devoted to them. Joe is one of the most dependable, reliable and strong individuals to family and friends then I have ever met. When anyone needs strength, guidance and wisdom they gravitate to Joe.

Judge Caproni, this crime does not represent who Joe is and certainly not the moral and ethical qualities I have observed since meeting him 27 years ago. Judge Caproni please show leniency to Joe and take my heartfelt words into consideration when you impose sentence.

Thank you,

Maria Rotondo Callas

Maria Rotondo Callas

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

July 9, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Frances Campo and I am Joseph Percoco's older sister. I recently turned 50 years old. I work for JP Morgan Chase Bank as a Vice President and Branch Manager in Consumer Banking. This marks my 31st year with the company. My home address is [redacted].

I would like to first thank you for the opportunity to write on my brother's behalf. I must tell you, sharing my brother's life of forty-nine-years and so many of his accomplishments with you cannot be done in a short letter. I wish I could speak to you in person to truly express my feelings, but I thank you in advance for reading this lengthy letter as a substitute. I would do anything for my brother and I pray this will help.

Joe is hard-working, responsible and trustworthy. He is also fiercely loyal, generous, loving and kind. I love all of these things about my brother and value him for them, however, my favorite thing about my brother is his sense of humor. Joe has always had the uncanny ability to make anyone laugh, even in serious moments. At family gatherings we spend so much time laughing. I think this is one of his ways of bringing the family together.

Joe is an amazing man, but I won't ignore that he does have a flaw or two. He can sometimes become impatient which leads to frustration. In these situations, Joe can be harsh or insensitive. However he is reflective and can recognize when he has been too

harsh on account of his frustration. As soon as he realizes, Joe takes actions to correct it and apologize to the person he interacted with. He never intends to leave anyone feeling hurt and genuinely feels bad if he does.

Joe is blunt and direct. Sometimes this can be taken as rude, but really my brother is someone who makes no excuses and accepts none. His dry sense of humor adds to this, bringing the comic relief needed in serious situations.

Joe is also amazingly selfless. Time and again Joe sacrifices his own wants for others. The best story I have to illustrate this is when Joe was contemplating buying a boat. One of my brother's favorite things to do is to go fishing. He learned from my dad. He enjoys the quiet time and space alone. I'm pretty sure this is where he does all his planning and thinking. One year after winning a campaign for Governor Andrew Cuomo, Joe was awarded a bonus for his hard work and dedication. Joe shared with us that he would finally like to purchase a boat, something he always wanted. But, as usual, my brother's selflessness would kick in and he found reasons not to make the purchase. I remember all of us giving him a long list of reasons why he should, the main one being that he deserved to do something for himself; something he rarely does. We assured him that he deserved to reward himself for all his years of hard work and sacrifice. As he always did, Joe wanted to think it over and make sure the numbers fit in his budget. After all the convincing and supporting of this purchase, Joe finally gave in. He bought a boat, fulfilling a dream he had from a young age. We were all very happy for him. My mother especially was overjoyed to see that he was finally doing something for himself. Having the boat also allows him to spend quality time with his daughters, teach them how to fish, and create many memories with the family. Joe has not purchased anything for himself since this boat more than 10 years ago.

I want to point out that Joe was concerned about buying this boat for two reasons. One, because he puts others first and two, because he doesn't want to spend money frivolously. Joe fitting the boat into his budget is just one example of many that show one of Joe's best qualities - being financially responsible. For as long as I can remember, Joe was

always on a budget. From the time we were kids until this very day, Joe has a budget that he maintains meticulously and checks regularly. As I discuss later, Joe started "reviewing his finances" at 16-years old. I don't know about you, but I haven't met any other 16-year-olds who "review their finances" nevermind even having finances to review in the first place! Another example of this is when we were kids. It was Mother's Day, and I wanted my siblings and I to buy my mom a piece of jewelry. We would have to use the money we all saved from our allowances. When I told my siblings about this, young but frugal Joe asked me why I thought my mother needed more jewelry. When I explained it was a different piece of jewelry, Joe responded, "doesn't she need some socks or pantyhose?" I wasn't shocked by his response. I knew that I had to stick to Joe's budget, it was his rule. Eventually Joe did share in buying the jewelry for our Mother's Day gift. I can imagine that he was able to do so because he spent time mulling over the decision and carefully looking at his budget. My brother isn't cheap, in a negative sense of the word but he is careful with his money because he wants to make sure he will always have what he needs to support his family as he has worked hard to do.

Your Honor, I know that you will read this letter with the understanding that as a sister I have a clear bias. While that is true, we were raised to take responsibility for our actions and accept the consequences.

Before discussing Joe's accomplishments and his life, I feel it imperative to share with you some of our family history to illustrate the values and morals that we were raised with. In part, I feel the need to write on behalf of my late parents. After all, these are the building blocks of the man he is.

My mother always told us: *the adults we become are a reflection of our parents, and what they instill in us from a young age sets the foundation for the lives we lead as adults.*

Our parents took great pride in teaching us to be polite, respectful, caring and well behaved. They emphasized the importance of walking the "straight and narrow" and

always made sure we emulated the pride they had for the three of us in all of our actions. Of course, we all had a different learning curve and steered from the path as growing adolescents in terms of attitudes or school priorities, but our mother's words stayed in the back of our minds and truly shaped the adults we grew into. Their influence is so deeply ingrained in us, that although my brother was raised in a different generation than my parents and is raising his children in an even more complex generation, he holds true to the core values he was taught and ensures his two daughters learn the same in their upbringing.

Our parents were both born in Italy and came to this country at a young age to pursue the great opportunities America promises for a better life. They met and married here in 1966. My parents found those promises to be true as they were both successful in their own right and raised three children to not want, but work, for everything they desired. Both of my parents worked very hard. My father was a machinist for Con Edison for 25 years. My mother was a seamstress, working from home and taking care of us at the same time, then worked in the meat room at ShopRite for 10 years before opening her own bakery in Staten Island.

Your Honor, I would like to share that had my parents been alive for this anguish my brother is going through, this surely would have killed them both. I can tell you it is afflicting me, my sister, and our entire family deeply.

Our parents provided for us and we were raised in a strict home with an "old school" mentality and strong Italian roots. We were loved, protected, cared for, and motivated to be the best we could be. "I love you" was not said, but seen through actions. In our family, the adage is true: actions do speak louder than words. On the pages that follow, I hope to show you who my brother, Joseph Percoco, truly is and how the actions he has taken throughout his entire life speak louder than any of the other words said about him.

Joe and I were born in the Bronx. In 1975, my parents achieved a dream of theirs: to buy their first home in the suburb of Rockland County. They were extremely proud of this

and excited to have their children attend Clarkstown schools, whose reputation, at the time, was one of the best. Our younger sister was born two years later in 1977. Our parents wanted us raised with a big yard and not in the streets of the Bronx; they were less fearful of bumps and scratches from climbing trees than the situations we might find ourselves in on the streets. We went from a two bedroom apartment to a three bedroom house with space to run and play. When our parents explained they had saved enough for a down payment on this house, I think we learned something else. Their long hours of hard work was all to give us the best opportunity to be successful. To give us what they didn't have as kids, so maybe our lives would carry less struggle than theirs. We still own this house today; it is part of our inheritance and something we value as a family, because it shows the sacrifice and achievements our parents made as a way to give us a better life.

My parents taught us to believe in the American Dream -- if you work hard you can be successful and give your children a better life than you had. My brother has worked hard to do the same for his family. As a son, brother, husband and father, Joe has dedicated his life to ensure he is providing for the success of everyone he loves.

In raising his family Joe wants to offer his children the best. After marrying his wife, Lisa, they planned and saved to buy a home. After two years, they purchased a house in Staten Island, New York. It is in this house that they began to raise their two daughters, V[redacted] and J[redacted]. However everyone knew that eventually Joe would want to move his family to the suburbs. His goal, like our parents before him, was to raise his children away from the influences of the city and in a place that would afford them as much opportunity as possible to fulfill their own dreams.

The decision to move out of the city and to the suburbs was a big one. First, it required Lisa to be willing to move away from her family and the place she was raised. While this was difficult for Lisa to do, she shares Joe's dream. Lisa trusted that even though the move would bring a period of transition, it would be the best for their family.

Joe, as always when making big decisions, wanted to get my mother's blessing. He sat down and told our mom their plans. They even took her house shopping with them some Sunday mornings. Buying their home in Westchester, was not a decision based in material-wealth or for superficial reasons; it wasn't about the grandeur. The home that Joe and Lisa purchased was a symbol of family.

Their first priority was to make sure they lived in a place that was safe and allowed them to provide for their children. A second priority was to own a home to welcome both of their large families. Family being around and having an influence in his children's lives is important to them. Having a good distance between their families, they wanted to have enough space for their mothers to stay over. They also considered the future. Joe and Lisa wanted to make sure that if either of their mothers needed more care as they aged, there would be a place for them.

[redacted], Joe wanted to make sure that he would be able to host holidays and special occasions. This is something that my mother took pride in doing as the matriarch of her family. Joe wanted to be sure that even after my mother passed away the closeness of our family would not fade. He knew that carrying on our mother's ability to get the family together would keep all of us connected the way she wanted. The purchase of this home was not for show or status, it was for family. I know with absolute certainty that Joe would never purchase a home if he couldn't afford it.

Joe does his best to take the values we learned growing up and teach them to his own children. My mother was raised at a time when gender roles were not very fluid. Although she raised my sister and I with rules that were more protective, she always taught us to be independent. She did not want us to have to rely on a man for anything. My brother was listening and watching. He supported my sister and I in following our dreams and made sure we didn't feel inferior because of our gender. To this day, Joe makes us feel empowered. On occasion when I get frustrated with work, my brother

reminds me of the success story that I am having started from the bottom and working to the top. He always reminds me to take pride in what I have accomplished.

At the same time Joe is teaching his own daughters the importance of independence and believing they can do anything they dream. My brother is raising his daughters in the same way he was raised, including having education be priority number one. His eldest daughter, V[redacted], was just inducted into the National Honors Society at her high school and she proudly plays on a lacrosse team that has made it to the State Championships. His younger daughter, J[redacted], is just as successful and talented as her sister. J[redacted] has excelled in the performing arts. Joe does his best, especially in recent years, to be behind his daughters cheering them on to success. He does not forget to have fun with them as well, though. Both V[redacted] and J[redacted] enjoy spending time with their father and absolutely adore him. Like Joe, both have a boisterous sense of humor; the three enjoy goofing around and making jokes together. They can laugh with each other for hours. Joe has taught them to laugh at themselves, to not take life too seriously.

Joe shows a kind of selfless leadership in our family, even though he is the middle child. He has stepped up to provide for and take care of everyone. The most memorable times Joe displayed this selfless love for his family were the most trying we experienced together.

After 25 years my parents decided to end their marriage, because it just didn't work anymore. It was a very sad time for all of us. However, Joe assured us that we would make it through together. Even though my brother was dealing with the same emotions as the rest of us, he made sure to take care of everyone else. Without asking or being told, my brother stepped right into the role of "man of the household." It was his instinct. He would help my mother with whatever my dad took care of around the house. As I look back, I am in awe of how seamlessly he took on that role and still lives in it to this day.

A few years later, my father passed away. Again, without asking or being told, Joe assumed the role of leader in our family. Because of the unexpected nature of our father's passing, he left no will. At the time, I was four months away from my wedding that I was paying for by myself with my now-husband, and our sister was only 13-years old. Joe did not want us to bear the burden of the cost for the funeral, so he took out a loan to cover the expenses. Without needing to say it, Joe proved that he was a man of his word -- when he said he would take care of his family, he meant it.

Although my brother was going through his own grieving process, he took on the task of making sure everyone was emotionally cared for. Our younger sister struggled most. Joe made sure to give her the attention and nurturing she was missing from her father. To this day, our sister still looks up to him as her father figure and relies on him for that type of moral support. Additionally, although it was very sad that my father passed right before I was to get married, my brother walking me down the aisle is an act of love that I cherish.

More recently, when my mother was diagnosed [redacted], Joe proved again how much he values family. Joe never missed work, another lesson our parents taught us. However when my mother was diagnosed and her condition worsened, without question Joe took time off. Each of us played a role in taking care of our mom. Joe jumped into action to find her the best care. He researched to find the best doctors and hospital for my mother. Joe found the head of the [redacted] Foundation to treat our mother; I believe his research and persistence are to credit for the additional time my mother was able to spend with us.

Toward the final stages of my mother's life, Joe asked the doctor what the options for her care were. The doctor explained each option and the probability of its success. Ultimately, Joe asked the doctor in a very straight-forward manner, "if this was your mother, what would you do?" Joe did not ask the doctor this because he was unsure or confused, he asked because he wanted to make the choice as selflessly as possible; he didn't want to let the fact that he wanted to keep his mother alive trump her quality of life

or comfort. The doctor said that the best option would be to make her comfortable. Not wanting to make the decision without my mother, Joe went with the doctor to explain. Without hesitation, my mother courageously told my brother that she wanted to be made comfortable. Joe clearly learned strength from my mother. She stayed strong for us our entire lives, including with this decision. Selfishly, I begged my mother to change her mind. Joe made me realize that she would only be suffering more, something none of us wanted.

All three of us took off work for the last two weeks of my mother's life to be by her side, together. Governor Andrew Cuomo came to visit my mother in Hospice. Though my mother was unable to talk, she was still able to hear. Governor Cuomo, sat next to her bed and held her hand. He told her how much Joe meant to the Cuomo family. The governor attributed the great man and successful person Joe is to the way my mother raised us. Governor Andrew Cuomo reiterated Joe's strengths and honored the values our mother instilled in us when he told her that he was in awe of the way we cared for her.

To say that my brother is a family-man is a vast understatement. Joe has proved time and again that he is willing to take responsibility, make sacrifices and hard decisions, and put in work so that the people he loves are protected and supported.

With my dad always working, my mom was the driving force behind our upbringing. She was also the disciplinarian and at times she ran the house like a drill sergeant. We secretly called her that between the three of us. When we were older, we finally revealed her nickname and she grinned, responding, "and look how wonderful you all are because of it."

My mother made it clear that every action had a consequence. We were rewarded for good behavior and disciplined for bad behavior. Now, by bad I mean, trivial missteps such as not completing chores, having a disrespectful tone, and not doing well in school. I remember mom almost didn't let Joe go to his baseball game until his room was

cleaned. He loved playing sports. And this particular season, my brother was the starting catcher and the team captain. How could he miss the game? After all the begging and promising not to do it again, my mom said "this is the one time I'm going to let you slide, you do this again, next time you're not going."

Responsibilities were important for my mom to instill in us. Not doing well in school was among her biggest irritant. "A"s and "B"s were expected; anything less than that and we were scared to go home. We had curfews. We did chores. And my mom meant business. We knew that if we didn't follow the rules, we'd face the consequences. And truthfully, we toed the line once or twice but her punishment scared us right back over to the other side.

My father, though less apparent, was strong willed in his parenting as well. When my father spoke, we listened due mostly to the conviction in his voice. His role was to instill a different type of responsibility and discipline in us - that of self-respect and pride. Because of our Italian roots and the time in which we grew up, my father made sure we knew that the Mafia was not a part of our "culture" to entertain.

We were supposed to maintain parts of our heritage that emanated pride. Joe, being the only son was responsible for carrying on our family name. Something my father took very seriously. Because of this, he ingrained this idea in Joe: don't ever disrespect or dishonor yourself and your family name - that would be the ultimate embarrassment. And Your Honor, my brother never did!

I find it necessary to reiterate the importance that both of my parents placed on not falling into the cultural stereotype placed on us as Italian-Americans. The reason my parents worked so hard to get out of the Bronx and teach us the values of honesty, hard work and pride was to make sure that we did not fall victim to the false promises offered by the streets. Because my parents were so grateful to this country for the opportunities it afforded them, and therefore us, we were raised to respect our country and honor and follow the law at all times.

They believed in making sure we knew the importance of being law-abiding citizens so much so, that my mother taught Joe and I a lesson in integrity that we would never forget. When we first moved to Rockland my mother, brother and I were shopping at the grocery store. When we left, Joe showed my mother a piece of candy he had taken from near the register while she was paying. She looked at him and asked him where he got the candy from. He said, "I took it before we left." My mother shot him a stern look — the one all kids fear from their mothers — and said "and how did you pay for it?" Joe looked up at her shocked and confused. "Both of you in the car," she turned, and without saying another word drove down the street to the police station. At the precinct, my mother opened the car door, took a crying Joe by the hand and marched up to the officer standing outside. My mother made Joe tell the officer what he had done. Understanding that six-year-olds aren't very aware of the law, they explained that stealing was illegal and never ever acceptable.

From that young age, we learned that breaking the law, no matter why or how menial, is never okay. I can attest that, from that day on, Joe obeyed the law. I like to think that this value of honoring the law is one of the main reasons Joe decided to go to law school. He knows that understanding and following laws is the foundation of being a good person and productive citizen, two things my brother has proven to be throughout his personal life and in his career.

Joe has always had a strong work ethic and drive for honest success; in large part he is motivated by his desire to make our parents proud. He wants to be the embodiment of the values we learned growing up, the ones Joe still holds true to today.

As a child, Joe had an incredible energy. He never sat still and would sometimes, as young boys do, get into mischief. My parents realized that they needed to keep him busy by giving him projects to do. As the only nephew at that time, my mother's two brothers, enjoyed spending days hanging out with Joe. When he was a young teenager, my uncles who were in their twenties, channeled Joe's energy into playing sports, learning about

cars and teaching him how to work hard to be successful. To this day, my uncles and brother have a very special bond. These are the men that Joe considers his *real* brothers. My uncles have shown my brother the true meaning of family through their actions.

Joe takes pride in everything that he does. He would never have his name on something that he did not think was its best. Growing up, that included school-work, chores, sports, and jobs, and as he aged it expanded to include being successful in his career and providing for his family.

As an athlete, Joe excelled at baseball and football. My parents, though they didn't know much about sports, knew that keeping my brother involved would teach him discipline, teamwork, leadership, loyalty and camaraderie. As his own biggest competitor, Joe pushes himself to be the best. He took pride in being a leader on his teams. To him, it meant that he could support and inspire the people around him. Not only does Joe want to do well, but he wants the people he cares for to do well also. Even as he left sports fields for offices, Joe always remembered how he was given opportunities to grow and develop. He passed this along in his career as he mentored interns and younger colleagues just entering the work world.

He has displayed this eagerness to mentor and support others in our family as well. As the fifth-oldest of 22 cousins, he played an important role in mentoring them as they grew up. Our cousins look up to him, the way he does my uncles. To this day, as adults, they still rely on Joe's advice and guidance. Our family, though large, is very close. The older family members look out for the younger ones, and everyone has grown up understanding the same values of hard work and honesty. Among us are lawyers, nurses and doctors, law enforcement, teachers, and military personnel. All of these are honest careers, which everyone has obtained by living the core values taught to us by the generation that raised us.

Joe is no less serious about his career and working than he was sports. At the age of 14, I decided I wanted a real paying job. I began delivering the PennySaver. I hated getting up

in the morning, but because I had committed to the job, I called on Joe to start helping me. We did deliveries together for a little while, but I soon gave up. However, my brother, dedicated and disciplined, continued this job as his source of income for two years, until he was old enough to work at the grocery store.

As we were growing up, my father used to say to us, "*In anything you do, make sure you keep your ears and eyes open and your mouth shut.*" The lesson here was to make sure we learned everything we could. I will never stop hearing these phrases, incessantly rambled off in Italian: *You all have to be better than us. Don't work with your hands. Study hard and become those people that use their brains to make a living.* I remember us feeling bad for them when they said these things, we saw nothing wrong with what they did for work. But our parents didn't say it looking for pity. They just wanted us to have a better life. *Make us proud of what you can become. You're born Americans - there is no excuse for you to fail in this country. Work hard, and earn for what you want.*

These lessons, my father's words, came to life through my brother's actions when he was 16-years old. When he was 15, Joe started working at a grocery store and for a landscaping company. Joe liked the landscaping work and he was determined to be successful. By the time he turned 16, Joe had learned the entire business inside and out, and told my parents he wanted to start his own landscaping company. After discussing with my parents, reviewing his finances and receiving his driver's license, Joe purchased a used pick-up truck. Joe said he wanted to make sure he was prepared to pay for college and law school.

I remember my parents were amazed at Joe, this boy, who was starting his own business. Our parents gave us everything we needed, but because there were three of us, it didn't allow them to pay for everything we wanted. At 16, Joe had enough sense to start planning for his future. He built a business that would pay for his education so he could fulfill on the dream he had, from the time he was eight-years-old of attending law school. It gave him pride to be able to say he could support himself, as our parents had taught us.

Joe built his business and developed an impressive client base. Word spread about Joe's great work and eventually he was booking more and bigger jobs. This was a huge accomplishment for Joe. Like any good businessman, Joe realized that if his business was going to be lucrative enough to pay for his education, he would need to invest in its growth. He hired employees and purchased a bigger truck. Then he moved beyond offering only simple services like cutting grass, to designing yards with beautiful colored landscaping, rocks, and waterfalls. At 18 years old, Joe sat again with my parents and reviewed the finances of his business. This time he wanted to apply for a loan to purchase a dump truck, because it would benefit his company. It was a lot of money, but after reviewing the numbers many times with my parents he knew he would be able to afford it through the business income. This business ended up being very successful and Joe maintained it remotely while he was in college.

Our entire family took pride in Joe's success. But we weren't just proud because his business was making money. Joe's action meant so much more to my family and allowed us to see what Joe valued so authentically. He was starting to live the dream my parents had for us--to be successful in our own right--and he was doing so by acting out the values they taught us.

The start of my mother's own journey toward financial independence was in part inspired by Joe. And she in turn taught Joe how to invest wisely. My mother always believed in having an additional income -- whether it was by having two jobs or investing in property. My mother was able to purchase the home she did in Staten Island by using the income from an investment property in North Carolina. My mother never wanted to leave her property empty because it could make a profit that would allow her to provide more for her family. If she was not living in one of her homes, she always rented it out. She taught all of us to use every resource we had available to us wisely. When Joe and Lisa purchased their first home, in Staten Island, they automatically looked for a two-family home so they would have additional income. As I mentioned, we still own the home we grew up in. In an effort to carry on our mother's legacy we continue to rent the house. While it's not easy being landlords, Joe and I split the duties.

Years later, my brother showed my mother the power of his entrepreneurial spirit. After I married and moved, my brother feared leaving my mother with an empty nest since my sister was headed to Wagner College to study Education and my brother was always at work. My brother was very protective of my mother and he did not want her to experience that. After fully recovering from a back injury related to her previous job, my mother began working at a bakery as a manager. She loved the business and just as Joe did with landscaping, she learned the ins and outs of running a successful bakery. In order to solve the issue he saw with everyone out of my mother's house, Joe presented my mother with a plan to move to Staten Island and open a bakery. The plan would allow my brother to be closer to work at the Mayor's office, allow our younger sister to be close to my mother while at school, and give my mother the opportunity to work on her own terms. Opening a bakery gave our mother a purpose and allowed her to provide for her family in a new and exciting way. My mother was sold on his idea and in 1994 they moved and opened the bakery.

My brother, sister and mother worked together to make the bakery a success. Each of them had a different shift. Before going to work in the morning, Joe would go to the bakery and make the bagels for the day so my mother would not have to do the labor intensive part of the job. As Joe was finishing, my mother would come into the bakery and Joe would run out to his job in the mayor's office. My brother's work ethic is unmatched by anyone I have ever met. While most people were working 9-to-5 jobs, Joe had already put in five hours of work before heading to his "day job".

Sometimes I think that my mother's independent spirit and brother's entrepreneurial ventures combined made them a force to be reckoned with. The two learned a lot from each other and made a great team. My mother, after divorcing my father became immediately concerned with having a decent income to provide for herself and us. She was finally able to make her own choices about her income. My mother always pushed us to follow our dreams and I think Joe pushed her to follow hers as well.

In 1987, Joe graduated high school and received a football scholarship to Wagner College in Staten Island, New York. Joe played football while maintaining his landscaping business and making the Dean's List every year of his undergraduate career. As a political-science major, Joe was recommended to become an intern at the New York State Governor's office. It was during this time when Joe was introduced to the world of politics, where his career flourished.

Similarly to how he began at the landscaping company, Joe absorbed as much as he could about his new role and this new world. Joe quickly earned a reputation for being a fast learner and having strong work ethic; he was eager to learn, devoted, and a natural leader.

Joe graduated from Wagner College in 1991 and was hired by the governor's office. After Governor Mario Cuomo lost the election, Joe received offers to work with many other government officials because they had known about him due to his reputation and success. Joe went on to work for New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Public Advocate Mark Green, and then the accounting firm KPMG until Andrew Cuomo offered him a position working on his team at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Governor Mario Cuomo entered my brother's life just at the same time my father had passed away. The two had an instant connection. As the governor learned about my brother, he was reminded of himself: raised by Italian immigrants who came to this country to provide the best opportunities for their children. Joe looked up to the Governor as a father figure and mentor.

At my mother's funeral, both Governors Mario and Andrew Cuomo attended. I went to thank Mario Cuomo on behalf of my parents for the opportunities he provided Joe to grow into one of the best managers in the political world. I wanted the governor to know that he allowed my brother to make my parents very proud. He responded, "I knew from the very beginning that there was something special about your brother, I knew he had what it took to do this job well." He then made sure to tell me that Joe created his

success on his own. The governor said he only provided guidance and tough love, just as my parents had.

Governor Andrew Cuomo came to know my brother as family. After having known Joe for years through his father, Andrew saw the same Joe all of us had: hard-working, fiercely loyal and honest. All attributes that allowed Joe to be successful in every endeavor. When Andrew Cuomo decided he was going to run for Attorney General, he would have no other person but the man he considered a brother to run his campaign. Joe ran Andrew Cuomo's campaigns for Attorney General and Governor, helping to successfully secure wins in three elections.

The Cuomo family supported Joe in learning and being successful in his career. In return, my brother gave himself fully in order to support them. Joe made sacrifices in his own career goals and family life while working for the Cuomo's. For example, my brother pushed back attending law school, a dream of his since he was 8-years-old, until nine years after finishing his undergraduate degree. The demanding role he had kept him away from his wife, children, mother and siblings on many occasions. However, because we were proud of his success and how far he had brought his career, our family continued to support him. In 2000, Joe proudly graduated from his mentor Governor Mario Cuomo's alma mater, St. John's University School of Law.

In the last days of my mother's life, she told Joe how proud she was of him for all the success he created. She made him promise her that he would do something less demanding for work in order to spend more time with his family and enjoy the success he had worked so hard for. Joe, showing dedication for his work and commitment to family values at the same time, agreed. He told her he would pursue the impressive offers he received from the private sector after completing one last campaign run with Governor Andrew Cuomo.

About a year later, Governor Mario Cuomo passed away. Joe suffered another loss that saddened him deeply. Mario Cuomo was a great influence in Joe's life. Joe told me that

he will forever treasure the mentor and father-figure that Mario was for my brother starting at a young age. This is why when Andrew Cuomo asked Joe to stay on for another year, he said yes. By saying yes, Joe broke the promise he made to his mom a year earlier and sacrificed his opportunity to move into the private sector. I know that this was Joe's way of honoring the relationship he had with the Cuomo family, but especially with Governor Mario Cuomo.

After the year that Joe gave to the governor's office, he was prepared to move on. He had several impressive offers in the private sector to choose from. He chose the one that would fit him best. His vast experience coupled with his passion and love for sports led him to take the offer to work for Madison Square Garden as a Senior Vice President. Finally, Joe had a job that, for the most part, would allow him to work normal hours. This let him to come home at a regular time and sit down at the table with his family for dinner, something they all longed for, for many years. Joe was purely excited. I could see the change in the family dynamic; everyone was happy to have dad home, being able to drive his girls to school, attend events, and be around more made them whole. Seeing my brother and his family filled with so much love brought me an incredible amount of joy, because this is really what he has worked for his entire life.

I could continue on writing about the great man that my brother is for many more pages. This lengthy letter is only a condensed version of the stories, history, and actions that show Joe's true character. I hope that I was able to give you a better sense of the upstanding man Joseph Percoco truly is.

Joe has built his whole life around making his parents proud and honoring their legacy. Not only does my brother honor his name, he treats the Cuomo name with the same respect. The last thing my brother would ever do is something that could hurt both names. I want to make sure it is clear that one of the greatest gifts my parents ever gave me is this man I call my brother. I have been proud of him since we were young and I could not be prouder today of the man he has become. I have always been his biggest fan, my

mother even called me his cheerleader. I adore my brother. Nothing will ever change the overwhelming amount of love I have for my brother.

Each day as I sat in the courtroom behind my brother along with my two uncles, his real brothers, I was in disbelief. If anyone ever told me years ago that we would be in this situation, there would have been an exchange of harsh words. In the courtroom, we had to see and hear my brother's character be distorted and watch his finances and personal life be put on display. Even as a government employee, my brother has always been a very private man. The display was damaging and I know it hurt my brother as well.

Since the verdict, my brother is not the same. Raised Catholic, we have a strong faith in God and have called upon our faith to guide us through this time. Joe is leaning on his faith and the words and lessons my parents instilled in us. While this has not been easy to bear, I have an incredible amount of respect for the way my brother has been handling it. Especially on the day the verdict was announced, my brother stood up and accepted the decision with the same strength I have seen him use throughout our lives. Since the verdict my brother has been overwhelmed with sadness and disappointment, but I have watched him use the strength, lessons and values given to us by our parents to help him get through this difficulty. While we worry about him, Joe in his usual selfless manner, is trying to make sure that we do not experience the same pain and suffering he is.

Your honor, I can guarantee that if you speak to Joe, you would see for yourself that these charges do not represent his character by any means.

In closing I respectfully ask that the court grant Joe substantial leniency when sentencing. I implore you to take this letter into consideration as a true testimony of the honest man my brother is, and on behalf of myself and my parents afford him mercy. Lisa, V[redacted], J[redacted] and our entire family cannot imagine life without him. Joe is the heart and soul of our family, and we would be even more distraught than we already are.

I want to thank you for the time you took to read this letter. If you have any questions or feel the need to contact me for further information with regard to this, my phone number is [redacted] and my email address is [redacted]. Again, I thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,

Frances Campo

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

July 9, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Jerome Campo, I am Joseph Percoco's brother-in-law. I am married to his older sister Frances Campo. I'm 58 years old and retired from Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of NY. My home address is [redacted]

I thank you for allowing me to write on my brother's behalf. Along with the rest of our entire family, I am in total disbelief and completely distraught as to what my brother was charged with and convicted of. I hope that I can help him by telling you about his true character. I have a great amount of love and respect for this man and I want to do whatever possible to help him.

I first met Joe in 1990. I had been dating Fran for a short time and had heard a lot about Joe before I met him. I didn't know how old he was but because of all of the things I had heard about him, I assumed he was around my age, which at the time was 30. I was shocked to find out that he was ten-years my junior, yet so accomplished. He was in college, working in the Governor's office and running his own landscaping business. They say first impressions make or break you; I was certainly introduced to the humble, generous, funny and loving man that Joe is the first time I met him.

Joe and the Percoco family took me in as a brother and son, not just an in-law. Their mom took me in and treated me like her own. She didn't discriminate, child or in-law, she kept you in your place, but I knew everything she did was out of love and care. It was incredibly clear that her children were her whole world, and that she loved them and did everything she knew to raise them to be successful and good people. Looking at all of their success, I could see the values that were deeply seated in their family -- everyone was educated, working in careers, and was at Sunday dinner every week without fail! I was honored to be brought into their family. Although their father wasn't present--unfortunately I did not get to meet him before he passed away-- my

mother-in-law was tough. She had rules, and everyone followed them. Me too! She gave her children a curfew, and often Fran would get upset about it. I told her to not complain about that, because it showed how much her mother loved them. However, I did say that I was shocked that they all listened -- it was unbelievable. But it was clear that this family was close-knit and that they were loved and raised to respect their parents.

In the last days of my mother-in-law's life, I was astonished by how courageous this woman was. She comforted her children and grandchildren, and continuing to give us orders on how to continue on with our lives even though she was gone. I always knew it, but I point to this memory as the one that showed me the true strength of this family. My mother-in-law was strong, loving, and caring of her family until the very end. This is something she instilled in her children and it is clear in the way that Joe lives his life to this day.

Joe is truly devoted to his family. He has always been protective of his sisters and his mother. When I met them, Joe's little sister Tina was only 13-years-old and it was immediately after their parents had divorced. I saw the way Joe treated Tina with care and gave her extra attention, being sure to make her feel comfortable and happy at every chance he got. With my wife, Fran, I also saw Joe be protective. While Joe never gave me the typical brother-in-law "don't hurt my sister" speech, it was very apparent that treating her in any other way than with love would be unacceptable. Joe never had to give me that speech, he made it clear with his actions.

Joe's relationship with his mother was also very special. I'm honored that I got to experience it. When my mother-in-law became ill and went into the hospital, I watched as Joe took charge of researching how to get her the best care. While I could tell he was stressed, he did his absolute best to make sure it didn't show and that everyone else remained calm. I helped in taking my mother-in-law to doctors, but Joe made sure we were going to the best ones he could find. In her worst days we all got to hospice early and left very late. I watched as Joe cared for his mom and kept his family calm and laughing. He was able to selflessly put aside his own emotions about what was happening to comfort everyone else. This is only one example, but Joe has done this for as long as I know. Joe even eulogized both of his parents. He honored both of his parents in a way only he could, by including all the loving memories and the amazing people they were while also still being able to make jokes.

Two weeks before my wedding, I had a falling out with my best man. My best man was disinvited from the wedding. Without thinking twice, I asked my soon-to-be brother-in-law to be my best man. Even though Joe was already walking Fran down the aisle, he didn't even think twice and immediately said yes. The day of our wedding, Joe walked my wife down the aisle and then came and stood next to me as my best man. And he has been there ever since, right by my side--and our family's side--whenever we need him.

On many occasions, I and my mother-in-law would say to Joe - we saw you in the paper or on tv! I was so proud of him and everything he had accomplished that I wanted him to take credit for it. I always asked him why he never posed next to either of the governor's he worked with. He had such a profound relationship and established role in the governor's office, that we were confused about why he would not be standing in the pictures with the governors. I would ask him, " Joe, why don't you get in the pictures with the Governor? I see your arm or the back of your head. We want to see that smile!" Joe's response was always the same a quick "Why?" followed by "I am not the governor. I have a job to do and being in the media isn't part of it, there's no need for that." Joe's humble attitude has always been clear to me. While I joke that he should "smile for the camera," I know that he does not want to be given any kind of special attention because he doesn't believe that he deserves it. To Joe, he has always just been doing his job and helping people along the way.

I've had the pleasure and honor of watching my brother humbly make so many accomplishments. I don't know if I've ever really told him this, but I am incredibly proud of him, his success, and the man he is and always has been in his personal life and career. I got to watch Joe graduate from both Wagner College in Staten Island and John Jay School of Law. I was so proud of him, especially getting to watch him fulfill his dreams. Joe exceeded the expectations of both of his parents, and he did so in order to make them proud and along the way he made the rest of us proud too.

Although I knew that Joe cared deeply about his family, including me, I was given all the evidence I need that he would always be there to support the people he loves when I was seriously injured while working for Pepsi Co. After many years of working for Pepsi Co., I was seriously injured on the job. In order to deal with the whole situation, I had my own legal counsel. However, I trusted Joe and wanted to have him by my side to help me understand the legal jargon and to make sure I was doing what was in my best interest. Every time I had a question, Joe was always willing to take time out of his day, as busy as he was, to answer my questions, help me understand or get on conference calls with me and my attorney. Especially in a time of extreme stress for me, Joe made it easy and was willing to make time to ensure that I was doing everything necessary in order to make sure I was being treated properly.

Again, I got another lesson in the power of Joe's love for his family and his comedic relief during the same time after being injured at work. [redacted]

[redacted] I never asked him to come, I knew that he lived in Staten Island and worked in Manhattan, and I did not want him to travel so much just to sit in the hospital. Yet that night, still in his suit, Joe came up after working all day to be by my side when at one of the most vulnerable points in my life. [redacted] Joe has a way, especially with his humor, of being able to get us (our family) through even the most painful of situations.

Joe is a very comedic and witty guy. He uses his humor to make sure we all have a good time when we're together and makes lots of jokes. Usually I am the brunt of his jokes, but I am the first person to crack up laughing. I know the jokes are all in good fun, and he is very funny. He is my brother, and like I said I thought he was much older than he is, but he makes sure to let me know how I'm older than everyone. I also tend to make comments that will get a rise out of people about something minor and then walk away. Joe always catches me and points it out saying, "this guy is going to outlive us all because he's causing all the stress and then walks away and laughs at it!" My wife and mother in law would get sensitive at times and start to defend me. Joe would blurt out, "why are you sensitive, look at who's laughing the hardest" as he pointed at me. And it was true, me! His matter-of-fact, dry sense of humor is one of my favorite things about Joe; it's provided a lot of memories and closeness for our family.

Very rarely are there opportunities for us to make Joe the brunt of a joke, and I for one jump on every opportunity possible. The most common thing I could make fun of him for is his obsession with doing coupon clipping for his weekly grocery shopping trip on Sundays. For as long as I know Fran, my wife and Joe's sister, I have heard about his famous budget. Usually because Fran was joking about Joe being so meticulous with the way he managed his money. Every Sunday Fran and I would go to Staten Island to my mother-in-law's house for family dinner. When we arrived, my nieces told us about their father's "eventful" morning of clipping coupons and then grocery shopping. Joe would gloat about how proud he was of how much he saved because of the flyer that was sent to him in his email. Boy did I get to have fun with that! I made *a lot* of jokes for many Sundays about Joe's couponing and shopping trips. Even though we don't do family dinners weekly anymore, when we do, I still get to joke because to this day Joe still does the shopping because he doesn't think anyone can shop better than he can. I completely respect Joe's budgeting and think it's a great trait and wonderful that he teaches it to his daughters. However, because it's so rare that I get the opportunity to get a joke in on Joe that I fully take advantage of it every chance I get.

You Honor, for all intents and purposes, Joe is my brother. He is my only brother. The man that I know he is does not match the charges he was accused of. Through this letter, I hope that you are able to see the Joseph Percoco I know and love.

In your sentencing, I beg that you take into account the man that Joe is and offer him as much leniency as you can.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter. If you should feel the need to contact me, my phone number is [redacted].

Sincerely,

Jerome Campo

Jerome Campo

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni-

I am writing as a friend and neighbor of Joseph Percoco. I have known Joe and Lisa Percoco for six years, since they moved to South Salem, New York, and I count them as two of my closest friends. I know that Joe has been convicted of several crimes and that his sentence will be decided later this month. I encourage the court to issue a fair and lenient sentence.

Joe Percoco is a family man. He is an active member of our small town community. As mentioned above, I met Joe's family in 2012, when they moved to South Salem. My daughter and Joe's youngest daughter became fast friends. Both Joe and Lisa have been active members of the Lewisboro community, and have made family and children their main priority. Joe has volunteered as an assistant coach for our daughters' lacrosse team on a moment's notice. Joe is the type of man who offers carpool rides for the children, even in snowstorms. He is a person who does a favor for you and then thanks you for letting him do it. We have spent holidays with the Percoco family, including ringing in several New Years. Joe is a caring and conscientious man who puts family and friends above himself. He has two daughters, who he cares deeply about and he plays an active role in their upbringing. Joe married his college sweetheart, Lisa, and demonstrates an obvious love and devotion to both her and their girls, V[redacted] and J[redacted].

I encourage you to issue a lenient sentence because I believe that Joe should be with his family. I believe that his imprisonment would be a devastating blow, not only to the three members of his immediate family, but also to his extended family, his friends and the community at large. Through Joe's ordeal over the last few years (not only these criminal and court proceedings, but also the loss of his mother several years ago), Joe has maintained a positive attitude and stood as a role model to those facing adversity. He has

not demonstrated anger or resentment, but has instead exhibited a strength and poise to his family and friends. He has also remained a constant presence in his daughter's lives, appearing at their sports games, theater productions and school events. Despite his struggles with the press and fear of exposing his daughters to unwanted attention, he has found a way to put family first and stay involved in their lives. I believe that Joe should be given a lenient and just sentence because I believe that he makes positive contributions to the community from his home and I believe above all else, he should remain a part of his family's daily life.

Joe's daughter V[redacted] will be entering her senior year of high school and looks up to her father. She is a star student and plans to study government and politics at college. Joe has not discouraged her, despite his struggles, as he believes his daughter can make a positive difference in this world. Joe should be around to help V[redacted] choose a college and transition to this exciting time in her life. I believe it would be a massive punishment to her to have her father taken away at this vulnerable time. Joe's daughter J[redacted] (who is close friends with my own daughter), will be entering the eighth grade. As you probably know, the tween/ early teen years are very difficult for any child and I believe that having her father imprisoned will be devastating to her. As I've said, Joe is a constant presence in his daughter's lives and he positively impacts them.

My husband and I were shocked by the verdict against Joe this March. The crimes that Joe has been convicted of do not represent the man that we have come to know. Joe was always a devoted civil employee and took great pride in his work for the governor. I understand that the charges against Joe are serious, but I write to say that they are not representative of the type of man Joe is. I ask that you show mercy to Joe (and his family)

Thank you for your consideration and for all you do in the interest of justice.

Sincerely,

Jerri-Lynn Capobianco

(Attorney admitted in New York and Connecticut, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the Supreme Court of the United States)

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court of the
South District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:
My name is Father Michael Carnevale, OFM; I am a Franciscan Friar ministering at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st St., NY, NY 10001. I have been stationed there for the last 11 years, administering the Sacraments, doing spiritual direction with individuals, working on St. Francis Bread Line and also coordinating the scheduling of the masses and confessions for the friars who work in the church.

I am writing concerning the sentencing of Joseph Percoco. Judge, I have known Joe for about 4 years as he comes to me for Spiritual Direction. Spiritual Direction explores a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspect of a human being. Describing spiritual direction requires putting words to a process of fostering a transcendent experience that lies beyond all names and yet the

experience longs to be articulated and made concrete in everyday living. It is easier to describe what spiritual direction does than what spiritual direction is. My role is not to define spiritual direction, but to describe the experience. It helps us learn how to live in peace, with compassion, promoting justice, as humble servants of that which lies beyond all names.

In the years that Joe has been coming to me, I have seen the growth in him of living a better Christian life, realizing the values and principles set down by Jesus Christ. I have seen him struggling through obstacles that where keeping him away from having a better relationship with his God. That takes time and in rooting out of those obstacles, the real problems that externalize themselves in acts etc., that stand in the way of a better relationship with God.

I have found Joe to be very honest and forthright in wanting to living a better life, a life that has positive repercussions in his relations with those he comes in contact with on a daily bases. This has helped him in his home life with his wife and children and has improved his communications and his sensitivity to their needs.

I can say this concerning Joe and being a decent, honest person, as I mentioned, with values and principles, certainly manifests itself with the in-depth sharing that we have done. What Joe has shared with me is sacred but I can share this with you, he is a good man who would not go against his word and be a hypocrite to his faith. Saying all this, I believe that the crime does not represent who Joe is or what I know of his character.

Therefore, Judge, I ask you to be lenient and show mercy to Joe when you impose sentence.

I thank your Honor, for considering my petition for Joe.

Sincerely yours,

Father Michael Carnevale, OFM
Pastoral Associate

[redacted]

STEVEN M. COHEN
35 EAST 62ND STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10065

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Re: United States v. Joseph Percoco, 16 CR 776 (VEC)

Dear Judge Caproni:

I write in anticipation of the sentencing of Joseph Percoco.

I met Joe shortly after Andrew Cuomo was elected Attorney General in November 2006. At that time, I was in private practice and had previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York. Years before, as was the case with Joe, I had worked for Governor Mario M. Cuomo. And, while Joe and I did not overlap in our tenure with Mario Cuomo (mine was during his first term and I believe Joe's during his third), I knew of Joe, and our common experience and overlapping set of colleagues and friends led to an almost immediate bond.

Joe and I worked closely during the Attorney General-elect's transition. We were part of a small group that was charged with assembling potential appointees to serve in the new Administration. At that point, I had been away from State politics and State government for almost 20 years. More than anyone, Joe helped me navigate the people and personalities critical to putting together a team that would best serve the Administration. In doing so, Joe

was remarkably selfless. Despite his critical role in the election, he never complained that a number of high profile senior lawyers were being hired for positions that would be above him in the hierarchy, and he never questioned the role he was given. Instead, Joe viewed any job in the AG's Office in which he might serve as an opportunity to support a top-notch team of lawyers and to lend his own understanding of politics to the operation. At the time, my impression was that Joe was interested in the success of the enterprise and willing to put his own personal interests aside for the greater good.

During our time in the AG's Office, I served as Counselor and Chief of Staff. Joe more or less served as director of operations as well as assisting on a variety of investigations. I was Joe's supervisor, and I know first-hand that much of Joe's work was thankless. He supervised event planning. He was responsible for insuring the AG's public events were advanced properly. He provided critical assistance in navigating the thicket of state and local politics during the course of investigations concerning the legislature's "Member Item" system, NYS Controller Alan Hevesi's Office and the State Board of Cooperative Educational Services. He also helped set up and produced internal events, such as our annual award presentations and holiday parties. Simply put, Joe embraced whatever role was required of him to make the Office function and to make our cases successful. Throughout our four years together in the Attorney General's Office, Joe was a true colleague and friend, not just to me but to the entire staff. And there can be no doubt that Joe's efforts were critical to our success.

In 2010, after Andrew Cuomo was elected Governor, once again Joe and I worked on the transition. Many members of the senior staff moved from the AG's Office to the Governor's Office. The view at the time was to try to keep as much of the team as possible in tact; and Joe was a major part of the team. I became Secretary to the Governor, and Joe became Executive Deputy Secretary. Our roles more or less replicated the way we functioned in the AG's Office.

I can speak directly to the role Joe played in our first legislative session. Joe was part of a small team that worked on the budget process and successfully achieved an on-time budget --something that had become almost impossible in New York State. With respect to the passage of Marriage Equality (which I was tasked with managing) Joe was critical. He showed himself to be deft in his dealing with an array of legislators and interest groups. In one particular incident, Joe and I met personally with representatives of certain Orthodox Jewish groups who were opposed on religious grounds to the passage of same

sex marriage. It was Joe who took the lead in explaining that he fully understood the group's objections and that he respected their right to have a view different from the Administration. Joe pointed out, however, that passage of the legislation would have little, if any, effect on their Community. He went on to say that the legislation was about fairness and equality. He pressed the notion that no one was seeking to impinge on their rights or their religious observances. Moreover, he noted that we were not asking for their public support. What we did want was for the group to stop pressuring critical Senators who had come to believe that they would be punished electorally for a "yes" vote. When the meeting ended, the group's leader said he respected our viewpoint, appreciated our friendship and was going home. In other words, the group would let the issue play out and would cease lobbying in opposition. This is one of numerous examples of Joe adding real value on critical issues. Yet Joe as always was content to work without public praise or recognition.

I left the Governor's Administration in late 2011 and returned to private law practice. At that point, Joe and my daily working relationship came to an end.

Joe has spent the better part of his adult life in public service. Having worked with Joe, I was profoundly disturbed by the facts alleged in the Indictment and proven at trial. In all candor, as was the case with many of Joe's colleagues in the Executive Chamber, I was angry and felt personally aggrieved. But I also believe that overwhelmingly in his public career, Joe behaved honorably, served the public good and acted with the best of intentions. I say this <u>not</u> to excuse his conduct but to provide some context.

From a personal perspective, as should be obvious from my description of our relationship, Joe has always been a reliable and caring friend. I have gotten to know Joe's wife Lisa and his two daughters. I witnessed Joe's compassion and love for his mother who passed away a few years ago. I know that there is nothing Joe cares more about than his family. Consequently, the personal toll the Indictment and conviction have taken on Joe and his family have been extraordinary. His world is forever changed, and there is no chance that what he lost – in friendships and trust and reputation -- will ever be recovered. While I will not be so presumptuous as to suggest that I have a meaningful understanding of the multitude of sentencing factors that are before the Court, I do know that the impact of a lengthy sentence on Joe's family will be severe.

In light of all of the following, I would ask that in determining his sentence that the Court take into consideration all the positive attributes and honorable service that I know make up a major portion of Joe's personal and professional life.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Cohen

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May 15, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I write to you on behalf of Joseph Percoco as a friend of many years and as an attorney who has served as a Counsel to members of the NYS Legislature in Albany. When I was the President of the Brooklyn Bar Association, we hosted Continuing Legal Education seminars for the Office of the Attorney General and members of the Legislature who were attorneys.

I was also privileged to have served as a State Committeeman representing one of the most diverse districts in New York State for over twenty-seven (27) years. I met Joe when he was working for the late Hon. Mario Cuomo.

I have known Joe Percoco for over twenty (20) years, and have always found him to be tough yet courteous, caring, concerned and willing to be in the background while always learning from and listening to others.

I have known him to be a dedicated and loving husband and father having spoken with him about his family members whenever we had the occasion to be together. In fact, I had the distinction of serving as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Joe was very busy with the New York State delegates, but I

on to page two

remember he flew back to New York for one day to be with his children who were beginning school.

I always found Joe to be an honest person, and a man of his word.

I attended the Israel Day Parade with my wife and children, and Joe was always very, courteous and friendly, and made my son W[redacted] who attended the Yeshivah of Flatbush, feel special when Joe brought W[redacted] over to meet the Governor.

For all the above, and much more, I ask the Court to consider Joe Percoco's demeanor, amd the many good deeds he has done, while at the same time, taking into consideration his wife and two children, in imposing a sentence.

I beg Your Honor to show leniency and mercy to Joe Percoco and his family.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

STEVEN D. COHN

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am writing this letter in defense of Joseph Percoco. My name is Concetta Collins and I am his wife's Aunt Connie. Lisa is my sister's daughter. I am a senior and a retired Board of Ed School Secretary.

I have known Joe since the early 1990's when he and my niece were both students at Wagner College. He was a personable, responsible and respectful young man.

Through the years Joe has been a constant in our family. One incident imbedded in my mind - in 1999 my husband passed away suddenly. While my daughter and I were at the Emergency Room dealing with the shock, Joe walked in and we were not so alone. A member of the family had called him at work and he immediately came.

A few years after my husband passed away I put my house up for sale and it sold before I could find another house. As fate would have it, Joe and Lisa's tenant had just moved out. I took the apartment temporarily but remained there for 6 great years. Joe was a caring and considerate landlord.

In all the years that I have known him, Joe has always been a good son; brother; husband; father and a decent human being strong in his faith. That's why the family is so distraught by the outcome of this trial.

In making your decision, I pray God grants you the wisdom to see the difference between the man and the accusations.

Respectfully yours,

Concetta Collins

Concetta Collins
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of

New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni;

I am writing you as the mother-in-law of Joseph Percoco. I have known Joe since he was in Wagner College on Staten Island, where he first met my daughter, Lisa. I have always known Joe to be a decent, honest, young man who was deeply devoted to his mother and father.

He quickly bonded with my husband, who, was also the product of Italian immigrants. They shared a similar background of hard work, love of family and decent moral integrity. Until my husband died in 2003, they spent many mornings having breakfast together before work. Even during my husband's illness, Joe came during the night and physically carried him into the car to take him to the hospital.

I've seen Joe grow into a bright, hardworking man who is deeply devoted to his wife and children. He was also a devoted assistant to the Governor and his family. There were many times during family functions, where he was not around or on the phone because of his loyalty to the Governor, the Governor's family and his job.

I have known him to do many good things for many good people. Yet, despite his success and position it was not beneath him to fix a pipe, put up shelves or change a doorknob for me. That is why these convictions are so hard to accept because of the person I know him to be. This case, has not only affected Joe, my daughter and grandchildren, but also the family and friends of those who love him. For this reason, I am writing to you with hopes that your sentencing will show leniency. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Coppola

Mary Ann Coppola

[redacted]

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing in reference to the sentencing of Joseph Percoco. I know that Joe has been convicted and I am writing to share my personal feelings about my longtime friend and colleague for your consideration as you decide his sentence.

I am currently 38 years old and reside at [redacted]. I work as a Managing Director at the real estate development company L&L MAG and worked with Joe in my capacity on Governor Cuomo's campaign team and Office of Attorney General staff from 2003 through 2009. I first worked for Governor Cuomo after his 2002 campaign for Governor of New York as his only employee for many years. I then helped to run the team and campaign for Attorney General and finally worked in that government office as First Deputy Director of Intergovernmental affairs. After I left the official staff I stayed involved with the Cuomo team for many years, including returning for the successful Governor's campaign in 2010 as a volunteer for a few weeks.

I have known Joe professionally and personally for 15 years and know his wife Lisa and daughters V[redacted] and J[redacted]. I have met his sisters many times and attended the funeral for his mother a few years ago. I worked extremely closely with Joe in all my years working for Governor Cuomo. In this time, I knew Joe to be the hardest working, most loyal and dedicated colleague I have ever known. Remarkably, at this time he was also just as available and dedicated to his immediate and extended family and network for friends and associates.

Joe is the kind of person you call when you lost driving through New York State, even when on a personal trip that had nothing to do with our work together. He always picks up the phone and helps you find an answer, no matter the time or topic. I have clear memories of Joe speaking to his sisters, mother and wife throughout all our work days, even under the most intense deadlines and pressure moments of a political campaign. He would be sorting out Easter plans, helping someone secure a lawyer, assisting in everyone's tax deadlines. Joe famously was given a t-shirt that said "How can I help you today?" from someone in his family. It said everything about the kind of pillar of support he provided to everyone around him – he always dropped everything to support the people around him.

In our professional life, I would go to Joe to support me in all sorts of professional issues. I was in my early 20s, just out of college and a novice in the political world. Given the profile and demands of my position, there is no question I could not have succeeded without his advice and counsel. Joe helped me negotiate difficult personal dynamics with regular therapy-like sessions. And he was the architect of executing on our responsibilities, from securing logistics around the Democratic Convention to planning a rally or press conference to executing a successful fundraiser. No detail was too small or too large for Joe to jump in on and solve.

Joe's determination and ability to overcome the most difficult circumstances are what impress me the most about his character. Having lost his father early in life, Joe became the patriarch of his extended family. He also recreated a family bond with the Cuomo family, Governors Mario and Andrew, Matilda, Chris and the extended family. He was just as much a son/brother/friend to all of them as he is his own family. I will never forget the phone call Joe placed to Governor and Mrs. Cuomo to share his bar exam results. Having failed the test more than once before, the entire Cuomo network was cheering for his success and encouraging him to once and for all, put himself first and really detach from his responsibilities to focus on the exam. Mrs. Cuomo yelped with excitement when she heard the good news and ran to hand Governor Cuomo Sr. the phone in the shower to hear the results himself!

For me this example says everything about Joe's character. He was willing to retry the bar exam despite his (and unfortunately well known) previous failures. Everyone knew that he could pass, if he would only prioritize his own success and wellbeing over everyone else's. He needed to stop answering phone calls from his extended network and solving everyone else's problems.

To sum up, it is hard to imagine the crime Joe has been convicted of being a reality. Everything I know about Joe makes me think his conviction is just not possible. His number one priority has been protecting his family and the idea of him being away from home for any period of time is nothing short of devastating for Lisa and his daughters. In addition, he has done nothing in our entire professional life together to jeopardize or tarnish his personal integrity and reputation, or the reputation of the Cuomo family. Now that the headlines of his trial are public, I can't imagine any worse punishment for Joe than the hurt or shame the news has brought the people he loves and is dedicated to the most.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter and hope you will consider leniency in Joe's sentencing. If you have any further questions or there is anything I can do to support this letter please don't hesitate to reach me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Ashley C. Cotton

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Lauren DeFilippo and I am a family friend of Joseph Percoco. I am 50 years old this year and am the owner of my own business that does software consulting for Human Resource Departments. I currently reside in Valley Cottage, NY with my 8 month old son. I have known Joe and his family since I was 10 years old as I went to school with his sister Fran. I spent a lot of time with the family and got to know them very well over the years.

I know that Joe has been convicted in your court and I am writing on his behalf to provide you with some information that may help you to understand the man that will stand before you for sentencing.

The Percoco family are good people. As I mentioned I grew up with Joe's sister Fran. We were very close friends as children and kept in touch over the years. She wound up living across the street from my Mom for the past 20 years. This has allowed me to see the family as adults. Joe was always such a welcoming person – always kind and friendly. He is a very devoted family man who takes his role as head of the family very seriously. He is always there to support his sisters and was very supportive and caring for his Mom as she went through a terminal illness. I always found Joe to be a very trustworthy and reliable friend and member of the community.

Based on what I know of Joe I am sure that he regrets his actions that caused him to be before you for sentencing. I truly believe that he had no intention of hurting anyone as this would be so far from the person that I know who is always concerned about the people surrounding him. The charges that he has been convicted of are very out of character for the man that I have known for most of my 50 years.

I am writing to you to ask you to show mercy towards Joe and his family when you impose your sentence. His family is so important to him and his role in the family equally important. Your show of leniency will allow for him to able to continue filling that role.

Thank you for allowing me to tell you about my friend Joe Percoco and I pray that you consider these points in your sentencing.

Best Regards,

Lauren DeFilippo

Lauren DeFilippo

[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

July 13, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Jenna DePasquale and I am a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology, residing in Staten Island, New York. I would first like to take the time to thank you for reading my letter and giving me a chance to explain the superior character of my uncle, Joseph Percoco. A lot of the time I have spent with my uncle has been around his dining room table. I have always admired how great of a speaker he is. He captivates everyone in the room with his presence. I will tell you some of the stories that my uncle has told me. I am confident that they speak for themselves in conveying the great man that Joseph Percoco is.

First off, my Uncle Joe has always been a second father to me. Although he is not my god father, I regard him as such, he has guided me throughout my life the way a god father would. Often my uncle will tell me stories from when I was young. As a child I loved the show, Barney. My cousin had a mechanical Barney toy that would talk, sing and clap its hands. At this age, sharing wasn't a skill that my cousin had mastered. She would not let me play with Barney. This made me very upset. This made my Uncle Joe very upset as well. The next day he went to the toy store and bought me a Barney of my own. I was thrilled. Until this day, I still remember that being one of my favorite toys. I played with it until Barney's voice box became warped. There is also the story of when he took me to see ducks at the park. On the way home as I sat in my car seat in the backseat of the car we spoke about the ducks and our surroundings as they passed. In a brief moment of silence I thought that something had happened to my uncle, I called out, "JoJo?" to make sure he was still there. A harsh sentencing for my uncle will leave me with no choice but to feel like that concerned child who thought her uncle had vanished from the car because he stopped talking.

Uncle Joe also tells a lot of stories about when he was a kid. Although they are now both deceased he often talks about growing up with tough Italian parents. He adored both of his parents and at times I can tell that he is still broken from the passing of his mother. Although she passed 4 years ago, the way he talks about her, I know it is still fresh to him and that he wishes she was here with us every day.

Most of the stories he tells about his teenage years revolve around working for a landscaping company. At 16 my uncle cut grass every weekend and managed clients. I think this job has always been his foundation for working hard and making a respectable living. The work ethic he established during his teen years followed him into his adult life. My uncle sacrificed a lot during his years working for both governors Mario and Andrew Cuomo. It was always apparent to me that he was passionate about his work, but he had a very demanding job. I can remember lots of family functions where my uncle would need to step out to take a conference call or not be there at all because of travel.

Now I will tell you my own stories about my uncle. No matter what our family goes through, my uncle is always the voice of reason. Like any family, ours has been through its fair share of ups and downs throughout the years. In moments of frustration and annoyance, my uncle makes me look at the other side of things. He makes me really step back and look at the root of the issue. What he has taught me is that sometimes it is better to view things with reason than to view them with emotion. He has taught me that no matter what, at the end of the day we are family and family is something that cannot be broken. Family can withstand all and he values it above all things.

My uncle is an incredibly funny man. He can make me laugh over the same joke like it is the first time I've heard it, months and even years later. Recently when I say something funny, Uncle Joe has taken to saying, "Jenna has become very funny in her old age." Yes, my old age of 21. I like to think that I have always been funny but the fact that my uncle thinks that I am funny and lets me know it is such a great satisfaction because of the way I admire him. He even has a running list in his mind of the funniest jokes I've ever made and will list them out from time to time. I think everyone can relate to how great it feels to know that someone really values and listens to the things you say. My uncle makes everyone feel heard. He makes everyone feel like they are important.

My Uncle Joe brings joy to everything he does. Recently he, myself, my brother, and his two daughters went out on a boating trip. I love any day that the five of us get to spend together. There is never a bad day when we are with him. He always has a new adventure for our family. Over the years my uncle has played camp counselor for the 4 of us many a time. On this trip on his boat we were going to do some fishing. My uncle got everything set up and we casted our lines. While he was setting up my brother's fishing line with bait it flew back towards him and the hook became lodged in his finger, bait pinned to his skin and all. At first he was determined he could remove it himself but eventually decided he needed to go to the hospital to have the hook removed. At this point I was worried. However, my uncle simply wrapped up his injured hand with a cloth and proceeded to drive the boat across the ocean back to the dock, with one hand. I volunteered to drive to the emergency room, but he assured me he was fine. As we drove he repeatedly told us that the hook didn't hurt, he just wanted it out. We sat in the emergency room for 45 minutes and sure enough my uncle emerged, hook out of hand and in a plastic container, all smiles. We went back out on the boat and continued with our day like nothing

happened. Anyone else would have called it a day after something like that. He is the only person I know that could make a trip to the ER an overall pleasant experience. My uncle brings joy to everything life throws at him, even a fishing hook to the finger. The hook now proudly sits in its container on his desk in his home office like a trophy.

Judge Caproni, I urge you to remember the words I have written in this letter during the upcoming sentencing of my uncle, Joseph Percoco and show leniency in your decision. Please remember the stories. Please remember his daughters, who I regard as my sisters, two young women who need their father present in their lives. Joseph Percoco is one of the most kind-hearted, respectable and admirable men I have ever known, and it is truly a privilege and honor to be able to call myself his niece. I simply cannot imagine our family with him absent.

Sincerely,

Jenna DePasquale

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the

Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall Unites States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni;

I am Joseph Percoco's sister in law. Joe married my sister, Lisa, 21 years ago. I have known Joe for almost 30 years. I am a special education teacher and reside at [redacted].

I am writing to you because I know that Joe has been convicted on several counts. I hope that I can show you the real Joe. Joe Percoco is the most honorable, respectful, smart man I know. When Joe's mother was on her death bed, Joe was there by her side every day, until her death. She taught him how to respect others, but most importantly how to be a loyal, respectful man. She taught him that if you want something in life, you have to work hard for it. In years past, we took family vacations to Florida. One of our relatives, invited us all and paid for all of us to go. Joe accepted the invitation, but, did not allow the relative to pay for him or his family. He paid his own way. His children, as well as mine, look up to him and adore him. My son, in particular, looks up to Joe as a strong role model. They have many jokes between the two of them and can laugh for hours together. He has been a role model by the way he lives his life. He is a dedicated, hard worker and has devoted many years to his job with the governor. There were many times, that Joe was not with us during a family function, because he needed to work and was always there at his job. Most recently, he took his children and mine on a fishing trip, he had promised he would take them on. While fishing, Joe was settling the kids in and making sure everyone had everything they needed. As he hooked the first bait, and threw it in for my son, the hook snapped back and caught Joe in his hand. He tried to pry the hook out of his hand, but he was not successful. He proceeded to take himself and the kids to the ER for stitches. He did not want to disappoint them, so when he was done, he took them, as promised, back to fish.

Joe has been a source of comfort and support for our family. When my step dad was ailing, it was Joe who was always there at the doctor's appointments and was able to explain everything to all of us. When my sister needed [redacted], it was Joe that quieted all our fears and kept us in the loop as to what was going on every step of the way. He goes out of his way

for his family and for others. He often puts the needs of others before his own. If he knows that someone is upset or worried about something he will make them feel better and go out of his way to do it. I remember, when my son was experiencing [redacted], Joe knew I was upset. He drove an hour and a half to surprise us and said that he wanted to cheer me up.

Judge Caproni I am pleading with you to see that Joe is a wonderful, respectful man who is an integral part of his family and community. Please show leniency with your sentencing because we just can't imagine our family without Joe. It would be such a huge void and one that will not only scar his children and wife, but his extended family as well. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Michele DePasquale

Michele DePasquale

[redacted]

[redacted]

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10017

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Abraham Eisner and I live in the Boro Park section of Brooklyn, New York. I've worked for many years as a respected leader in the mortgage banking and real estate industry in my community and beyond. I am currently retired.

These days I stay active by being involved in community affairs. I am a staunch supporter of several organizations that assist the less fortunate. As a member of the Board of Directors of these organizations, I work tirelessly to help the special needs population, autistic children, and couples dealing with infertility. I feel privileged to be able to utilize my time and talents to help those in need.

As a longtime friend of Joseph Percoco, I am hoping to shed some light on his fine character. I met Joe about twenty five years ago, when he was working for Governor Mario Cuomo. Being in the mortgage business, I became the broker for his mother and other family members when purchasing their homes. What strikes me most about Joe is his deep respect for the Jewish community and his constant desire to understand the needs of our community. I see him as a man of integrity who has a high regard for people of other faiths and recognizes and celebrates the diversity of the people of New York.

Joe once told me that it was his father who taught him to respect the Jewish religion. When he was a young boy, he was once playing handball with his friends on a Friday afternoon. It happened that they had chosen to bounce the ball off the wall of the local synagogue that day. Joe's father, an admirable man, saw this happening when he came home from work that day. "Don't ever play in that yard," he told the boys. "That's a synagogue, where Jews come to pray. It's disrespectful to interrupt their prayers."

Ever since then, Joe shows a tremendous appreciation for the Jewish faith. While working for HUD under Governor Andrew Cuomo he reached out to me numerous times on issues pertaining to my community. He was determined to acquire a full understanding of the facts and would go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that each situation was properly addressed.

I once got a call from Joe on a Friday afternoon in the summer. At the time the Attorney General's office received a referral from the Health Department to close down a summer camp due to certain serious issues. Joe asked me to drive over to the camp and check out the issue. I was reluctant to go because I was looking forward to a relaxing weekend, but he persisted. He understood even better than I did that if this Jewish camp were to close down on a Friday afternoon, right before the Sabbath, it would create tremendous hardship for everyone involved. And he was sensitive enough to the community's needs to see if that could be avoided.

I was so impressed by Joe's sensitivity that I did indeed drive half an hour to the camp that Friday, despite the inconvenience. I did my own research and reported back to Joe that the issues affected a part of the camp that was unoccupied. I gave him my opinion that a resolution could certainly wait until Monday morning. And thus were several hundred campers and staff members spared a difficult and stressful Shabbos experience.

That's Joe. Committed to getting the facts but also compassionate and caring. In his role as the Governor's aide, he was able to accomplish tremendous benefits for all New Yorkers. He has a knack for getting things done, even when the situation may seem hopeless. We continue to enjoy a cherished friendship and have developed a mutual respect that has grown over the years.

Joe is a tremendous asset to the state of New York. It would be a shame to let his talents and experience go to waste. I understand that Joe was found guilty by a jury, but he is remorseful of his actions. And I also wonder whether it wouldn't be beneficial to all New Yorkers if Joe were sentenced to community service, so he could use his skills and experience for the greater good. I respectfully request that you consider my suggestion.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Abe Elsner

[redacted]

May 3, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Robert Engel, and I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew Joseph Percoco. I have known my nephew since he was a young boy and he has always been good scholastically in school and very responsible at home. Joseph has always had a great work ethic. He started his own business as a young teenager.
At an early age, Joseph had to take on the role as a father figure because he lost his dad and took care of his mom and sisters. Joseph also took care of his mother for many years who suffered from a rare fatal disease, he continued to take responsibility and did whatever he needed to do to take care of his mother till the very end.
My nephew Joseph is a very good person with a big heart. He's loving, caring, and respectful. Joseph a great father to his two beautiful daughters.

Judge Caproni, I am providing this information with the hope that you will take this letter into consideration and show some leniency when you oppose sentencing for Joseph.

Sincerely,
Robert Engel

Mr. Frank Errico

[redacted]

[redacted]

May 4, 2018

The Honorable Judge Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of

New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

Re: Joseph Percoco character reference

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing this letter to share with you my stories of Joe that help describe his character. I am Joe Percoco's uncle, brother of his late mother, Angela Percoco. I am the youngest of my siblings and Joe felt more like a younger brother rather than a nephew. I worked for many years in the Food Service Industry and am now retired.

Joe learned to respect the law at a very early age. When he was about 7 years old, he put a candy bar in his pocket while grocery shopping with his mother. When his mother found out what he had done, she drove him to the police station where he promised that he would never do it again. That was the one and only time that Joe stepped into a police station.

At around age 14, Joe started working. He showed tremendous work at a young age, delivering

newspapers and working in the landscaping business after school. He learned how the landscaping business was run and by the age of 17, he had his own landscaping company. Joe managed to go to school, participate in after school activities such as sports, and a run a very successful company before leaving to attend Wagner College, where he began working on his law degree.

When his younger sister decided to also attend Wagner College, Joe's mother moved from New City, NY to Staten Island to be near her children. Joe helped his mother open a bakery and would start every morning at 4 am to get the bakery running before going to class. At this time, Joe was pursuing his law degree at St. John's University, a dream that he had since he was a young boy. Despite his busy schedule, he ensured that he was there to help provide for his family. Joe learned the importance of education, responsibility, and family at an early age, and never forgot these values as he grew older.

Joe's pursuit of education and hard work resulted in a long career in politics working in New York State. While in law school at St. John's University, he interned with former New York State governor Mario Cuomo. During his time there, Mario Cuomo took a liking to Joe, respecting his work ethic and relating to their similar Italian family values. Joe developed a close relationship with Mario's son, Andrew Cuomo, and began working for him. Joe dedicated his life to serving the people of New York as he worked for Andrew Cuomo throughout his political ascent. Joe took tremendous pride in his role as a public servant, asserting to always do what he thought was right.

The values that were enstilled in Joe as a young man were essential in his development into the extraordinary family man that he is today. This trait started when Joe was a child, as he had an extremely loving and caring relationship with his maternal grandmother. When she became ill, he was always around to help care for her. Years later, when Joe's own mother became ill [redacted], he and his siblings were her primary caregivers. Joe did everything that he could to get the best care possible for his mother, taking her to doctors and hospitals all over the states of New York and New Jersey. When she passed away at a Hospice facility, Joe was right by her side.

Joe's family values carried on to his roles as a loving brother, husband, and father. In my many years of knowing him, he has always been a reliable brother to his two sisters, and has been there for them whenever they have needed him. Joe welcomed his wonderful wife Lisa into our family, and always understood the importance of providing for his family. While his profressional responsbilities were important to him, Joe has also been extremely active in his two daughters' lives, making sure to attend school functions, sporting events, birthdays, and many other milestones in their lives. Joe's presence in the home has been essential and his wife and children would be devestated without him.

Having known Joe for his entire life, I can say with great certainty that Joe's recent convicted actions are not representative of his work ethic, his morals, or his character. Over Joe's 49 years, he has never been in trouble with the law and has always shown remorse for his mistakes. I greatly appreciate you reading my letter and would lastly ask for you to find it in your heart to show mercy on Joe during his upcoming sentencing. If you have any further questions, you can contact me on my cell phone at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Frank Errico

To The Honorable Judge Caproni,

My name is Giorgio Errico, and I am a math teacher and resident in Clarkstown, New York. I am writing this letter as a plea for leniency in the sentencing of my cousin, and friend, Joseph Percoco.

Joe is one of the eldest cousins in my large Italian family. Joe has always served as a role model and exemplar for the rest of us. He was a great son to his mother, a high-achieving student, and the single hardest-working person that I have ever personally met. Joe ran a landscaping business when he was just 16 years old, earned a college scholarship, and forged successful career based solely on his own merit and strong work ethic.

What I love most about Joe is that he immediately makes any room brighter with his sense of humor. While perhaps viewed as serious by those who do not know him well, Joe is extremely funny and playful. He is the kind of person you gravitate towards. I looked forward to every holiday growing up because I knew I'd get to hang out and play video games or touch-football with Joe. I could count on him to always make me laugh, to always offer personal advice, and to always "let" me win. I am now 31 years old, but I still look forward to holidays with Joe.

I ask and hope that you may offer leniency to Joe in your sentencing. I know him to be a caring person of integrity whose presence and advice are invaluable to his entire family.

Respectfully,

Giorgio Errico

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Re: Joseph Percoco Sentencing

Dear Judge Caproni:

Please permit me to introduce myself. I am Joe's aunt Jane and write to you on behalf of myself as well as my husband, his uncle John who was present at court almost every day. We write to you with heavy heart as it appears our most beloved nephew may be in for some tough times ahead. We're very close with Joe and he deserves our support. He's been so good, kind and loving to us and our children. We will do all that we can to help him by trying to convince you to see him in a completely different light, beyond what you would see in the courtroom or press. You see, we are family and we know him. He's kind, loving and also "honorable."

It's odd how one watches the news on TV about corrupt politicians and you think, "they are bad people and they deserve what they get." Then you see your own nephew being portrayed the same way on the news. The nephew who wouldn't even allow me to treat his wife to a spa day via the job I worked at as it might give an illusion of impropriety. I tried to coax him, "C'mon Joe, if anyone deserves it she does. She's always home with the two babes while you're off doing the bidding of the Governor." Joe adores his wife and thank God they have each other through this but he wouldn't let her accept the gift or let anyone buy him dinner or a ticket to a sporting event. You see, Joe is a good boy, an old-fashioned Italian boy, raised strict catholic and loyal, nothing you would ever see on TV news. That's why he was so close to Mario Cuomo, they were of the same bolt of cloth and it was as old school honest and loyal as it gets.

The backstory: The loves of his life, his girls V[redacted] and J[redacted], were growing up and he was missing out on their most important years. He wanted to have a normal job spending more time with his family. You should know, above all things, Joe is a family man with Italian family dinners on Sundays. I know, sounds cliché but its' true. He didn't want to work in government prior to the last election and had told the Governor he was sorry but he was leaving government life. He had sold his house in Staten Island knowing he could support the mortgage of his well deserving wife's dream home via a job in private industry. But this was not to be. The Governor asked him for help on one more run, and using his Dad's name, sprung the trap. Joe's loyalty to Mario Cuomo was legendary and Andrew knew it and so, out of duty, he stayed on for one last election to help Mario's son. Joe had a distinguished reputation for being a no-

nonsense get the job done kind of guy. He's hard-working and his ability to read people is what helped get the Governor get re-elected. Why did this happen to our nephew who's only been loving and kind to all of his family in any way he could? Don't believe the media's presentation, Joe will give you the shirt off his back if you are in need. After his mother contracted [redacted], a rare and horribly debilitating terminal disease that tormented her for five long years, Joe searched until he found a beautiful hospice house where she passed away in painless peace surrounded by her family.

And, so I ask myself the obvious, did Joe make mistakes? I say yes but mostly he was trusting and naïve. It's hard to believe from a political operative like him but we know it's true. He trusted the wrong people. We who know him and love him, are begging you for leniency, not just for him but for his wife and children as they will surely lose their home. As much as we want to help, there is only so much we can afford. Although we will help him as much as we can, the way he always helped everybody else while asking nothing in return.

Judge Caproni, I have been brutally honest in my writing to you. The embarrassment of the accusation, the trial, the conviction, has put Joe in a very dark place. It's almost as if he's been sentenced already because even after he's sentenced by you, a man like Joe will never recover from the pain of humiliation he has suffered in front of his family but especially his children. Never...

Respectfully,

John and Jane Errico

John and Jane Errico
[redacted]
[redacted]

May 4, 2018

John Errico
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing to urge leniency in the sentencing of my cousin, Joseph Percoco, whom I have known for all thirty years of my life. I am currently a teacher at Clarkstown High School North in New City, New York, from which Joe and I both graduated.

Like Joe, I consider family to be at the top of my priority list. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been born in a large family. On my father's side alone, I have twelve aunts and uncles, and 18 first cousins. As I grew up, attending family parties was always a highpoint for me. My cousin, Joe, deserves a lot of credit for that. Along with my brothers, I always looked up to Joe. We were always enamored with Joe's demonstrative personality and his incredible work ethic. Joe started his own landscaping business when he was 18 years old and worked his way through law school. His assiduous nature and likeable personality led Joe to make lifelong connections and relationships. Anyone who knows or works with Joe can attest for his character. All of these qualities has always inspired me to do the same. I proudly worked my way through college and graduate school to be a teacher. I treat every student, parent, teacher, and administrator with the utmost respect because that is what I know, from firsthand experience from Joe, is the right thing to do.

Joe has always tried to help anyone who needed it, by doing everything he could to do just that. He has helped both of my brothers and I get interviews as we were all working in high school and college. Joe has always preached the importance of experience and professionalism. Joe's uncles helped him as he was just starting out, and now he has done the same for his younger cousins like me. We will always be grateful for his help and continue to find any and every opportunity to repay him and his family. Joe values family and on many occasions been the facilitator behind activities that we can all do together. From barbeques to sporting events, Joe continues to find ways to create time in his busy schedule to spend time with his large extended family.

I understand the charges and the conviction may give an impression about Joe, but to the people who truly know him, the current situation does not represent who my cousin really is. I've always known Joe to be a remorseful person. I am sure that he regrets any wrongdoings he may have committed.

Please take the above information into consideration when determining the sentencing. Joseph Percoco is much more than the defendant in the trial. He is a loyal, generous, and family oriented person. Please keep that and his family in mind when making you decision. Thank you very much for taking to the time to read this letter. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [redacted].

Respectfully,

John Errico

Vitino Errico

[redacted]

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Judge Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

RE: Joseph Percoco character reference

Dear Judge Caproni,

The purpose of this letter is to discuss the character of Joseph Percoco. Joseph is my older first cousin whom I have been around my entire life. I am 30 years old and currently employed as a Police Officer for the Clarkstown Police Department in Rockland County, NY. At the present time I have over 6 years of service with the Clarkstown Police Department, but began my law enforcement career with the NYC Police Department in 2011.

Joseph Percoco is the person in our family who everyone goes to for advice, whether it be personal or professional. Joseph has worked a lifetime of public service and was a major influence on my being in law enforcement today. He is someone who is not only well respected and admired by all, but anyone who has been around him long enough envies him to some

degree. I personally believe that I have a strong work ethic and have achieved a lot compared to people my age, however I look at Joseph and realize that I haven't even begun to scratch the surface. He is someone that sets his goals and no matter the amount of adversity, puts his head down and grinds through until he succeeds. Joseph never takes a day off and runs on a Ferrari motor compared to the rest of us. He is someone that when he enters a room, commands your undivided attention, because regardless of the situation you know that he is about to deliver some very pertinent information or tell one of the funniest stories that you have ever heard.

As a police officer, a major part of the job is to be able to judge someone's character in the matter of a split second. I feel that this is something that I have become skilled at and can typically separate the good and bad eggs rather quickly. I am aware that Joseph Percoco is awaiting your sentencing with the possibilty of a prison term and can assure you that he is one of the good guys. Over the past year or so, Joseph's behavior has drastically changed and you can tell by speaking with him that is he remorseful for the entire situation. I would greatly appreciate that you keep Joseph's character in mind when sentencing day arrives, as his family, friends and collegues stand to be at a great loss every day that Joseph is not around.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Vitino Errico

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY STUDENT DETACHMENT
5450 STROM THURMOND BOULEVARD, ROOM 244
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATMT-LTB-SD 3 MAY 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Major Vito Errico of [redacted] and I write to you today in solemn support of my cousin and lifelong friend, Joseph Percoco. Over the course of your career, I am sure you have received hundreds of letters like this for people in difficult, life-altering situations. My hope is that this letter will provide you with a deeper insight of Joe's core values so that you might show him the leniency that he so very deserves.

Before discussing Joe, I wanted to tell you that I am no stranger to public service and I understand the need for discipline and justice in society. As a graduate of West Point and armed with master's degrees in both political science and business from Georgetown and Yale Universities respectively, I fully understand the need to demonstrate the power and efficiency of the criminal justice system to the public. However, having led American soldiers on the front lines of fierce fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, I also know that choices are never as clear or easy in the present as they seem in hindsight. If you take the time to get to know Joe better, I am confident that you will see Joe as an honorable, trustworthy, and loyal family man who deserves leniency from the court.

As a testament to the type of man Joe is, I can tell you that he has been the role model of my life and whatever accomplishments I've achieved are largely due to the example Joe set for me throughout my life. Every single one of my memories and interactions with my cousin Joe revolve around lessons of hard work, integrity, and loyalty. For example, some of my earliest memories bring me back to the age of 5 when (as a 20-year-old man), Joe routinely took me with him on landscaping jobs because he enjoyed the big-brother role he could play for me. I watched as he labored to balance school with providing for his mother and two sisters after his parents divorced. I was completely ignorant to the first-rate education he was giving me.

From the age of 12, I worked as Joe's little assistant in selling Christmas trees outside our neighborhood Costco. I still marvel at how hard he worked to lease the lot, rent a truck, drive down to North Carolina to buy the trees, and then ultimately run the lot while simultaneously working his day job. I would spend those weekends watching my loving cousin take care of families at Christmas time, sell at a loss to families in need, and spread Christmas cheer to anyone who stepped on the lot. It's fair to say I learned both the value of manual labor and how to treat people well from this time with Joe.

After joining West Point in 2002, I was only able to see Joe on major holidays. Every time I came home---whether it be from school, training, or war---Joe wanted every detail. He

understood the problems I faced better than anyone in my family and he was adamant about making me a better, more ethical leader. He always emphasized the importance of obeying rules and ethical leadership to me. However, equally important at these events was the impression I was left with Joe's family dynamic and parenting style. Quite simply, Joe is the infectiously warm figure at the heart of every major holiday. He is the loyal husband and loving father that I strive to be with my own wife and young child. He works hard to teach his daughters about the tough road that women face in achieving professional parity within male-dominated professions. He openly teaches them about fairness, the importance of persistence, and loyalty. In short, he is the type of mentor everyone should have during their formative years.

Every successful person can remember the one role-model that most influenced them, and Joe Percoco continues to be that person for me. Whatever success I've reached as a highly-decorated combat leader, a multiple college scholarship recipient, and as a new father, I attribute to the example that Joe set for me throughout my life. I am certain that I would not have achieved these accolades without his presence and his genuine emphasis of loyalty, integrity, and trustworthiness in every interaction I've ever had with him. He is absolutely not the type of man who would have knowingly and deliberately committed serious crimes. Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant Joe substantial leniency when adjudicating his sentencing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at [redacted] or at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Major Vito J Errico
US Army

The Honorable Barbara J. Fiala
[redacted]

May 6, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Barbara J. Fiala and I am writing today on behalf of my friend and former colleague Joe Percoco. I am a lifelong resident of Broome County, New York and have worked in government for over 37 years both as a civil servant and as an elected official. In 1997, I was elected as Broome County Clerk and then in 2004, I had the honor of being elected as the first woman to the office of Broome County Executive. A position I served in until I was asked to join the Cuomo Administration as New York State Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles. I served in that capacity from 2011 until my retirement in December 2014.

I have known Joe for over two decades. We come from similar backgrounds with respecting our strong family values, hard work and the dedication to public service. He would often tell me I reminded him of his mother, I always considered that a great honor and compliment.

When I began working for the DMV, Joe and I got to work together and know each other professionally. Joe set the bar for a high standard for us to follow and no one worked harder than him. Customer service was a priority and we made many positive changes in my division and how we worked for the people of New York State.

Joe always paid attention to detail, efficiency and keeping an eye on the check and balances for the fiscal integrity of one of the larges departments in the New York State budget. He was always accessible and fair in his treatment of me and the thousands of workers who worked for the DMV.

This is only a snap shot of the man I have had the opportunity to know and value over the last 20 years. He has been a leader, a colleague and a true champion for New York State. I ask that these qualities Joe has and the fairness he treats others both personally and professionally be looked at and given the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Fiala

Joanne Fryer
[redacted]

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Joanne Fryer and I am a friend and former colleague of Joe Percoco. Joe and I worked together in Governor Andrew Cuomo's office from November 2013 to October 2015, but I originally met him in 1990 when we both worked for Governor Mario Cuomo. Also, as you may recall, I testified for the prosecution this past January. That was a very difficult day for me since Joe has always been a good friend to me and my family. He is truly a loyal, devoted and compassionate friend and family-man. I'm writing you today in the hopes that you will consider a lenient sentence for him next month.

When Joe and I began working together again in November 2013 we spent a lot of time talking about our love of family and its importance in our lives. Joe's family is everything to him and listening to him talk of his young daughters and their accomplishments always made him beam with pride. We also talked about the difficulty and sadness in losing people we love. Joe's mother had recently died, and it was a painful loss for him, but he persevered and was a source of strength for his kids and his sisters.

Joe is a good man who is fair, kind and sincere. He is also one of the most loyal friends and generous people I know. If possible, please be lenient with him not just for his sake but for the sake of his young daughters who need their father.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and if you have any questions for me I am reachable on email or phone.

Sincerely,

Joanne Fryer

[redacted]

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Jon-Michael Giannuzzi, and I am twenty-six years old. I graduated Fordham Law School in 2017, and I am a newly admitted attorney to the New York State Bar this past January. I am also currently employed as a first year corporate associate. I also recently purchased a home on Long Island with my fiancé. To that end, this year has been very exciting for me and my fiancé, to say the least. My family and I more affectively consider Joe our cousin, since my grandmother and his mother grew up in the same town in Italy. I have known Joe my entire life, and I consider him family.

I know that Joe has been convicted, and I am writing to you on his behalf to provide you with some personal information that I hope you will consider in Joe's favor. I would like to help you better understand Joe for the kind, loving, and hard-working role model that he is for me.

During my undergraduate and law school education, I looked up to Joe as a role model as I continue to do today. I knew Joe was the attorney in the family, and I continuously reached out to him for help and guidance. I knew I was probably bugging him and taking him away from his busy schedule, but he never failed to take the time and effort to fully answer all of my questions and concerns. Joe guided me through the law school application process and even choosing the right internships where I could learn as much as possible. Joe's care and dedication he exhibited to me is only a small anecdote of his reputation as a hardworking and devoted father, husband and friend. If I could become half the attorney Joe is, I would be lucky.

I have not spoken directly to Joe since his conviction, but from my relationship with Joe, I can say with absolute certainty that he regrets his actions. I believe the crime does not represent who Joe is as a person. I ask you, Judge, to take this letter into deep consideration when imposing your sentence on Joe. If you have any questions or would like to discuss over the phone, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted] I truly appreciate you taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Jon-Michael Giannuzzi

June 12, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Nicholas Giannuzzi. I am writing this letter on behalf of Joseph Percoco with respect to his recent conviction. I have known Joe for as long as I can remember as our families have always been close. Joe has not only been a family friend, but he has also served as my first and most influential mentor.

I am a husband, a new father to a baby girl, an attorney and I am approaching the age of 30. I graduated from Fordham Law School in 2013, worked as a "biglaw" corporate attorney in New York for several years and I am now in-house counsel at a public company. I take great pride in the profession I have chosen and I am sure you feel the same way. Becoming a lawyer and choosing the right type of law was daunting, especially when you do not come from a family of lawyers or have any close contact with the legal profession before entering the legal world. Without Joe's constant guidance, support and encouragement, I honestly do not believe I would have the career that I do today (although still in its infancy of course!). Joe was always willing and able to take a step back from his busy days and discuss everything and anything I wanted. Whether it be relating to my career, family or just life in general, I always knew I could reach out to Joe and that I had a true mentor in my corner. Joe has the biggest heart and was always happy to help in any way he could, never asking for anything in return.

Based on my relationship with Joe and the time I have spent with him over the years, I do believe that Joe deeply regrets his actions and is in no way a criminal at heart. He is and always will be a good man, who made a mistake. Judge Caproni, I respectfully request that you take this letter and all the other letters you receive on Joe's behalf into consideration when you impose a sentence.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions about Joe.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Giannuzzi
[redacted]
[redacted]

Rachel Demarest Gold, Esq.

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Rachel Demarest Gold. I am now an attorney in private practice, but met Joseph Percoco in 2007 when I applied for a job with the New York Attorney General's office. I was hired and served, in fact, as Joe's deputy until I moved on to prosecute cases in that Office's Labor Bureau.

I am writing because having worked closely with Joe I know his character, priorities, and loyalty well; and because as a friend, I have watched what this case has done to Joe and his family since his arrest. I am hoping what I am sharing with you about the man I know and care so much about will persuade you to evaluate Joe's sentence with a merciful eye.

Joe was always in the office before anyone else. He held 8:30 am meetings every day and Sunday evening conference calls every week. Nonetheless, when I would get in in the morning, Joe would be talking about having done the laundry or made dinner the night before after he got home. No matter what the demands of the job — and they were persistent and high — Joe always made sure he shared the workload at home. That instinctual sense of priorities — of right and wrong — informed everything Joe decided or worked on.

No matter how frequently we asked him, nor how many parties he missed, Joe didn't spend his time out socializing with colleagues. He just did his job tirelessly and then went home to his family. It wasn't because he is an anti social person. Joe's door was always open if I needed to vent about anything – from difficult colleagues to my husband (then my boyfriend). Joe didn't go out with the team after work because he went right home to Lisa and his girls.

Joe's father died when Joe was a young man. Joe was responsible for his mother and sisters. When Joe's mother died a couple of years ago he became the family elder responsible for his sisters in addition to his own wife and daughters. Family is the most important thing in Joe's life. This deep loyalty and sensitivity is not limited to his family. No matter how brutal his day, Joe always made sure to prioritize the things that really matter and to take care of people.

When I got pregnant with my first child [redacted]. I was having a hard time getting around and mentioned it to Joe. With his endless list of things to do, the phone's incessant ringing, and an indefatiguable principal down the hall, Joe sent someone to me before the end of the day with a parking permit so I could drive to work.

I hope this letter helps paint the picture of the Joseph Percoco I know. A man who worked tirelessly day and night to juggle his family with endless hours serving the state. A man who worked to teach a generation of public servants that they should cross their 't's and dot their 'i's. A man who took pride in his job and work ethic at the expense of everything personal to him. A man who deserves to be with his family, working to rebuild his life and contribute to his community and society.

Thank you for your consideration of these stories about the Joe I know who I am still struggling to believe did the things for which he is before you. I of course would make myself available to answer any questions you may have or provide any additional information you may want.

Sincerely,

Rachel Demarest Gold, Esq.

Leon Goldenberg
[redacted]

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Your Honor:

Joe Percoco is someone whom I have known for some 8-10 years. He was the Governor's secretary and was in that position when we had issues that the community faced.

He always had an open door with us. We could call him and, if he was not available, he would always return the call. He was very upfront with us. Not everything our community considered important could be accomplished and he did let us know. But one thing stood out - he never asked for anything in return. He even said to me don't give me any thank yous because you will be back again next time you need something.

His character was always sterling. He was easy to talk to, a man of his word, and would always get back to us even if he didn't give us good news.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Goldenberg

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
US District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United State Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I write in support of Mr. Joseph Percoco who will be appearing before you for sentencing. My name is Mary A. Griffin, I live at [redacted].

I am compelled to write because the picture painted at the trial was such a far cry from the Joe I know.

I have known Joe since he was a young staffer in Governor Mario Cuomo's office in 1992 and I worked at one of the executive agencies in Albany as a Cuomo appointee. I had significant contact with staff in the Governor's office and knew Joe as one of the young, hardworking staffers on the Governor's advance team. Joe was energetic, hardworking, dedicated to his boss, Governor Mario Cuomo, and always did a difficult job with a great sense of humor. Those of us who worked for Mario Cuomo felt that our role in government was to help people, to accomplish things that were going to improve lives and we were dedicated, working 15 hours a day for very little money. Joe epitomized this ethic.

I left the administration soon after and lost touch with Joe while he worked in DC but then was delighted to become reacquainted with him (given our previous work together) when he came back to Albany to work for Andrew Cuomo when he was elected Attorney General in 2007. By now of course Joe was married and had two beautiful little girls.

Over the last 12 years, I have been lucky enough to spend time with Joe, his wife Lisa and the girls. Joe is a wonderful father to his girls; Joe's father died at a relatively young age and I think that made him all the more conscious about being a hands-on father, fun, loving but also knowing when to discipline. The girls are such a wonderful reflection of Joe and Lisa, smart, polite, considerate and concerned about others. After a few days in Albany, Joe was always anxious to rush home to see Lisa and the girls. In addition to taking care of his immediate family, Joe was also a surrogate father to his two sisters and an attentive son to his mother for all those years after their father passed away and especially during her illness before she passed away. I simply cannot reconcile the Joe I know with the picture painted at the trial. Joe was firm in getting the job done as is everyone who works in ANY gubernatorial or other high-level government office, but he was also generous, warm, concerned when people had something going on in their family and wanting to make a difference in his work with government.

Now Joe has lost much of what he holds dear, his job, some of his friends and his reputation. I would ask you to think about that when considering his sentence and the impact it will have on his family who depend upon him. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Griffin

FROM THE DESK OF THE
HONORABLE TIMOTHY M. GRIPPEN

[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni

United States District Judge

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse

40 Foley Square

New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of my good friend and former colleague Joseph Percoco.

After graduating from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with a Masters Degree in Public Administration at Syracuse University I spent the next 35 years working in City, Town, State and Federal positions, both elected and appointed.

I started my service in the United States Army where I served in Viet Nam as a Team Leader of an infantry squad in the First Infantry Division in 1967-1968. I was wounded during the Tet Offensive in February 1968. I received the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and Bronze Star for Valor in Combat. When I returned home I completed my education and started my career in public service.

In 1988, I was elected to the Office of Broome County Executive and served in that capacity for 8 years. The County Executive is the Chief Executive Officer of the County government. It was during that time in office that I met and worked with the Honorable Mario Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York and his young assistant Joseph Percoco. Joe was doing advance work for the Governor and he would come to Binghamton whenever the Governor was going to be traveling there for business. Joe was very detail oriented and professional as well as easy to work with.

After I left office in 1996, I was doing private consulting when I received a call from Joe telling me there was an exciting position open at HUD and he encouraged me to apply. I did and was interviewed and appointed to the position of Community Builder Fellow at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development by then HUD Secretary Andrew M. Cuomo. Joe worked out of the HUD NYC Office and I worked out of the Albany Office. We worked closely together on one of the Secretary's programs called the Erie Canal Corridor Initiative in Upstate New York. This assignment was a comprehensive, coordinated economic development effort designed to create new jobs and opportunities for the people living in upstate New York.

After leaving HUD I took an executive position with a non-profit Agency in Binghamton New York. In 2008 I was appointed to the position of Regional Director of the NYS Department of Labor's Southern Tier Region by Governor David Patterson. I was still in that position when Andrew Cuomo was elected Governor of New York. Again, Joe was working for the Governor and I stayed on in my position at the Department of Labor. I was also appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the new Southern Tier Economic Development Council. These councils were being created across the state to implement the Governor's new State Economic Development strategy. So Joe and I were working together once again.

In all the time Joe and I worked together I can honestly say that I never saw Joe do anything that I considered unprofessional or untoward. In fact, he was just the opposite. He was very loyal to first Mario and then Andrew Cuomo. I always thought Joe had the Governor's reputation uppermost in his mind. Occasionally after working on a project we would have a drink together but he wasn't a big drinker or a womanizer. In fact he idolized his wife and loved his family. Joe was always honest with me.

It is my sincere hope that you will take the other Joe Percoco into consideration, the one I'm trying to describe in this letter when considering your sentencing options and be as lenient as the law allows.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If I can be of any further help to you in regard to this letter you can reach me directly on my cell phone [redacted].

Sincerely yours,

Timothy M. Grippen

April 30, 2018

Patrick Halpin
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

RE: Joseph Percoco

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Patrick Halpin, former County Executive for Suffolk County. I am currently employed as Managing Director at Mercury LLC. I reside in Oak Beach with my wife Ana. I have known Joseph Percoco, both personally and professionally for close to 30 years, starting when I was in office and he was an aide for then Governor Mario Cuomo.

Throughout the years I have known Joseph to be an honorable and incredibly hardworking public servant as well as a dedicated family man. After the loss of both his parents Joe became the glue that held the Percoco family together. He's a wonderful father to his two daughters, and a great brother to his two sisters. I have always found him to be direct, honest, caring and a terrific sense of humor.

I believe that Joseph understands that he has to face the consequences of his actions. He knows that he was tried by a Jury of his peers and found guilty and also knows that the foundation of our great country is the rule of law. He will serve his sentence and atone, which is that reason I write to ask that you express leniency. As a father of two daughters myself, knowing that Joseph will miss out on some of the most formative years of his young daughters lives is the cruelest imaginable punishment. In his absence I believe the family will endure hardship and trauma. It's important that they be able to reunite to begin the process of healing to repair their relationship as quickly as the law will allow. I believe that life has many chapters and while this is a dark period for Joseph and his family, I am hopeful that this too shall pass and he will have the opportunity to begin anew.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Halpin
[redacted]

Mordechai Hirsch
[redacted]

May 1, 2018

Honorable Valerie Caproni
US District Judge
US District Court for the Southern District of NY
Thurgood Marshall United States Court House
40 Foley Square, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Mordechai Hirsch, I live in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn and I've been involved in voluntary community work for the past twenty years. Doing communal work is never easy, but is particularly difficult when you need the listening ear of a government official, and the reason is mostly because in order to be able to help, one must have a willingness to understand the unique needs of our community and must have a respect for another religion and culture which I must admit is a difficult thing for an outsider and especially for a busy person.

Joe Percoco was a person with a heart, who was willing to give of his busy time to really listen and really understand where we come from, what our request was, and how he can help us. I'm not a politician or a rich man, and I felt humbled by the way Joe treated me with such respect and understanding that very few people show to others.

Joe Percoco was always honest to me, and told me right away what he could and could not do for us. And even when there was an argument between two fractions in our community on something we both asked him for, and he chose the other side, he did it with respect to us and gracefully explained why he had to do what he did, so that he made sure we understood and stayed friends. And having mentioned the two fractions in our community, I must say that when Joe Percoco learned of this disagreement, he took it to heart and actually tried to be a peace maker, and gave a lot of his personal time to sit with the heads of both parties and tried with all his heart to make peace.

I feel terrible for Joe. He's a good man as I've seen personally. I'm a nobody in accordance with the people he had contact with on a daily basis, and when my mom passed away [redacted], he came personally to pay his condolences which was exceptional and touched my heart.

But even the best people have their weaknesses and make mistakes. I met Joe once after he was indicted, and I couldn't bear to look at his face. He was a broken man, I saw in his downcast eyes that he deeply regrets the mistakes he made.

Honorable Judge Caproni, please take all the good he did into consideration when you sentence him, and I beg you to show mercy to a Joe who is really a good person. I really believe that if he is given the opportunity to start a new page, he will have learned from his mistakes and be even a better and stronger person than before.

Respectfully,

Mordechai Hirsch

Gina Jackson
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

May 4, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Gina Jackson and I am writing this letter to express my personal knowledge of Joseph Percocco's exemplary character. I met Joseph five years ago and we quickly became friends.

Joseph is a man of great integrity and during our friendship has become a mentor to myself and many others. I understand that like all human beings Joseph has made mistakes but none of them could negate the positive impact that he has had on the lives that he has touched. Joseph has always been supportive of my goals and has always gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand or a listing ear. Joseph's contributions to his family and friends are unmatched. He is an encouraging force that assists in preparing those around him to be valuable, engaged members of society.

I ask you today to consider the man that Joseph is as you consider his fate. I implore you to evaluate the value of his positive impact on society and be lenient as you impose your sentence. Joseph is an incredible man that made a bad choice and many stand to suffer from the loss of his presence.

Sincerely,

Gina Jackson

[redacted]

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing in reference to Joseph Percoco. I have known Mr. Percoco for more than 30 years. I am a Professor of Government and Politics and an administrator at Wagner College, which is where I first me Joe Percoco.

I first encountered Mr. Percoco when he was a student at Wagner College. I was his instructor in a number of political science courses at the College. I found him to be a hard working student who had a real interest in helping others. He wanted to be in the public service and I encouraged him in this endeavor. I even helped him get involved in local political campaigns and introduced him to political operatives who brought him into major campaigns they were working on. I was also impressed that, while an undergraduate, he contributed to the cost of his education by running a snow removal and landscaping business in his hometown of New City, New York. There were winter days when, after classes were over, he would go back to New City to oversee his snow removal business, and be in class the next morning. Joe Percoco was one of the hardest working students I have had in nearly four decades in higher education.

After his graduation, I stayed in touch with Mr. Percoco. I followed his career and I was impressed by his dedication to public service. He also remained involved as an alumnus in the College, making contributions and supporting the College in other ways. Many of us who knew him here at the College regard him as one of our more distinguished alumni.

Notwithstanding recent events, I hope you will consider the totality of his work in rendering your sentence. Good people, as I am sure you know, sometimes make mistakes. I believe that, given his background, mercy is in order here.

Thanking you for your consideration, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Jeffrey Kraus

Jeffrey Kraus, Ph.D.

RABBI SHMUEL LEFKOWITZ
[redacted]

April 30, 2018

Honorable Valerie Caproni
US District Judge
US District Court for the Southern District of NY
Thurgood Marshall United States Court House
40 Foley Square, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz and I work on behalf of our community for the past forty plus years. During these years I was involved with many issues that our community interfaces with government. Many of them were difficult and complicated issues and required an understanding of the issues and also respect for the religion and culture that I represent. I am proud to say that during my long career I have thank G-d been very successful in dealing with these issues and a good part of that success is that on the government side there are respectful and understanding individuals like Joe Percoco.

Joe Percoco took the time to understand our community because of his respect for what we stand for. He then was a very effective messenger to deliver the concerns and the requests to the government officials. He is not a person who says one thing and does something else. He tells it to you the way it is.

And therefore, this attribute enabled him to go to government and explain our needs and to successfully figure out how to resolve very complicated issues. He was also very enjoyable to work with; even when we disagreed, it was never personal. For example, he was extremely adamant that we support gay marriage although he knew that our religion forbids it. Nevertheless, because he believed in it, he wanted our support. Although we disagreed, we continued to work together.

We miss Joe. He got things done.

I know that Joe regrets his conduct and feels remorse for what he did. People have their weaknesses and in our tradition, G-d accepts a person's repentance. I really believe that he has repented and if given the opportunity, he will be a great leader in serving the community with integrity.

Judge Caproni, please take all this into account and into consideration when you sentence him. Please show mercy to a person who really accomplished a lot and helped a lot of people.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

June 28, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

To whom it may concern,

There are people in your life that make a long lasting impact and for me Joe Percoco is one of those people.

I met Joe early in my career doing political and community work as a District Leader and community consultant in Washington Heights. Early in the Governor's term an opportunity arose to work for Gov. Cuomo and to work on Joe's team. I immediately jumped at the chance. Although Joe was a tough manager, he never gave our team assignments he wasn't willing to do himself. He pushed for excellence and taught me that even the smallest details were important. There was no big or small job, just the job itself, which needed to get done. Whether you had to set up chairs or staff at an important meeting, you were never bigger then the job itself.

Another important side of Joe for me was his family side. Family was always a priority and when I had to give extra attention to my daughter [redacted], I always had his support. In my line of work you have to go above and beyond but as a mother of three and knowing you have someone who cares about your most important priorities was a blessing.

I ask you to consider these attributes of someone that I consider a friend and I hope some leniency can be afforded to him.

Sincerely,

Mayra Linares-Garcia

Dominick Magro
[redacted]

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Dominick Magro, of [redacted] and am a retired Investigator from The Division of The New York State Police (retired in 2000). I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Joseph Percoco whom I had personally worked closely with from 1990 to 1995 when I was assigned to the Governor's Executive Protection Detail. I also worked with Joe from 1999 to 2001 at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development when I was assigned to the HUD Secretary's security staff. During those years, I had the opportunity to work with Joe and establish a very professional, confidential and trusting working relationship with him. While working together I found Joe to be honest, helpful, dependable, and a person of high moral integrity. In all my years working alongside Joe I constantly observed him treating others with the utmost trust, respect and dignity and in return I was rewarded with the same amount of trust, respect and dignity by others.

During our time of working together, and because of our mutual respect and trust for one another, we have established a close and long-lasting friendship that remains strong today. I do consider Joe a very honest and dependable friend as well as a loving husband to his wife Lisa and a loving father to his two daughters.

Until today I have been in contact with my good friend, Joe, to offer and lend him and his family whatever support I can and to listen to his regret and sorrow for what has happened and for the hardships and pain that he, his family and friends must endure.

Therefore, Judge Caproni, I am hoping that you consider this letter, expressing Joe's qualities which describe him as a person of good character, honesty and integrity and as a good friend, husband and father and to be as lenient and show mercy when you impose Joe's sentence.

I would be willing to answer any questions you may have about Joe and can be contacted at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Dominick Magro

Grace Ann Magro
[redacted]

May 2, 2018

The Honorable Judge Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Grace Ann Magro, and I reside at [redacted]. I am a 63-year-old female, married and the mother of two children. I worked in the financial markets for over 20 years, but due to circumstances resulting from 9/11, I chose to leave finance to pursue a career as a Registered Nurse.

Aware of his conviction, I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Joseph Percoco, in the hope of providing a better perspective of the person he really is.

I had the pleasure of meeting Joe through my husband who was assigned to the Governor's Executive Protection Detail in 1990. Joe was a young work associate who quickly became a close family friend. His sense of responsibility to family and friends, combined with his respect, thoughtfulness and kindness to others made such an impression on me that I was more than grateful when he and his family became a part of our lives.

When I decided to open a new chapter in my life post 9/11, and was so apprehensive of going back to school as an adult to pursue a second career, it was Joe with his gift of caring and understanding who spoke words of encouragement. When I struggled through the many prerequisite courses required, Joe followed my progress and always provided motivational messages. When I was accepted into a Nursing Program, it was Joe who was one of the first to congratulate me. When I graduated, he was one of my biggest cheerleaders. Despite Joe's commitment to his wife Lisa, his two children, and an extremely hectic work schedule, he was always gracious enough to think of me. In the wake of losing many friends, associates, and a career I worked long and hard to achieve, his sensitivity and continuing support was consoling and heartwarming. His thoughtfulness and encouragement during that time will forever be appreciated, will always be remembered and is a true testament to the person he really is.

Joe was also kind enough to mentor my daughter while she worked in the Executive Chamber. There he treated her with the utmost professionalism, and provided her with a set of tools that enabled her to become a positive influence in the workforce.

I know Joe well enough to know he is a good soul. Although I have not spoken to him directly, my husband has been in contact with him during this most difficult time. I am very aware of the remorse he feels, not because of the consequences, but because his actions were truly not indicative of the man he is.

I hope you will consider this letter as an indication of Joe's true character, and as such show mercy when imposing his sentence.

Thank you for your attention to the above, and should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me anytime at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Grace Ann Magro

Grace Ann Magro

Melissa Magro
[redacted]

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Melissa Magro and I am a 26-year old female currently residing at [redacted]. I am a Legal and Compliance Project Manager for WeWork in New York City and I was a Deputy Press Secretary at the New York State Executive Chamber from 2014 to 2017.

I am aware that Mr. Joseph Percoco was convicted of three felonies in March. I am writing this letter on his behalf to urge leniency in his sentencing as I hope it will help you better understand Joe's true nature as a moral and ethical person who cares deeply for his colleagues, his friends and his family.

I have the privilege of knowing Joe for almost 20 years. We were first introduced through my father, a retired Investigator with the New York State Police who served on Governor Mario Cuomo's Protective Services Unit.

In the summer of 2013 I interned in the Executive Chamber Press Office where I later became a full-time employee after graduating from Penn State University the following year. It was during my experience as an intern and a newly-hired employee in the Executive Chamber that I truly got to know Joe – as a colleague, a mentor and a friend.

While serving alongside Joe, I witnessed first-hand his dedication to public service. His priority was not only getting the job done, but doing it correctly. He took every step he could to ensure that our entire team gave our very best performance at every parade, gubernatorial announcement or bill signing event. His encouragement helped me realize that my work – no matter how small a contribution it seemed at the time – was an integral part of the administration, which fueled my passion for public service and working for the people of New York. Above all, he made sure that I represented the Executive Chamber as an institution that famously prides itself on upholding the principals of performance and integrity.

Joe cared for the well-being of every one of his colleagues as he would his own wife and two daughters. He treated entry-level employees with the same respect and loyalty as he did senior staff members. After working late night shifts at gubernatorial events, he always made sure that we all made it back to the train safely, that we made it home in time to see our families, or even that we ate. I strongly believe that his caring, family-oriented nature is what made him successful in his role as Executive Deputy Secretary to the Governor.

Given Joe's altruism and morality and the impact he made on my personal life as a leader and a mentor, I ask that you please take this letter into consideration when imposing his sentence. While I have not spoken with Joe in depth about the conviction, I am confident that he regrets his actions. Having known Joe as both a colleague and a friend, I also believe that the crime he was accused of does not represent the man he truly is.

Joe's leadership and guidance are two tenets of his character that I proudly used to build the foundation of both my professional and personal life. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about Joe or further discuss his ethical and moral character. Please contact me any time at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Melissa Magro

Melissa Magro

JOHN AND DONNA MARINO
[redacted]

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United State District Court for the
Southern District
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY. 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

We are writing to you on behalf of our dear friend, Joseph Percoco, who has recently been convicted after a long legal proceeding under your jurisdiction. As Joe's long-time friends we are writing to share why you should consider Joe's dedication to family and friends as you make decisions regarding his sentence.

John has known Joe for over 30 years, starting when Joe was a young man and looking for advice and counsel as he built his career in serving the people of the State of New York. John came to know Joe when he came aboard Governor Mario M. Cuomo's team. John continued as one of Joe's mentors when he went into the private sector. The respect and relationship they have established is warm, supportive and encouraging. As Joe grew as a professional, he strived to serve others and live up to the trust Governor Mario M. Cuomo placed in him.

Donna came to know Joe a few years after John. They did work together, when Donna was the Staten Island Regional Representative to Governor Mario M. Cuomo. Joe and Donna worked cooperatively on several key events on Staten Island. Their friendship was then and is now, based on a deep respect and dedication to hard work and serving others.

As a married couple, we have witnessed Joe grow as a spouse, father and family man. His love for his wife, Lisa and his daughters, V[redacted] and J[redacted] are the driving force behind his every effort to provide them with a home where they can thrive and grow. And his children have truly thrived as a result of his parenting and support.

There are many memories we can share, yet there are two that stand out, the first was on 9/11 and the second was when our eldest daughter went through [redacted] serious medical issues.

During those first chaotic moments after the towers were hit, among Joe's very first calls was to see if John was safe. As a public relations executive at DKC, John travels throughout the city, and other locations to visit with clients. In fact, during the early 2000s, John did have several clients in the World Trade Center and the World Financial Center. Just weeks before, John had been in the Trade Center meeting with a client. On that historic day, John was in his office, yet like many others he was in Manhattan and unable to travel north to Westchester County. After making sure those in their respective offices were safe and cared for, Joe and John traveled north to Westchester. Knowing they were together was a comfort to Donna.

For us, Joe has been there during the very challenging and difficult times. When our eldest daughter was suddenly very ill and in need of emergency care, Joe was by our side. She needed to be transported from one hospital in Greenwich to another in Manhattan. Joe not only was there to listen to our concerns, he was prepared to take time off to drive us down to Manhattan and help in numerous ways. There was a very short window for the transfer to take place to insure our daughter would be safe during transport and that the surgery could take place. Joe called us every hour as we navigated the challenges of the transfer and to check in with John every step of the way. We are happy to report that today our daughter is a healthy, young women working and living in Washington DC. Joe's unwavering friendship provided invaluable support at the moment we needed it most.

Over the past several years, John and Joe have often had breakfast together. The conversations have been thoughtful, deep and very reflective of the seriousness of the situation. Joe's ability to take this process as a moment to reflect on his actions has been yet another example of Joe's ability to learn. His faith has been a source of comfort and of self-examination. In the last several years he has connected very strongly to his faith and when he was convicted it was Joe who reminded his wife to stay with God and her faith. Since John works close to St. Francis of Assisi Church

near Madison Square Garden he often goes to weekday Mass. Several times prior to the trial, John saw Joe at weekday Mass. Together, they took the unplanned meeting as a moment to pray together in mutual spiritual support.

We firmly believe that Joe's long history of helping others both in his professional capacity as state and federal employee and in his personal life should be weighed against his recent serious conduct. Joe's dedicated service to individuals, the State, his family and friends truly show the measure of the man he is. We urge you to weigh Joe's endless positive deeds against his recent actions and show leniency as you consider his sentence. We greatly worry about the impact a prison sentence will have on his two girls who are both at vulnerable ages.

We thank you for your dedicated service to our judicial system and for your kind consideration in reading our letter. Please feel free to reach out to either or both of us if you would like to talk in more detail.

With appreciation,

John A. Marino

[redacted]

Donna Ann Marino

[redacted]

Michael McKeon
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

July 13, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am a partner at Mercury, a national public affairs firm based in New York City. I previously served as Communications Director for Governor George Pataki, and also worked on Governor Pataki's two re-election campaigns in 1998 and 2002. I know you are considering the sentence you will impose on Joe Percoco and I wanted to share my experiences with Joe.

I have known Joe Percoco for well over a decade. In 2002, we were opponents as he worked for Andrew Cuomo in his first run for Governor and again in 2006 during the Attorney General's race when I worked for Jeannie Pirro. Later, in 2010, Joe recruited me to serve as Executive Director of "Republicans for Cuomo" during that gubernatorial election year.

Whether competing or working together, I have always found Joe to be a consummate professional, deeply knowledgeable and informed about the work he was doing and skilled at developing and executing the strategies needed to complete his work successfully. I found him to be straightforward, direct, honest and passionate about the work. There was never much mystery about what he thought about whatever topic we discussed.

I consider Joe to be more than a colleague, but a friend. We have shared some personal time together over the years, including when he took the time while working in the Governor's office to attend my father's wake, and he was always a person I could count on if needed.

While I was deeply disappointed by the verdict against him, I believe Joe is a good person who regrets the mistakes he made. His dedication to his family, the loyalty he inspires among friends and his many accomplishments during his long service in the Attorney General's Office and in the Governor's Office speak to a good man who deserves your leniency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael McKeon

Jennifer Bayer Michaels
[redacted]

June 30, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my mentor and friend, Joe Percoco to ask for leniency for his upcoming sentencing.

I first got to know Joe ten years ago when he hired me to work on the Cuomo campaign to run then Attorney General Cuomo's finance operation. I have managed fundraising for Senator Chuck Schumer and Rep Joe Kennedy prior to serving as Andrew Cuomo's Finance Director.

I've grown to know him and see him as a manager for whom I worked, as well as an incredibly devoted father and husband.

Joe's work ethic was second to none. He was always the first to arrive at the office so he could get there before the work day started and he would stay late into the night and show up at every event to make sure it ran properly. No one would ever have to ask him to stay late or arrive early. He did it because he felt compelled to make sure everything ran smoothly and efficiently. He was a permanent fixture wherever the Governor was to ensure absolute perfection at every level. The buck stopped with him.

There was no one more committed to the governor than Joe. I've never quite seen anything like it.

And, most importantly, there is no one more committed to his family than Joe. Not only is he a deeply committed father and husband, but his family is completely reliant upon him as a decision maker, advisor, provider and source of strength.

I have personally seen joe's compassion during a difficult time for my family [redacted]. He was there for me on a daily basis and one of a handful of people I told [redacted]. Joe was someone I trusted and confided in and who was there for me during a terribly trying period.

Another person who Joe was there for was [redacted] who was a co-worker of ours. She died after a long battle [redacted] while serving in the Executive Chamber. He was the one who she confided in as well. He helped her family with personal matters and they relied on him to see them through a terrible

ordeal. It was the last thing he had time for but he made sure that he was there for her family during a very trying time.

Joe's daughters have in him a father who would finish work late into the evening and then run V[redacted] around to lacrosse and J[redacted] to all of her activities and then do the family grocery shopping every weekend like clockwork. He had no care to be social when he wasn't working, only to be with his family. I've tried to lure him away on a Saturday evening to relax with adults but he wouldn't have it. Weekends were soley for his family I learned after many failed attempts at persuading him. His daughters and Lisa couldn't wait for the day when he left government so he could spend more unencumbered time with them.

Joe's girls have in him a father who is so committed to them and at these vulnerable ages of 13 and 16 they depend and need their father. They know nothing other than this way of life and my concern is it would be destructive to them to know a life without him as a strong and present figure. I respectfully request that you take the above into consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bayer Michaels

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Ellen Mitchell. I am the "still proud" younger cousin of Joseph Percoco. Please allow me to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 32, a Mammography Technologist at a medical center in Rockland County, NY. I am married and currently working part-time. My 9 month old has recently started crawling so I have my hands full. It was difficult to find the time to write to you but I know that this may be the most important letter I will ever write.

As our entire family awaits his sentencing, I am writing to you to inform you of the wonderful man that our Joe is. I remember as a little girl, Joe would babysit my three brothers and I very often. He was our playful, fun and loveable older cousin whom we adored. At the time, he was in school and working two jobs, yet still helped out my parents by watching us whenever they were in need of a sitter who could handle us four kids. Through my eyes, as I got older, Joe also grew to become the well-educated, practical and honorable man that I still see him as today. I have gone to Joe for personal advice several times and he was always honest and fair trying to guide me in the right direction. He is a loving husband to his wife, Lisa and a wonderful hands-on father to his two daughters, V[redacted] and J[redacted] Growing up, I would watch him interact with his young family and think to myself that he is the type of man I would like to end up with one day. Joe has always been a hardworking, family man with a tender heart despite what the press always seems to want to convey. Even after having such a powerful job, Joe was always humble and down to earth. He was raised that way by his mother, my aunt who he dotingly cared for until her passing in 2013.

When Joe was brought up on charges our entire family was shocked! How could this no-nonsense, hard-working, loving man who did not live an extravagant life be facing corruption charges? Then, when he was convicted, it devastated us all.

Of course you don't know him like we do, you don't even know me and you have no reason to trust me, but he really is "still" a good and decent man Judge and even good and decent men make mistakes.

Finally, on behalf of my entire family, I'm begging you to show my cousin mercy when you sentence him.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincere regards,

Ellen Mitchell

Ellen Mitchell

[redacted]

JOAN MORGAN-BAIRD
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I have known Joseph Percoco for about fifteen years. We met when he accompanied Governor Andrew Cuomo (then Secretary of HUD) to a meeting at DKC. Our friendship developed when His Honor, the Governor of New York, first ran for the gubernatorial nomination.

Throughout the years we have known each other, he has been very helpful and supportive to me: encouraging words, offers to assist in whatever capacity occasioned, especially through the period of [redacted]. From the mundane making of calls on my behalf, to letting me know his prayers were with my son, J[redacted], and myself, and for us to keep the faith. Amid my anxiety, he wasn't averse to injecting a little humor to lighten the mood of the moment.

About two years ago I was diagnosed with [redacted]. I did not want him apprised because I knew his plate was full. The attempt at secrecy failed, as he became aware of it through a mutual friend – who is also a co-worker of mine. He called with prayers, words of comfort, offered and did make calls regarding my hospitalization. He frequently kept in touch with me, and as a result, I can attribute part of my recovery to the love and support I received from family and friends, and I cherish his friendship.

Joe is very hard-working and is always, always working to provide the best for his immediate family.

He's a wonderful dad; one of the reasons for our special bond. We often trade stories about our respective children, and it's within those conversations I discovered he considered himself a disciplinarian, but the truth be told – and I would often joke with him about it, is how his daughters had him wrapped around their fingers. At this time it is very difficult to contend with the thought of his daughters' vulnerability: they need their dad at home, with them.

My husband died of a heart attack when my twin boys were fifteen years old. Losing him remains immeasurable. For his children, his family, I ask for your mercy, compassion, your charity!

Respectfully,

Joan Morgan-Baird

Joan Morgan-Baird

[redacted]

Joseph F. Muggeo
[redacted]

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

First, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I am a disabled veteran and I am Joe's uncle by marriage and chosen Godfather. I have known Joe since 1981. I watched Joe grow from a boy to a young man to a mature and honest gentleman. I live with my wife at [redacted]. And we raised five children of our own.

I am writing this letter to you because I know Joe has been convicted and I would like to provide you, Judge Caproni, with some background of the person that Joe really is before you impose sentence on him. I hope you will take his true person into account at the time of sentencing.

Just a little background on Joe, he actually selected me as his Godfather which I was honored by. As I have said, I watched Joe grow up from a boy to a man and I have always been proud to call him my nephew and to this day I still am proud to call him my family. Joe started his own landscaping business to help put himself through school. He played school sports (football), he was dedicated to his family. Joe was raised by his parents who were Italian immigrant's that came to this country with their parents. His parents, especially his mother, did an excellent job with all her children raising them and teaching them morals, honesty and responsibilities.

Joe was so dedicated to his mother and family that when she hurt her back and could no longer work, Joe helped her. They moved to Staten Island because Joe went to Wagner College there. Joe helped his mother buy a home there for his younger sister and his mother so they would be close to him during that time. His mother bought and opened a bagel shop so they could pay their bills instead of asking for handouts. Joe would get up early in the morning to get all the equipment started and began making the dough so everything would be ready to open in time for the morning. He would then go to College at Wagner. Once he was done for the day with school he would help close the shop and then go home and study. There was nothing Joe

would have refused his mother. Joe was, and still is a hard worker who cares about what he does and cares about people. Sometimes Joe can seem hard but inside he is really a soft and caring person that would give the shirt off his back to help someone. The one thing I do know is that Joe would never do anything that his mother would disapprove of and she was a very proud and honest person right up to her passing.

I remember one day Joe was telling about a person he had some business with and the person did woodworking as a hobby. This gentleman made a cutting board for Joe and Joe said he had to go to another person within the government to see if it was alright for him to accept the cutting board. He was told that being it was made from a scrape piece of wood and it had no real value he could accept it.

When Joes father passed away he took the lead as the man of the home as much as his mother allowed him.

When My wife and I were having issues with our son at the age of 15 [redacted] Joe would sit with him and try to get him to understand [redacted] and could affect his future. Joe spent a lot of time trying to get our son to change his ways. This is the type of caring person Joe is. He would put himself out to help others in need. He did everything he could to put our son of the right path to being an honest and trust worthy person, because he was trying to get him to see the type of person he is.

These and other item I have seen through the years of watching Joe grow up is why I believe he is an honest person, a good person, a caring family member, and a reliable friend, nephew and member of the community. Joe cares about his family, friends and associates.

I Believe in my heart that the things he has been found guilty of do not represent the person Joe is or his character that I know and that his mother was proud to raise. I am positive that Joe regrets the things he has done and that the worst feeling he has is the fact that he let his family, friends and most of all, I know Joe is very upset that his mother is looking down on him and shaking her head in disappointment.

Judge Caproni, I ask you to take this letter into consideration when you impose sentence. I ask you to be lenient or show mercy as the man you see before you the day you impose sentence, is not the person I know.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Muggeo

Rose Muggeo
[redacted]

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

Thank you for reading my letter.

I am Joes aunt. His Mother was my sister. I live with my husband of 36 years at [redacted]. I have five children.

I am writing you this letter because I hope I can shed some light as to the real person Joe is before you impose sentence on him.

I have known Joe since he was born. I have seen him grow up to be an honorable and well-respected young man. When Joe was growing up he was a leader not a follower. When most kids were hanging out smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol or doing drugs, Joe would avoid these things by keeping himself busy at home, or with sports or doing things with family.

Joe played football in High school and earned himself a scholarship to college. Joe was raised by my sister Lina who was a tough but loving person and this is one of the traits I know she installed in her children. I know this because as her sister, we were all raised the same way by our parents. We were Italian immigrants and were raised to work hard and be honest and upstanding citizens and I know this is what my sister instilled into her children.

I remember one time when we all went to Atlantic City as a family for an occasion and we went to the Borgata to eat at the buffet, there were so many of us that the hostess miscounted the number of people. When Joe realized that we were undercharged by on person he took it upon himself to go to the hostess and give her the money for the one missing person on the bill. This is the type of person he is as he would not deliberately take from someone anything that was not his.

I have seen Joe work very hard in High School to build a landscaping business so he would be able to help his parents pay for College. Joe was so responsible with his business that even when he was not able to get to his accounts himself he would ask his uncles to help him so his customers were completed on time as promised.

Jos is such a good person and his heart is sometimes too big and people take advantage of this. People think that because he is vocal that he is hard but he really is a good, caring and loving person.

I would to this day trust Joe with anything in my life and with my life. I know he would always make the right decision that is good for others over himself.

Joe has had very hard life. He lost his father when he was in college and lost his mother just a few years ago at a young age of 64. Joe has had to be a man from the time he lost his father and was forced to give up a lot of his early 20's to help take care of his family. Joe was never one to look to hang out, party or get into trouble. This is why I believe Joe regrets what he has been convicted of.

These are a few of the things I have seen through the years of watching Joe grow up.

Judge Caproni, I ask you to take this letter into consideration when you impose sentence. I ask you to be lenient or show mercy on Joe as he is really a good and caring person.

Sincerely,

Rose Muggeo

June F. O'Neill
[redacted]
July 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 100007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I write to you today with the hope of allowing you to learn more about Joe Percoco, the man, whom I have known for over twenty-five years on both a personal and professional level.

Currently I am a member of the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board with no current connection to Joe other than our friendship. At 71 years of age, I live in the North Country of NYS – the real Upstate! In fact, here in St. Lawrence County, I am closer by car to Ottawa, Canada than I am to Syracuse, NY.

Our paths first crossed when we overlapped during the Mario Cuomo (MMC) administration. Joe was hired as a young man in the Governor's office while I served first as the Governor's North Country Regional Representative and then as a member of MMC's cabinet as Director of the Office of Rural Affairs. Despite coming from the City, (I also spent some formative years in NYC going to PS 84 and JH 141 in Astoria), Joe always displayed genuine concern for the people, and understanding of the issues facing rural New York. I remember one instance in particular when MMC was scheduled to visit Malone NY (in nearby Franklin County) for a town hall style meeting. Prior to the forum, at the local elementary school, MMC was also scheduled to make a stop at a local dairy farm – the Bean farm. The Bean family was ecstatic about having a sitting Governor of the State visit them. They went all out making sure everything was clean, tip top shape and Mrs. Bean even baked some homemade treats for the Governor to enjoy at their kitchen table after his tour of the barns.

As fate would have it, MMC was delayed leaving Albany. I think it had something to do with budget negotiations. He was able to arrive in Malone in time for the forum, but would not have time to visit the Bean family farm. Of course, the Beans were disappointed, to say the least. So, in a display of his care and concern for people, Joe made arrangements for us to have the Bean family meet and greet the Governor before he went out to start the forum. They were able to give MMC the homemade goodies and pose for pictures "back stage". It was a real highlight for the whole family. I believe this is one example of the true nature of the Joe Percoco I have come to know. Malcolm

Forbes once said: "*You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.*"

After Mario lost his re-election bid, our career paths took different directions. I went to work for H. Carl McCall, then the newly elected State Comptroller, but Joe and I kept in touch, unofficially of course, through things like attending the annual Democratic Rural Conference and North Country politics and then when he went to work for Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo (AMC.)

Family plays a key role in Joe's life. He loves his family and family always comes first. In spite of the fact that Joe has held some of the most difficult, all-consuming positions of great pressure and responsibility, he has always made time for family. In addition, he has always respected the family demands that others have placed on them and found ways to accommodate family time and responsibilities of others. Not many people have seen this side of Joe having only been exposed to his unrelenting work ethic and tireless devotion to duty.

They have not experienced they joy and pride Joe has in his family, and the depth of sorrow he has dealt with in the loss of loved ones. The effects that his conviction has had on his family have been particularly difficult for Joe to handle. I know that he continues to be very concerned about his daughters and wife as sentencing approaches. Of all the problems I have seen Joe overcome, this is clearly one of the biggest struggles.

On many occasions, Joe has included his daughters at events, like the AMC's Governors Winter and Summer Challenges to name a few. He has always gone out of his way to make them comfortable, able to have fun and introduce them proudly to anyone and everyone. He speaks of them, and his wife, with love and pride and frequently shares their latest accomplishments. It was highly unusual that Joe actually took time away from work for any reason. However, during his mother's illness and death, it clearly took a toll on Joe. He took rare time off to deal with this devastating event and to console his family as well.

When MMC died, Joe was there for the Cuomo family --all of them. He attended to even the smallest details. No task was ever too big or too small for Joe to make sure it was done. This sympathy and empathy extended to colleagues, friends and staff alike. When I had a [redacted] several years ago, Joe couldn't have been kinder or expressed more concern. I have seen him make schedule accommodations for others due to illness, death in the family, and active military deployment. Joe is also one of the first to pitch in with contributions for life events, both good and bad.

Another thing many people don't realize about Joe is that he has a wonderful sense of humor. In his demanding world humor is a gift and also a coping mechanism. He enjoys making people smile and laugh. I remember at one point when AMC was attempting to make a primary run for Governor (after H. Carl McCall had already announced his candidacy), Joe called me to chat. Since he knew I was a McCall supporter, Joe told me

we were still friends "even though I was damaged goods." Over the years we have disagreed on many issues on many occasions, but I always felt I could be brutally honest with Joe. He would listen and sometimes we would agree to disagree. I have found Joe to be a good sounding board, running ideas back and forth before making proposals. Joe can also be brutally honest. He does not "suffer fools gladly", and is a man who wants to get things done. Joe has an uncanny ability to keep many balls in the air. He is intelligent, quick, and can switch gears on the spot to handle many different topics, events and the like.

Joe is also one of the hardest working people I have ever known. He is a tough task master and demands that people do their best. This doesn't always make everyone his friend. But beyond that rough and tough exterior, there is a loyal friend, kind heart, proud family man and someone who truly believes.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter. This is the Joe I have come to know over the years. This is why I sincerely hope you will take my thoughts into consideration when you impose Joe's sentence.

If there is any further information I can provide or questions that I may answer, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. My email is: [redacted] and my personal cell is: [redacted]. Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

June F. O'Neill

June F. O'Neill
Joe's Friend

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Valeri Caproni
United States District Judge
United States Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni

My wife Nancy and I have known Joe Percoco and his family since they became our next door neighbors six years ago. You can't choose who moves in next to you. That being the case, we were lucky. I am a 37 year IBMer and my wife has a similar tenure at the media company, InfoGroup. We have five children and the last two are of the same ages as the Percoco children. We have been in this town for 23 years and we have a good sense of how people interact, or don't.

Joe is an outgoing and helpful man. From car pools to cold bus stops, he always has the O'Reilly's back. He just has an old-school sense of what a neighbor should be, no questions asked, nothing in return, how can I help. As I watched his challenge unfold, and the profound impact on him and his family, I was thankful that I didn't have a profession that needed me to swim in the kind of waters he is forced to work in, and yet try to make a difference. Sometimes, due to his position, I would poke at some political topics in our conversations just so I could get a point across. I was always rewarded with thoughtful answers that also seem to be delivered with an element of pride and honor in what he was doing. Although Joe and I have different political affiliations, I was hopeful there were more like him in Albany.

I am most worried of the affect any absence would have on his daughters who I have watched become independent, strong and disciplined young women. V[redacted] was just awarded our High School's most prestigious honor, The Sportsmanship Award, for Lacrosse. When I would whisk her and her sister past the News 12 cameras to school in my car those few difficult mornings, I could see their fear. All they know, and I agree with, is that their father has been a strong and committed civil servant for New York for many years, and one that I am proud to have as my neighbor.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Reilly

Kevin G O'Reilly
[redacted]

WHITNEY GLOBAL MEDIA

WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY
PRESIDENT & EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Honorable Valerie Caproni **May 10, 2018**
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I've been a broadcaster in the New York area since 1964 as the permittee of community radio stations WVOX and WVIP in Westchester.

I also presently serve as a director and member of the Executive Committee and chairman of the Guardian Fund of the Broadcasters Foundation of America, our profession's national charity. And for many years, I was chairman of Public Affairs for the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington with responsibility for First Amendment and Free Speech issues.

I now reside in Litchfield, CT.

I've also just turned 80 and during my already long life I've been privileged to observe, as a broadcaster in New York State, all the doings, deliberations (and occasionally, the machinations) of those involved in public service and the political life of our State.

I go all the way back to Nelson Rockefeller, Pat Moynihan and Jack Javits, all of sainted memory. And as the editorial director of our stations, I've been privileged to enjoy a close-up view, a front row seat really, of the many disparate types engaged in public life.

I've also written six books, anthologies, which often concentrated on matters political. My latest book, published in 2017, is a memoir of my 38-year friendship with Governor Mario M. Cuomo. It is in that context that I know Joe Percoco who served Mario and the Cuomo Family with considerable devotion and loyalty.

As my colleagues in the public press have reported – and I can confirm – Mario treated Joe like a son ... and Joe treated him like a father. It would, I'm sure, break Mario's heart to observe the predicament Joe now finds himself in as a result of the mistakes he's made.

I'm not at all going to presume to speak for Mario ... but after many hundreds of late night and early morning phone calls with this great man ... I have no doubt he would also now beg Your Honor for leniency, forbearance and understanding for Mr. Percoco.

I get flashes of déjà vu, Judge, and I can tell you of many instances wherein Governor Cuomo encouraged and persuaded young women and men to submit to the rigors of public service. And I can also confirm that Joe Percoco was very special to Mario who saw not only loyalty and devotion, but great potential and many other good qualities.

I would also like Your Honor to know of the reports I get from my granddaughters L[redacted], age 12, and I[redacted], 14, via my son David O'Shaughnessy. They've told me, on many occasions, that Joe's wife Lisa, who taught them Spanish at [redacted] in Katonah and is now at Croton-Harmon School, is a "wonderful" teacher.

But even more to the point, my son tells me that the Percocos – Joe and Lisa – are everywhere apparent in his Katonah neighborhood at school functions, recitals and sporting events for their own daughters J[redacted], age 12 and V[redacted], 16. David assures me the Percoco family is well thought of in their home heath and great parents.

I occasionally worked with Joe to help recruit stellar candidates for demanding positions in the administrations of both Mario and Andrew. And in this endeavor, I found that Joe was interested only in very able, intelligent and capable candidates. He was absolutely a "good government" guy who worked long and hard and with great dedication and passion during his service to the Cuomo family and our State.

To be sure, Joe is a little "dynamic" and maybe something of a "rough penny" at times as you undoubtedly observed at the long Trial over which you presided. But, if I may, despite the "colorful language" which was attributed to him in your courtroom ... I don't at all think he's a bad guy. And I really believe he has many good

personal qualities which I hope will commend him to your favorable judgment.

I've run on too long, Judge. But, finally, as you consider my comments and reflections among all the others, I just wanted to also mention my great admiration for one of your former colleagues on the Federal Bench, the late Judge Richard Daronco (after whom our Westchester Courthouse is named).

I *loved* Dick Daronco, Judge Caproni. And I was privileged to advocate for his elevation to your high Court. I mention this only by way of assuring you that I would have written this same letter to my friend Dick Daronco.

I truly believe Percoco, despite perhaps some "rough" edges, is not at all a bad guy. Despite being possessed of not a little bit of "swagger" and the occasional abruptness which sometimes accompanies Mr. Percoco ... I firmly believe that, at his core, and in his heart of hearts, Joe is actually a very decent human being.

So I hope Your Honor will forgive me for merely trying so inartfully, awkwardly and imprecisely to persuade the Court and Your Honor to my view.

I pray for leniency for him ... and I only hope that some glimpses of his innate decency and goodness which recommended him to Mario Cuomo (and Andrew) shone through midst all the charges made against him at the Trial over which you presided so fairly and ably.

Yours,

Bill O'Shaughnessy

William O'Shaughnessy
President & Editorial Director
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Richard Ostroff and I am writing to you today on behalf of Joseph Percoco. I have known Joe for over 25 years. I was hoping that I could provide you with my perspective as to what kind of person Joe is and that you might take this into consideration when sentencing.

I first met Joe in the early nineties when he first went to work for Governor Mario Cuomo. We had worked together for a number of years and in that time I had found him to always be honest, professional and hard working. Since leaving the Governor's office, I have maintained a close working and personal relationship with Joe. On a professional level, I always enjoyed working with Joe. He was always straight forward and kept his word. He worked more hours than any human I know and no task was too big or too small for him. I have and always will hold him in high regard.

Another huge part of Joe's life is his family. He was very close with his Mother, who passed away a few years ago. He would also talk about his wife Lisa and his two daughters regularly. He was involved in all of his daughter's activities and would always talk of them proudly.

Joe is someone I can share the weight of the world with. He always took the time to ask about my family and discuss life in general.

In summary, Joe is a good person. His family means the world to him and his girls need their father in their lives. So I please ask for your leniency when sentencing.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [redacted] or by email at [redacted].

Sincerely,

Richard Ostroff

Richard Ostroff

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is J[redacted] Percoco. I am 12 years old and in September I will be entering the eighth grade at [redacted] Middle School. I am writing to you so that you can have a better idea of who my father is, and the wonderful person everyone knows him to be. My dad is a very strong man who is very devoted to our family. He always sacrifices whatever he can for us, every day. Like getting me expensive organic ice cream at the grocery store even though there's another one cheaper that is just as good! My dad is still happy to buy it for me. He also always comes to all of my dance recitals and shows in theatre. Even when he has seen the same show of mine for the fourth time in a row in the past 24 hours. My dad comes to all of my orchestra concerts at school, too. Even though our 7th grade orchestra sounds very..... interesting. (And by interesting, I mean bad.) Even when he was healing from hip surgery a few years ago, he still came to support me at all my shows. My dad truly is an amazing, supportive dad. He would never dream of putting himself before anyone else. He always has been that way, and always will be that way.

My dad always tells me and my older sister V[redacted] to face our fears and push through our adversities. I remember when I was in second grade, I had a teacher named Mr. B[redacted]. It was my first year in a new school when we moved here. Thankfully, I made friends pretty quickly, but I was super shy around Mr. B[redacted]. I wouldn't rarely say good morning when I walked in the classroom. I liked him, and he was really funny, but I was afraid of being sociable with him. My dad told me that I had to look him in the eye every morning and give him a proper greeting. If I did that each day, Mr. B[redacted] would give me a smiley face on a progress sheet. That year, my friend was having a sleepover for her birthday, and I got invited. My dad told me that if I got a certain number of smiley faces in a row on my sheet each week, I could go to the sleepover. Needless to say, I went to that sleepover because my dad told me that I had EARNED it and how proud he was of me. When the end of the school year rolled around, my dad said that on the last day of school, I should tell Mr. B[redacted] what a great teacher he was, how funny he was, and how much I enjoyed having him as a teacher. I was like," Yeah, right." But he told me it would make Mr. B[redacted] really happy to hear, and I really did enjoy having him that year; so, I agreed to it. On the last day of school, there was so much going on- an end of the year assembly, a party in each of the classes, and then they were shipping us off to go on summer break! It was all fun and games, they had bubbles and music, and everyone was having fun. Even the bus drivers took us around and around the school in the buses as everyone waved bandanas out the window. When I turned around to talk to Mr. B[redacted], I noticed that he was nowhere to be found and later on that he was dressed up as [redacted], our school mascot. There I was feeling guilty that I hadn't told Mr. B[redacted] what I had planned. I got home and, being a little second grader, started crying as I told my mom I hadn't talked to him. There simply wasn't enough time with all of the festivities going on. So, my mom called my dad and said she didn't know what to do. I was so upset and thought there was no way I could let Mr. B[redacted] know about everything I wanted to say! And my dad simply said to my mom, "Take her back to the school." And that was it. As we drove back, we hoped to find him sitting in the classroom, packing up things from the year. I crossed my fingers, hoping he hadn't left yet.

Sure enough, Mr. B[redacted] was there. My mom told him that I just had to come back and tell him what a great teacher he was. I thanked him for being so funny, kind, and for making my first year in a new

school so great. As I saw the look on his face, with tears welling in his eyes, I knew it was the best idea to come back to school that day. I'll never forget it and will always have my dad to thank for pushing me to come out of my shell. Knowing myself, if I hadn't gone back to school to tell him that I would have really regretted it. That was one of the most remarkable lessons my dad has ever taught me about facing my fears, and how important it is to let the people in your life know how much you appreciate them both with your words and your actions.

Another example of what a great man my dad is, is how adoring he is. Every day, at least twice, he tells me how beautiful I am. Even if I've just woken up or I have no makeup on. My dad looks past all of that, and he truly is one of the sweetest people you could find. HE also is very candid. No matter what, he always admits to his shortcomings and tries his best to work on them. He is a hard-worker, not only in his job and life outside of our family, but within our family as well. My dad never fails to astonish me with everything he does.

In conclusion, I urge you to please consider all of the above information. Please take into account the protective, high-achieving, hard-working, strong, and kind man my dad is. He starts and ends every day telling me he loves me and says it a multitude of times in between. He is faithful to his family and God and really deserves something terrific to come his way. Him and I both believe as Catholics that everything happens for a reason and that through the suffering our family has endured, especially my dad, that there is a reason for it all. This nightmare we have been living has allowed my dad to be home more, to be there for all of us (My mom, sister, and I). It has allowed us to develop stronger relationships with each other as a family and made me realize just how important family is. With all of that said, I believe my dad has never really caught a break for anything in life. He has been working hard since he was a kid, then worked for the Governor for many years, where he endured an immense amount of stress, and has already experienced excruciating and extreme suffering for the past 2 years. My dad really needs a break. He has learned many things from this experience and the importance of who to trust with your friendship and loyalty. He deserves some light in his life and a new wave of joy to come his way. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I ask that you please ponder it carefully before handing over your sentence.

Sincerely,

J[redacted] Percoco

J[redacted] Percoco

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Lisa Percoco. I am Joe Percoco's wife of almost twenty-one years this July. Despite these past two stressful years, I still think we consider ourselves happily married. I am forty-six years old and have known my husband since December of 1991. We met in college when I was a sophomore and he was a senior. The purpose of my letter is to tell you about the real Joe Percoco. The man that sat in your courtroom all those weeks and the man that the public knows very little of, despite the recent articles about him.

When I first started dating Joe, I knew right from the start that he was a family-oriented man who was a hard worker and took care of his mother and two sisters. His parents were divorced at the time and Joe was forced to take on the role as the man around the house despite the fact that he lived away at college. Both his mom and dad came here from Italy for a better life and once having children moved from the Bronx to Rockland County to provide a better life for their children. It was his mom and dad who instilled such a strong work ethic as they led by example. Joe's father worked nights for Con Edison, and his mom was a seamstress who later took a job working in the butcher department at the ShopRite, because working in the meat room meant she would make more money. Nobody wanted to work in the cold butcher department because of the harsh conditions year-round. It was his parents who taught all three of their children that if you want something you need to go out and earn it.

Joe had many different jobs growing up as many teenagers do. Stocking the shelves in the local supermarket to delivering the daily newspaper. I was most impressed to find out that Joe had his own landscaping business at age sixteen and managed to keep it while still attending college. He would go home on the weekends to manage his business and to spend time with his family who especially enjoyed sharing Sunday dinners together before he went back to school for the week.

Joe was a go getter who hustled to get things done and his dad was shocked to find out how much he grossed in just one year of business. At age eighteen Joe had over 100 customers that he serviced weekly. He learned how to operate a backhoe and large trucks which enabled him to make more money and pay for his college education. Joe was awarded a partial scholarship for football at Wagner College and the remaining costs of room and board was paid by Joe through his earnings from his business. He started his landscaping business at age sixteen with a pickup truck and a lawnmower. By the time he sold it at the end of his sophomore year in college he had created a business servicing over 100 residential and commercial customers. Joe's small company had several trucks and several employees, and he managed it all himself even from his dorm room all while attending college full-time and playing football for Wagner College for two seasons before a back injury ended his football career.

Shortly after Joe's parents divorced his father died suddenly at the age of 58. Joe was 24 years old and he quickly stepped up and helped his mother and little sister who at

the time was 16 with the monthly expenses of the house. Just before his father died his mother became partially disabled due to an on the job back injury which rendered her unable to work at the age of forty-seven. .

Before graduating college Joe took on an internship working for the then Governor, Mario Cuomo. He did whatever was asked of him. No job was too menial for him. Soon the Governor and Joe developed a relationship. Joe was trusted with more responsibilities and the Governor took him under his wing even giving him advice as to what shirt NOT to wear. As first generation Italians they seemed to have shared a bond.

When Joe graduated college he began working for the state at the Power Authority, which then parlayed into a job working for the Job Development Authority. Due to severe budget cuts at the State in December of 1991 Joe no longer had a position in State government. Instead of collecting unemployment he returned to his roots and went to work in Landscaping again for his good friend. Joe was able to increase business and landed jobs for the company expanding its portfolio and geographic reach. His friend hated to see him go when an opportunity arose for Joe to work for the then Governor, Mario Cuomo. He begged Joe to stay offering him more money. Despite the tremendous financial opportunity Joe returned to state service where he wanted to start a career in public service. Joe felt he could start a career in order to make a difference. He became a trusted person in this administration and proved to be a **loyal** hard worker doing what others older than him and with more experience could never achieve. He learned how to network and made relationships with people that have lasted for years, because despite what has been portrayed, Joe is well liked.

In that same year Joe suffered another loss when the Governor lost the election in November of 1994. Joe was crushed because he took such pride in the work the Governor had done for the State of New York and for the things he stood for.

It was after this loss that Joe began working for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as Deputy Director of Public Events where he proved himself there as well once again. When Joe announced his departure from the Giuliani administration, the Mayor's chief of Staff called him to City Hall where again Joe was asked to stay and offered a new position. He was always a valuable asset and each employer was always sad to see him go. Joe left to work for Public Advocate Mark Green as the Director of Scheduling. Joe was beginning law school at St. John's University and he did so in the evenings. Working for Mark Green allowed him a more flexible schedule and most weekends free to study.

Joe had started his second year of law school when we got married in 1997 and was now working for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Secretary Andrew Cuomo. For the first year of our marriage I spent many nights alone in the apartment we rented as Joe attended law school four nights a week. Joe would go to work and then leave to attend evening classes at St. John's Law School in Queens. I would make him lunch and dinner so that he could eat in the car while on the way. At the time we were saving to buy our first home, so every bit counted. "Eating lunches and dinners out could

be quite costly." Joe would remind me of this often. Even as recently when he was working at MSG he still insisted that I make him lunch. Here was a man, who for years, had slowly climbed the ladder in his career and proved himself over and over again as the guy who got the job done, now working for a big company like MSG as Senior Vice President of External and Governmental Affairs and still brown bagging it. Not an excessive person. A humble man who always remembered where he came from; a two-bedroom apartment on Leeland Avenue in the Bronx. Little things make Joe happy, like going food shopping and using coupons when he pays and yes just a plain old turkey sandwich for lunch and leftovers for dinner.

We were both working hard, and I taught Summer school as well to save for our first home we purchased in 2000. We bought a two-family home and rented the apartment to help with the mortgage payments. When Joe graduated law school in 2000 he was working at HUD. Upon graduation he was offered a position at HUD in Washington, D.C. Joe travelled and stayed in Washington four days a week and made his way home on Friday for the weekend. We had just bought our first home and Joe wasn't even around to enjoy it. Yet again, I was alone. In January of 2001, Joe began working on the first campaign for Governor for Andrew Cuomo. Our first daughter V[redacted] was born that same year in October of 2001. Joe was travelling and working so hard on the campaign that V[redacted] often cried when he held her because she didn't know who he was. Andrew did not win the election and Joe took some time off for the holidays before taking the Bar exam and then going to work for KPMG in the Forensic and Litigation Department.

In 2005 Andrew Cuomo began exploring the possibility of running for NYS Attorney General and he asked Joe to help him. Although Joe was making a good living at KPMG and he was home more, he said yes to a friend and mentor. Several of the partners at KPMG were splitting off from the firm and creating their own firm and they asked Joe to join them in this new venture. Due to the financial arrangements with KPMG, those partners and staffers who left to form the new firm were going to receive substantial signing bonuses as part of the separation agreement. However, Joe would be required to work for at least two years in order to keep the signing bonus. Instead Joe decided to go back into public service and join the campaign in January 2006. Again, his selflessness and **loyalty** drove his decision.

Our second daughter J[redacted] was born in August of 2005. When J[redacted] was almost one, I was told I needed [redacted] surgery [redacted]. Joe was there for every doctors visit despite his horrible schedule. Joe would go into work on the days of my doctor visits so that he could get a half days work done. He would then drive back from Manhattan to Staten Island to pick me up and then drive back to Washington Heights, where my doctors were located at [redacted].

When I had my surgery in July of 2006 prior to J[redacted]'s first Birthday, Joe took time off from work that week in the midst of a statewide campaign and spent his days in the hospital and then went home to take care of the girls. We had family in our home

around the clock and Joe would be home to put the girls to bed, only to get up and return to the hospital the next morning.

He was always aware that his family came first and of his responsibilities to us. But, he also knew the responsibilities he had to his job. He was relied upon a lot by both his family and the people he worked with. Joe was constantly on the phone taking care of work stuff even when he was with his family. When I came home a week later from the hospital Joe was there to help me but returned to work the very next day. I was thankful for my family who continued to help me with the girls until I was able to do it on my own.

Joe has always been a wonderful provider for our family and I was able to stay home with our girls for eight years until they both had reached school age. We didn't live extravagantly but we had everything we needed. We had a broadside high ranch with enough of a backyard for our kids to play in. We had our family nearby and it was really all we needed. The only thing we didn't have around was Joe. Joe's job, dedication and **loyalty** to the Governor, often kept him away from home and family events. This created some stress in our marriage, but I knew from day one that he was a hard worker and never a nine to fiver. I was busy with the girls and basically a single parent. Our girls had soccer, dance and karate but we did live on a budget still only having one income.

I went back to work teaching in September of 2010 when [redacted] started Kindergarten. We began talking about moving from Staten Island to New Jersey as the Island was changing and we, like all parents, wanted better for our children. Out trips to New Jersey became more frequent and we began looking at houses. Unfortunately, our plans changed, as Elliot Spitzer resigned as Governor and the rumors began to swirl about Andrew Cuomo running for Governor. However, we came up with a new plan. Joe would run the Governor's campaign in 2010 and he would serve in the new administration for two years at which time our oldest daughter would be ready to begin middle school. We would then move to New Jersey for the 2012 school year, as starting a new school as a sixth grader was ideal because everyone was new to the middle school.

Once Joe announced his plan to the Governor it did not go over well, and the governor and Joe discussed it for weeks. The Governor begged Joe not to move to New Jersey and look for someplace in New York to move instead. Joe was always seen as the glue of the Governor's team. Losing Joe was not a real option according to the many conversations I had with both the Governor and Joe's colleagues. Joe did not want to let his close friend and mentor down. Again, Joe being selfless and **loyal** we changed course.

Joe asked me to look at homes in Westchester and Rockland where Joe grew up. I did not like Rockland and the school districts in Northern Westchester were some of the best in the state. The whole point for our move was to have our children attend good public schools. As a public school teacher, I did not want my children in private school nor could we afford it.

We finally found an area we both loved, and the schools were excellent; South Salem, NY. Although we were further from our families, it was one of the best things we

did for our family, especially our girls. Our daughters attend great public schools and they are both thriving both academically and socially. There is a sense of community and we have made friends who have been extremely supportive through this most difficult time. Joe would travel two hours to Albany and stay over when he had to be there early the next morning. When the girls had a school function or concert, Joe would leave Albany late at night to drive home and work out of the Manhattan office the next day, so he could be there for his daughters.

When Joe finally left government and started working for MSG, we felt that we finally got him back! Joe was around at night and after many years we were able to have family dinners together. My daughter J[redacted] even set the table one night with three place settings, and when I asked her where daddy's dish was she said, "I totally forgot because dad is never home to eat with us." From birth J[redacted] has only known her father in this high paced long hours work environment. His biggest motivation for leaving state government was to spend more time with J[redacted]. He even volunteered to coach her lacrosse team in the spring of 2016, his first spring home in ten years.

[redacted]. Joe would go into work earlier, so he could leave to be there for her.

Our oldest is a Varsity Lacrosse player and Joe makes sure he gets to as many home games as he can. He is a devoted father who loves spending time with his girls whatever way he can, whether it is watching a movie cuddling on the couch, taking V[redacted] out driving to practice for her road test and doing college tours as this is such a crucial time in V[redacted]'s life. He sits through three-hour dance recitals, attends J[redacted]'s orchestra concerts and even manages to sit through fashion shows every time my youngest comes back from a shopping trip.

My husband helps me by doing the food shopping on Sunday mornings, washing laundry and is always at the sink when it comes to washing the pots after dinner. He even helps out by cooking once or twice a week on days I am working late. My husband is a family man and enjoys when family comes and spends the weekend with us. We even bought our house with a guest room because Joe felt that it was important that our moms, both widows, had a place to stay when they came to visit. His mom only got to stay with us a handful of times before she died in 2013 [redacted]. Again, Joe was there for his sisters to make all the decisions about his mom's care prior to her passing and took time from work to be with her at hospice. Joe is always thinking of others and often sacrifices to make sure others are happy. Joe continues to do this today despite the difficult time he has been going through.

My concern amongst many things right now is Joe's health. [redacted] hasn't really taken care of himself as the stress is taking its toll on his mind and body. [redacted]. In the past Joe has gone to the gym to reduce stress and improve mental stability,

as well as to help maintain his weight. [redacted]

So, your Honor I ask that you please show leniency when making your ruling. He has a family who really needs him. I need him but more importantly his young daughters need him. He is such a positive role model in their lives. They admire his strength and perseverance through hard times. Not having their father in their lives and in their home would crush them. Together Joe and I are shaping our girls to be strong women. Girls who stand up for themselves and a cause. Girls who are sympathetic and empathetic toward others. They have learned through this whole experience that family is the most important thing. They have learned that despite what others choose to do, honesty is still the best policy and that there are still good people in this world. But we are not done and together have so much more to teach them. This is such a crucial time in their lives. They enjoy joking and laughing with their father and have been a source of strength for him over the past two years. He is the pillar of strength his whole family relies on. The fact that I am writing this letter is just so surreal because Joe is so not the person he has been portrayed to be in the press. His parents took such pride in their son's accomplishments. This man is a good man. A hard-working man who never took anything from someone unless he earned it. He was raised to be respectful but still stand up for himself. That confrontation is not always a bad thing because it eventually leads to resolution. He was taught that sacrifice is a part of life and if you want something bad enough you will work hard to earn it, whether it be a degree, a job, a house, or a car. He even learned that you have to earn people's respect as well as return it. That being fair is more important than being right. He is man who takes his family to church every Sunday and instills in them the value of doing the "right thing" in life. He is not a criminal your Honor. He is our world!

Sincerely,

Lisa Percoco

Lisa Percoco

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is V[redacted] Percoco, and I am Joseph Percoco's sixteen-year-old daughter. Currently, I have just finished my junior year at [redacted] in Cross River, New York. I'm writing to tell you about a man you don't get to know all too much about in a courtroom. I'm writing to you to tell you about the man that has shaped me into the person I am today and the person I will be tomorrow. I am writing to you to tell you about my father.

Technically his story starts in The Bronx, New York, in 1969, but honestly, I think his story-our family's story- starts much earlier. It started when my grandmother arrived in this country at just fifteen-years-old, speaking little English and working to support her six siblings in a seamstress factory in The Bronx. Her early life here in the U.S. was one of painstaking work all as part of a larger effort to give her family new opportunities in this new land that promised to care for the "tired, the poor, the huddled masses." I say that my father's story started here, before he was even born, because I believe there is much truth to the nurture rather than nature argument we often hear debated. Are humans naturally born a certain way or do their surroundings shape them? My father demonstrates the latter. It was his parents' condition, their zeal for a better future and the work ethic they both exhibited to achieve their idea of "better," that shaped my father and thus shaped my sister and I. And I have no doubt will shape my children one day. It is my father that I think of whenever I face a challenge that gives me pause. I hear his words that he encouraged me with all throughout my childhood: "conquer your fear. You want something? You work hard to go earn it." These words ring in my ears regardless of the magnitude of the situation I may face. When lacrosse tryouts roll around each spring, first day jitters are met with "conquer your fear. You want a spot on that team? Work hard to go earn it." When standardized testing appears on the calendar and brings with it a wave of stress and anxiety, I hear "conquer your fear. You want a good grade? Work hard to go earn it." And when the reality of the situation my family finds itself in today sets in, when at just fourteen-years-old FBI agents knocked on my door, when I saw my father's face plastered

on newspapers throughout January, not only do I hear my father's words, "conquer your fear," but I find myself repeating the phrase to others.

I know you will be receiving a rather extensive collection of letters on behalf of my father, so I know when I say my father is a man of unparalleled character, I will not be the first to convey that sentiment. My father is a man of strength, faith, and resilience. Throughout our family's recent hardship, his strength and resilience has been inspiring to me on many levels. His own crisis has never taken precedence over his devotion to our family. At every lacrosse game, I could always count on seeing my father's face in the stands, regardless of whether I played that day. He even followed our team all the way up to Cortland when we were fortunate enough to make it to the state championship semi-final game. It was my father who gave me a shoulder to cry on when we lost that day. It's my father who has been the calm, patient voice in the passenger seat as I've learned to drive-which I'll admit, is not an easy task! It's my father who, when I discuss my hopes and dreams for my future, encourages me to strive fearlessly in pursuit of the goals I wish to accomplish, although he himself might wish for a different path. My father has taught me not to fear that space outside of my comfort zone and has been my source of confidence when I venture into unknown territory. He's also been the person who has taught me that failure means nothing when you learn from your mistakes and when people meet my ambitions and goals with warnings of "don't bite off more than you can chew," it's my father who reminds me it is better to choke on greatness than nibble on mediocrity. Throughout my life, he's been so much more than a parent- he's been a cheerleader, a coach, a mentor, and a friend, roles you can't come to appreciate in a courtroom or through news media.

Former Governor Mario Cuomo once held my hand on the steps of New York's Executive Mansion and looked me in the eye to tell my thirteen-year old self a characterization of my father I'll never forget. He said to me "your father is a sweet strong. He's strong, but he's got that different side too." At thirteen, I met the Governor's words with a shy giggle and a nod, not grasping what he was really saying about my father. With the gift of hindsight, I've been able to reflect on the Governor's words and extract my own

meaning and what those words say about my father. As I've expressed, my father is strong. And by strong I mean in many ways resilient; a person whose determination and loyalty never wavers, but in that sense he is also what the Governor called "sweet," because that determination and loyalty is always reserved for those people and causes he loves. I also believe the Governor was referring to my father's sound moral principles when speaking to me that day. He is staunch in his positions on issues of morality yet always on the right side. My father is always honest in his words and in his actions, something he prides himself on and I admire him for. He'd rather be disliked for his honesty than deviate from his principles for expediency. In a lot of ways, that's how our legal system was intended to function; based on principles of justice rather than expediency in other arenas. And this brings me to the last conclusion I draw from Mario Cuomo's words. My father very much embodies that idea of justice. He's "strong" in assuring fairness, especially in his own personal judgements and he's careful to instill the same in my sister and I. He is "strong" in standing by his own principles while also ensuring-using his "sweet"- everyone sees the other side of an argument. My father is the one who always reminds me to empathize with my opposition in a debate while also teaching me how to hold fast to my own judgements. In ideological debates of our own, my father is the person who plays devil's advocate across the dinner table making sure I can appreciate another side of an argument, while also learning how to best defend my own. In an increasingly polarized world, this advice and practice has proven invaluable in numerous situations.

When tasked to write this character letter, I was eager to be of help to my father in every way possible, yet I couldn't help but stare at a blank document for weeks on end. How do you condense sixteen years of unrelenting love, support, and guidance into a letter that won't span enough pages to be considered an essay? How do you convey a person's entire character on a few pages of paper? How do I express the urgency of the situation at hand and of the leniency I'm asking you for? I hope the following comes to answer these questions if the previous parts of my letter haven't. How do you condense sixteen years of unrelenting love, support, and guidance into a letter of reasonable length? The answer is, you don't. My letter, no matter how complete counsel might see it, will never be enough to

articulate what my father means to me. Anything less than an epic wouldn't suffice. The same goes for the question about summarizing my father's character. How do I express the urgency of the situation my family finds itself in and express my desire for leniency for my father? All I can say is my father, Joseph Percoco, is more than a defendant. He's more than a former governor's aide. He's more than the face plastered across the front page of the Daily News. He's a human being and as such he is flawed. He loses his temper in certain scenarios and is inherently impatient. Yet I think my father's greatest flaw, if you'd call it that, is his devout loyalty to others, in some cases when these people don't deserve loyalty or do not repay it. Joseph Percoco is a husband, a brother, an uncle, a nephew, a friend, and most importantly, he's a father with two daughters who need him in their life. They need him for everything from the small stuff (lacrosse games, parent teacher conferences…) to life's big milestones (prom, high school graduation, college move-in day…). We need his sense of resilience and strength to inspire our own. We need his sense of humor and love of road trips to help us continue to make our own memories. We need his kisses goodnight and cries of "have a good day" as we walk out the door for school. We need his "sweet strong" personality to toughen us up yet remind us of our own morality and obligations. We need our father, and that is in your hands. With that in mind, I ask you for leniency in sentencing my father. I ask that the punishment fit the truth of my father's case and that you keep the testimonies of these character letters in mind when making your decisions.

Thank you for your time,

V[redacted] Percoco

V[redacted] Percoco

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Honorable Judge Caproni,

My name is Vita Percoco. I am writing you this letter on behalf of my older brother, Joseph Percoco. In a few short weeks, I understand that my brother will be sentenced based on his recent conviction on March 13, 2018, and that Your Honor will be making the final decision on his sentence. It is that decision, that will have a great impact not only on my brother but also on his wife, two young daughters, and his family and friends who love him dearly. Out of respect for my brother, I have remained silent since this nightmare all began a little over two years ago. I was unable to attend the trial in support of my brother because, I am a New York City Public School Teacher and could not take time off from work.

It's for this reason, that I would like to share with you my relationship with my brother and express some of my concerns with respect to my brother's case. I want to apologize in advance for my mixed emotions. It isn't directed toward you, but I'm having a difficult time accepting what has happened and coping with it too. It has been extremely painful to hear the accusations made against my brother whom I have idolized since I was a little girl. To see my brother and his family going through this ordeal and not being able to do anything to help or fix this makes it even more frustrating. Since this started, I have had to cut some ties with friends and even some colleagues because of the hurtful comments they have made about my brother to my face. It's difficult to keep quiet or ignore comments. I haven't shared these concerns or issues with my brother completely because he is already under enough stress. He often apologizes to me and other family members for how this is affecting us.

Not having my parents here has also been a tremendous strain on my brother and our family too. We just lost our mother, almost five years ago, on September 5, 2013, to [redacted]. She was only sixty-six years old. My brother was very close to my mother like we all were but in a situation like this he could have used her support more than anyone else. I wish I could have brought my mother back just to help him through this. I am afraid that something is going to happen to my brother because he has always been so strong for everyone over the years. I don't want my nieces to go through what I did when I lost my father as a young teenager. They need to have both parents in their life especially

during the crucial adolescent and teenage years. That's why I am so upset and devastated by this whole situation. It has brought back some very painful memories for me and I adore my nieces like I would my own children. I don't have children, but my nieces are like my children and after the way my brother has always looked out for me it's my priority to do the same for his children.

My brother has never been convicted of any crimes before and he continues to set a good example for his two young daughters despite everything he is going through. My brother goes to church every day and often volunteers at both his daughters school and church events. He also volunteered to be the assistant coach to his daughter J[redacted]'s lacrosse team and acted as a parent chaperone for his oldest daughter V[redacted]'s lacrosse team.

Both my parents worked so hard and made so many sacrifices to give us a better life and education than they had back in Italy. They moved us out of the Bronx in 1975, to send us to better schools and gave us a beautiful home. They did without, so we could have better and that's what my brother worked so hard to do for his wife and children. My brother moved out of Staten Island to Westchester because he wanted his daughters to go to good schools and have the same opportunities if not better than he did. My parents were both so proud of my brother's accomplishments. He was their pride and joy and their only son. It was as if they lived their American dream through Joseph's eyes. My parents are both turning in their graves and not resting in peace because of this ordeal. Joseph has always been a wonderful son to both my parents from when he was a little boy. He would often help them around the house and when they would argue he would always try to get them to stop. My sister and I would cry when my parents argued but, Joseph would have the courage to get between them and try to bring about peace. Even when my parents divorced, he would keep the peace between them and it was not an easy task.

Since the day our mother brought me home from the hospital 41 years ago, my brother Joseph, has never left my side. When he first heard our mother was expecting another baby he wasn't too happy. He told our mother she was too old to have another baby because he was already seven years old and my sister Fran was enough for him. He changed his mind, when he heard I might be a little brother for him to play with. It was because of me, that he decided at age seven, that he wanted to be a lawyer. Our mother had fallen in a department store while she was pregnant with me. She hired an attorney to represent her just in case her injuries might have caused me injuries as well when I was born. Joseph told our mother that when he grew up he wanted to be a lawyer when he grew up and he was going to take care of her when she got older and buy her a big house.

Joseph has not only been like a "second father" to me in the absence of our father but my "idol" since I was a little girl. He has been my playmate, my rock, my protector, my best friend and big brother all wrapped up in one. I followed him around like a puppy and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He taught me how to shoot a lay up shot, dribble a basketball and helped me practice for basketball tryouts. When I was in elementary school, he walked me to the bus stop every day when I was being bullied on the bus. On Saturday mornings, he watched Saturday morning cartoons with me and made me breakfast when my parents were at work. He was the only one of his friends who took his baby sister to the mall with him and bought me anything I

wanted. When Joseph was a senior in high school, he was a member of "The Athletes against Drugs" program. My teacher invited him to speak to my fourth-grade class about the program and to "Say No to Drugs and Alcohol". Every time, I went to a friend's birthday party all my little friends would wait at the window for my brother to come pick me up. They swore he looked like Tom Cruise and all had a crush on him. He taught me how to drive on the highway, in the snow and how to parallel park.

When I was twelve years old my parents divorced. It was very difficult on all of us especially me because I was the youngest. Joseph, was nineteen years old and he was away at Wagner College. We lived in Rockland and he would come home every other weekend to visit. He always made sure to ask me how I was doing in school and reminded me to obey our mother and older sister. He always called on Thursday nights to speak to our mother, but he never hung up the phone before asking to speak to me too. When I did well on my report card, he took me to my very first concert to see Bon Jovi. At my Sweet Sixteen, Joseph stood in for my dad and danced with me to the song "Sixteen Candles". He also made a nice speech in which he spoke of how important his role is as an older brother and a good role model. He spoke of how every time he was confronted with making poor choices I always came to his mind. He said he avoided doing the wrong things because I was watching him and what I thought of him was very important to him. To this day, he still feels that way and avoids doing the wrong things not only for me but for his two daughters V[redacted] and J[redacted]. It's for that reason, that I do the same for him when it comes to his daughters. As an aunt, I think long and hard about the decisions I make before doing them. Setting a good example for my nieces and what they think of me is just as important as it was for my brother when he did it for me. I always think of that speech he made at my Sweet Sixteen many years ago.

Unfortunately, on January 23,1994, our father passed away suddenly, at fifty-eight years old, from a massive heart attack. Once again, Joseph, had to step up to the plate to be the man of the house. He was only twenty-four years old. Joseph was the first one to greet the policeman at the front door when the doorbell rang at 3 am. He was so strong and brave as he gently broke the bad news to my mother, my sister and me. I had just turned seventeen and was a junior in high school. My sister was twenty-five and she was five months away from getting married in May. My mother was forty-seven, and still recovering from back surgery. If it had not been for Joseph's swift thinking and resilience, my father's funeral would have never taken place. Joseph organized and paid for my father's funeral without hesitation even though he had never planned a funeral before. My father did not leave us any money to pay for his funeral, but my brother didn't even care. He just did what he had to and never took any money back from my mom for the funeral expenses. Our mother guided him from her bed because she was still recovering and having trouble walking after her surgery.

After the funeral was over, my brother was the one to get me back into routines and sent me off to school that next Monday. He told me how important it was for us to go on and although it was going to be tough for a little while we would get through it together. My mother was still ill, and she was unable to find work. He knew I had to go to college and needed money for school. My sister was getting married in a few short months. He decided to open a bakery

with my mom shortly after my sister got married in Staten Island. He knew he was going to marry his college sweetheart, and he didn't want my mom and I to be alone in Rockland. Joseph convinced my mother and I to move to Staten Island. He felt the change would be good for my mother and I and it was a fresh start. Both my mother and I would work in the bakery and I would go to college during the day. My mom had the morning shift and I would relieve her after I finished school and I would close the bakery. Unfortunately, we didn't have the bakery for too long, only 18 months, and my brother once again absorbed the financial loss without hesitation. He had put all the expenses in his name just in case things didn't go well to protect both my mother and me. He felt he was young enough to make money back, but my mom was a single mom and not well enough to do so. He also wanted me to finish college, so he made sure there was no excuse for me not to go.

Joseph also helped me apply for college and I was accepted into his alma mater Wagner College. When I got my college acceptance letter and news that I had been given a four-year academic scholarship he was the first person I called. I was so excited and had it not been for his encouragement I would have given up. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to afford college because my dad was supposed to help me pay for school but when he passed away I never thought I could do it. My brother wouldn't let me give up on my dream of becoming a teacher. He told me not to worry and, in his words, Joseph said, "Don't you worry little sis, your big brother is going to find a way to get you to college". Joseph became my legal guardian when he realized I had no health insurance after my father passed. My mother could not afford to pay for both mine and her health insurance because she was not working after her surgery and had to absorb other household bills my father was no longer around to pay after his passing. My father was supposed to provide me with health insurance and a portion of my college tuition had he still been alive when I went onto college. Not only did Joseph help me with my health insurance, but he lent me his car during the week when I didn't have a car to get to and from work. He worked in the city and would take public transportation. He told me I could take his car during the week, because there were many nights I didn't get home until midnight from work and school. He didn't want me taking public transportation late at night or in bad weather.

What young man steps up to the plate like that without even being told to do so for his younger sister and mother? Not too many, especially at the young age of 24 years old. He just did it and handled everything with such ease. Deep down he was devastated that our father was gone but he knew he was now officially the man of the house. We never got to say goodbye to my father, but my brother just assumed his role in the absence of my father without even being asked to do so. He's done a wonderful job and my father would be very proud of him for taking such good care of all of us.

My mother was also very fortunate to have a son like Joseph. Whenever my mother needed him he was always right beside her. She was a tough cookie and sometimes it took a lot of convincing to get her to change her mind or make tough decisions. My brother had a lot of patience and a way with her that no one else had. Once she felt secure of her decision she usually listened to him and was grateful for his help. They were two peas in a pod and they adored each other. My mother was so proud of him and in her mind, nobody was better than her son. She

would always tell everyone of my brother's accomplishments or brag about something he had done for her. Joseph always went out of his way to take care of our mother even when she drove him crazy and wouldn't listen. Eventually, without admitting he was right she would go along with what he advised. She never made big decisions without asking him what he thought. She valued his opinion and knew he would never steer her in the wrong direction. Most of all she knew how loyal he was to her and that he always had her best interest at heart. During and after Hurricane Sandy he drove into Manhattan to visit with my mother after her heart surgery. My sister and I could not get to our mother, nor would he let us drive out there, so he assured us he would go check on mom. How he got through the roads to get to her only God knows but he kept his word like he always does. She was so happy to see him and if she had only known what the conditions were like on the roads she would have went crazy and sent him home. So, he didn't tell her and kept her calm and made sure she had everything she needed.

As my mother's illness got worse he would call me from the road in between events and meetings with the Governor every day to check on her. He would listen to me crying when mom was having a bad day. He would call her doctors and even come to many of her appointments because my mother felt more secure when he was there too. He often came with his wife and daughters to visit my mom and relieve me for a few hours, so I could get some rest. In my mother's final days, like me he was at the hospital every day. We cried and hugged each other as my mother, made the decision to go into hospice when the doctors told her there was nothing more they could do for her. My brother went out on a mission to find my mother the best Hospice facility that would accept her insurance and easily accessible for my siblings and our family to get to. When my mom arrived at the Hospice facility, the first thing she said to the nursing staff was "What a beautiful place you have here. My son did a good job. He always takes good care of me." When we took her outside the to see the beautiful religious statues on the grounds of the [redacted] Hospice Facility, in her wheel chair, she cried tears of joy. She said it was the most beautiful place she had ever seen, and she felt very much at peace. Once again, I must give my brother credit for that one. He also took care of organizing my mother's funeral arrangements and estate just as he did for my father. Only this time, my mother made sure we had what we needed to pay for her funeral expenses. My mom trusted him so much that she named him co-executor of her final will and testament along with my older sister Fran.

After my mother passed away, I had the hardest time adjusting. I had been living with my mom while she was ill and was with her in her final moments. Like my siblings, I watched my mother's health deteriorate quickly before my eyes and I was unable to do anything to stop it. I think what made this experience different was that both my siblings were married, and we didn't live in the same household as when my father passed. We also did not have my mom there to console us and the idea that both our parents were gone way too young really hit us hard. It hit me a little harder because I was my mother's primary caregiver and I grew very attached and protective of her as her health deteriorated. I was very close with my mother and even though I knew her passing was inevitable I just couldn't cope. [redacted] I had to move back to Staten Island because my teaching job was there. My brother was with his family up in Westchester and my sister lived in Rockland with her husband and the rest of our

family. [redacted]

Joseph was very worried about me and he was determined to help me [redacted] my brother was the one who helped me through it. He was frustrated and sad to see me in the condition that I was in. [redacted]

Joseph came with me on many of my doctor's appointments when my sister was unable to [redacted] My sister in law and nieces also pitched in to help me through this but my brother knew how to calm me down when I was most agitated and frightened. [redacted] Had it not been for the support of my brother Joseph, and my older sister Fran I would have not gotten through it.

Although, I am very grateful for the wonderful things my brother has done for me over the years, the life lessons he has taught me have proven to be most significant and valuable to me than anything else. He has given me hope and solace when nobody else could. From a young age, he taught me to work hard and be grateful for the little things. He also taught me to have integrity and always tell the truth no matter how bad it is. He told me to admit when you make a mistake and to take responsibility for your actions no matter how hard the consequences are. He's taught me that when you do make a mistake it's best to admit what you've done wrong and be willing to accept the consequences for your actions. Making excuses for your actions and not being honest only makes things far worse. He always says taking ownership and trying to correct your mistakes is better than making more excuses. Just get it done!! Is what he always says. Making excuses is one of my brother's pet peeves. He has always told me to take criticism with a grain of salt even though sometimes it's hard to hear or accept.

Joseph always gets on my case for being too sensitive or defensive. Even though, I hate to admit it to him when he's not around I do take his words of wisdom into consideration. I find myself following his advice many times and he's always right. I think he would faint if he heard I admitted that. He taught me to always be kind and listen to others. To have compassion and

help others even if they can't return the favor. Always do the right thing even if nobody is watching and if your actions aren't always acknowledged. He taught me to be modest and that it's ok to be the person behind the scene. He's also taught me to take pride in my work and to do things properly the first time or don't do it at all!

Finally, the most important quality my brother taught me is to be loyal to the bitter end. My brother is such a wonderful person and the person you want in your corner always. Nobody is as loyal as he is, and nobody has as much heart as he does. He just does things for people just because he wants to. Not because he is expecting anything in return. Believe me when I tell you I've seen him do this many time not only for my family, but he goes above and beyond for his friends and complete strangers just because. Yes, I know it's hard to believe because many people in this world we live in are not always the most honest and genuine people. However, my brother Joseph Percoco is the exception! Does he have some flaws? Yes, he does. He happily will admit to them and always does.

In closing your honor, I want to thank you for allowing my brother to spend time with his wife and children these last few months and giving him permission to participate in school functions and trips with his daughter V[redacted]. I also want to thank you for taking the time to read all these letters of character on my brother's behalf. I just have one last request for you. Please have mercy on my brother's two daughters and his wife. Please take into consideration all the evidence, testimony and letters of character you have read over these last few months. Please know that my brother Joseph, is a man of great integrity.

When making your final decision, please don't take my brother away from his children for too long if you must. Don't let them go through the pain I live with every day not having my parents around especially my father. Not having my father in my life was very painful and if it had not been for my brother I would not be where I am today. I'm still single because I can't find a man who is anywhere close to the man my brother is. My nieces are exactly the age I was when I lost my father. J[redacted] is 12, and that's when my dad left home after my parents' divorce. V[redacted] is 16, and a senior in high school. She is getting ready to go off to college like I was when my dad died, and I was just shy of turning 17. That's why he needs to be with his children. Please don't take him away from my sister and I. It's only the three of us left and we are devastated by the loss of both our parents. He plays such an important role in our family. We need him, and we will miss horribly. I know you have a job to do and I will pray for you to make a fair decision. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Vita Percoco, younger sister of Joseph Percoco

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing on behalf of Joseph Percoco, my former supervisor at Governor Andrew Cuomo's office. I reside at [redacted] and am 34 years old. I currently work for Altice USA as a Senior Director of Government and Public Affairs. I know Joe has been convicted and I am writing to you today to describe the Joe Percoco I have come to respect and admire over the last 7 years and ask that you take this letter into consideration when you impose his sentence.

I started my career in Government over 12 years ago, working for a freshman NYC Council Member. It was my first introduction to government and politics, and as you can imagine, it was an eye-opening experience. After five years working at the City level, I was ready for a change. I applied for a position with the Cuomo Administration and after moving through the interview process, I was told that I would be meeting with Joseph Percoco. Naturally, my inclination was to do my research and thanks to google, I pulled up all the information I could on Joe. He was described as a "pugnacious aide" and former football linebacker. Of course reading this information made me extremely nervous for my interview. However, in typical Joe fashion, I was pleasantly surprised. You can't always believe what you read...Joe was funny, engaging, knowledgeable but straightforward and no nonsense.

In September 2011, I officially joined the Governor's office as the Bronx representative. Joe was at the helm of our Regional Affairs team. We took our guidance and direction from him. He would always put in 110% if he was asking us to do the same. You are really able to learn someone's character when you work alongside them in intense working environment. The Governor sets the bar high and we worked long hours and weekends supporting the Governor's agenda. We cultivated a strong team at the Governor's office, in the most real sense, we were like family. In the trenches together, supporting each other. Joe called us out when we needed to work harder but was the first one to thank us and support us after our successes.

Working for Joe was an incredible experience and I truly believe I wouldn't be where I am today, if not for him. He took a chance on hiring me. He gave me the most amazing opportunity to work for an incredible administration. He taught me what it was to work hard, pay attention to detail, how to cultivate and maintain relationships. Joe is indeed a personality and I am sure there were times we could describe him as pugnacious. However, he is also loyal, supportive, caring, hardworking and a rare find in government/politics. I am truly thankful for my years working for and with Joseph Percoco and would do it all again if given the chance.

The crime that Joe has been convicted of does not represent the Joseph Percoco I have come to know, respect and love. The love he has for his wife, two daughters and extended family is what defines Joe and has always been at the forefront of everything he did. Joe has worked hard to provide for his family and I know they are his main motivation in life. I hope that you take this into consideration and show leniency when sentencing Joe.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rivera

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of NY
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am writing you regarding my dear friend Joseph Percoco. I live at [redacted] and I am 41 years of age. I have known Joe very well for 14 years when we met on a campaign. Joe has become one of my dearest friends and a man I trust unequivocally.

Aside from backing the same candidate many years ago and both being active politically, I believe my most common bond with Joe is that we have both lost our Dads when we were young, and also have laid our mothers to rest long before most people have to.

Joe has had many titles and has worked for historic governmental leaders during his professional career after law school, however his first and foremost role has been as a son and brother. The traits of compassion and work ethic that Joe is well known for were nurtured early in his life after his father passed away. Joe focused on being the best son and supporter to his mom and sisters that he could be. Long before Joe's career really took off, he demonstrated his true self during the years after his father's passing.

It has been gut wrenching to watch this narrative be crafted that Joe is anything but a good man. Since the day I met Joe in the summer of 2004, and I remember that day well, Joe exuded friendliness, humor & seriousness all while demonstrating loyalty to a friend of his who was rebounding from some defeats. His friend happened to become Attorney General and Governor of New York State which Joe used all of his skills to help make happen. Joe did not have to beg to be in that person's inner circle which is a evidently a difficult world to live in. Joe was asked to serve because he earned a pinnacle leader's trust and respect. However, Joe is a lawyer and had a good career at KPMG. He easily could've built a terrific career in the private sector, but he decided to serve the state of New York that was suffering from embarrassment and lack of leadership. If Joe were ever looking for a meal ticket, he could've had it without joining the public service. He was clearly destined for success.

During his time in state service, many of us looked to emulate the way Joe operated. He is a role model in how to communicate, tackle projects and keep up with a constant flow of work. He can accomplish more in an afternoon then most people can do in a week. As a friend during Joe's time in public service, I did my best to stay clear of drama or trouble or stupid mistakes, primarily because it would disappoint

Joe. He was the compass of whether you were a trustworthy worker or not. He would certainly let you know how he feels. It was always honest. One may have interpreted Joe's radical honesty as hostile, but he didn't intend it that way. Decisive answers are always better than indecision or no response. It genuinely was shocking to hear that Joe allegedly participated in anything, well, stupid. I fundamentally believe he was and is too smart and trustworthy to risk his reputation and family name.

There are closer colleagues than me that can attest to Joe's accomplishments while in public service. I was just one of the many people Joe worked with. But even a casual observer could see that Joe was instrumental in effecting positive change in both policy actions and getting the government to work hard while with the government.

As a friend, I had a moment in my life where I needed counsel and support. I worked for the NYS AG's office in 2007-2008. Frankly, the national economic crisis in 2008 also had me on the ropes. I needed to leave state service to make more money to provide for my family. Joe did not have to do anything. Yet he made sure he did everything he could to help me. He was actually upset I didn't tell him sooner. That just isn't typical. Politics is full of fake friends. He could've easily ignored me and my plight. By giving me the opportunity to work for the AG's office and helping me afterwards, Joe positively altered the trajectory of my life. If not for him, I don't know where I would be.

Shortly after Joe began to suffer this nightmare so publically in 2016, I sent him a Holy Bible with his name engraved into the cover. It was my way of encouraging him to lean on his faith, as well remind him to put himself and his wellbeing first for once. For two years until the day the trial ended, I woke up and sent Joe a bible verse and checked in on him. It was the least I could do in return for all he has done for me. It was torture to watch such a good man to go through this nightmare. But selfishly, it was nice to get close to him again. When Joe was working at the height of state government, he was tough to genuinely connect with anymore. With his life slowed down, friends of his were able to reconnect with the man we befriended long before he was a household name. I got to fish with him and share his company. Joe genuinely surprised me by beginning to send me devotionals and prayers each day which he does to this day. We attended church service together a number of times during the trial when we were both in Manhattan. I know he appreciated the company, and it was important for me to know he wasn't going to a dark place or a depressed place.

True to form, since the beginning of this nightmare till today, Joe has had his chin up. For that, I am so proud to be his friend. Joe Percoco is a role model based on how he handles good times as well as bad. Joe's true self is not aggressive, histrionic or impulsive. Joe Percoco is thoughtful and centered in his thinking. His humor is second to none and his warmth is felt by those closest to him. I believe he has been able to keep his chin up during this trial because he dug his heals in and leaned on his Christian faith.

Many people have not seen the personal side of Joe. He never tried to puff up his reputation and constantly ignored interviews during his rise to power. I almost wished he had so people would have a better glimpse at the humor, honesty and integrity he leads with. What people don't realize is that Joe is the quintessential family man. Many of us have joked that Joe could be rough at work sometimes because he was such a softy at home. His daughters are the love of his life and he expresses that to me often. He and his wife have gone through a public trial in many ways these last few years. And I know Joe has worked hard to keep everything balanced at home during this time and focus on his marriage and his wife's comfort.

I watched the investigation and trial closely and know he was acquitted of some charges and convicted on others.

I truly realize this case was difficult for you Judge and I hope this letter helps you better understand the father, husband, son, brother and friend that will stand before you for sentencing. This is one of the most important letters I ever had to write and I pray to God it actually has considerable effect on your leniency.

I pray and plead that you are lenient in your sentencing. Joe's life has already been turned upside down and for such a private man it will take years for him to truly recover. The damage is done. His daughters are towards the latter end of their secondary school education. Strangely, I feel God had a hand in roughly extracting Joe from the stratosphere he was in professionally, so he can have quality time with his daughters before they leave for college. It would be an absolute shame if his life is ripped apart more than it already is. Joe's career and professional life were squeaky clean and its heights were limitless. Joe has lived a good, but tough life and this time with his daughters is crucial. Please spare Joe a strong sentence. I know he will rehabilitate himself over the next few years and use his indomitable spirit to right this wrong in his life so he can continue to be a role model for all of us.

Sincerely,

Joe Rossi

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Peter Rotondo, my late Uncle Frank Coppola was Lisa Percoco (Joe's wife) step-father. I'm 43 years old and currently living in Lexington, KY. My phone number is [redacted]. For the last 12 years, I've worked for the Breeders' Cup, the championship event in horse racing and am presently Vice President of Media and Entertainment.

Judge Caproni, I am writing on behalf of Joe to just give you some insight to what kind of family man Joe has become over the years. I hope you will consider my feelings about Joe and his family as you decide his sentence.

My Uncle Frank was diagnosed [redacted] in 2000 and ultimately passed away in 2003. Joe was there for my Uncle virtually all of the time. Not just for my Uncle for my Aunt Mary Ann, my cousins Lisa and Michelle plus my Mom. He was there for everyone and everyone depended on him for support. To this day, I don't know how he dealt with such emotions at every turn from watching my Uncle die to caring for all of the women who loved him dearly. I wasn't around as much as I would have liked to have been back then to be much support so Joe literally took it all on. I will be forever grateful for this actions during the most troubling of times.

Starting with the following Thanksgiving, I've spent every single one in his home with my Mom, Joe and Lisa and his two beautiful young daughters plus Joe's sisters and until recently his Mom (she passed a few years back). Like clockwork, Joe recounts my Uncle Frank's greatest moments and makes us laugh (and cry sometimes) as he retells some amazing stories in only the way Joe can deliver. I truly look forward to Thanksgiving more than any other holiday!

Ultimately, I'm writing this letter so you can understand a bit more what kind of man Joe is to the people who love and depend on him. We all make mistakes and we learn from them. I can't imagine Joe not being at that Thanksgiving table this year so I ask you to show leniency to Joe as you consider your decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Peter Rotondo

RICHARD H. SCHAFFER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
816 DEER PARK AVENUE
NORTH BABYLON, NY 11703
(631) 422-2900
FAX (631) 422-0987

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I write to you as you consider the sentence to be imposed on Joseph Percoco. I respectfully ask you to include my thoughts and comments as you deliberate.

Joe and I have known each other for approximately thirty (30) years. We are both about the same age, started about the same time in politics and government and have worked together on many issues and projects for the benefit of our mutual constituents.

I have served as a Suffolk County Legislator, Babylon Town Supervisor (for two tours of duty, first for nine (9) years from 1992 to 2001 and currently from 2012 to present) as well as Suffolk County Democratic Committee Chairman.

I have seen all sides of Joe and have been on the receiving end of his infamous "tough guy" image that was brought up at trial, but I can tell you that that there were sides to Joe that did not come through during the proceedings or through the press that you should know as you make your decision.

Joe is a loving father. Although he worked in a high pressure job for many years and served a very demanding boss, Joe always found time to be a father to his two daughters. Many people in this business put their family second, but I know that Joe always had them on his mind and made sure he made time for them.

Through the years, I can tell you Joe was my "go to" guy to get projects moving that were stuck in the bureaucracy or when I needed advice on how to accomplish an idea. Again, many people never got to see this side of Joe, but I can tell you first hand that he knew

government, cared about the people he was sworn to serve and made sure that government worked for its constituents.

Joe was critical in helping us move our Wyandanch Rising project along. Google it and you will see that we have received National attention for the combined federal, state, county and town efforts to revitalize and reclaim the most economically distressed community on Long Island. Again, Joe was my point person and helped both me and former Babylon Supervisor (now County Executive) Steve Bellone at some very critical points of the project.

Joe Percoco regrets his actions on the matter before you. He recognizes the seriousness of his actions. I can tell you this is not the Joe Percoco I know and have worked with in government and politics. A long jail sentence or any jail time will not serve a purpose in this case. Putting Joe to work in the community and utilizing his talents to teach others and help others would be a better sentence. It would allow him to educate others on how to make government work for positive change and not use government for your own personal gain. The embarrassment and tragic fall that Joe has experienced has brought more punishment to him than any jail sentence could bring.

I respectfully request that you be as lenient as the guidelines allow in this matter. Please contact me at [redacted] with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Schaffer

RS/dpc

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United State District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Larry Schwartz, I am 61 years old, the husband of Susan Hessney and the father of Carly Schwartz. I have been a resident of White Plains, NY since 1997. I am currently the Chief Strategy Officer for an Airport Concession Operator called OTG. Prior to joining OTG, I served as the Secretary to both Governors Andrew Cuomo and David Paterson. Before serving as Secretary to both Governors, I was the Deputy County Executive under Westchester County Executive Andy Spano. My public service career also included serving as the Deputy County Executive to Suffolk County Executive Patrick Halpin, as well as working for Congressman Charles Schumer and Senate Minority Leader Manfredi Ohrenstein.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Joe Percoco with the hope that I can convince you to show leniency when you impose sentencing on Joe.

I am aware that Joe has been convicted, but I believe that his crime does not represent who Joe is as a friend, father, husband, nor as a son when his parents were alive or as a brother to his siblings And again, I ask for leniency because I think of the deep pain of separation his two daughters will experience without having their dad home to guide them through their lives. Joe has been a fantastic dad to his two daughters.

I first met Joe in 1994. We were both working to help re-elect Mario Cuomo to a fourth term. Joe was just a young kid, doing everything and anything to help the Governor and his campaign. I was the Deputy Campaign Manager. What impressed me at that time were Joe's sense of loyalty and his strong work ethic. He never complained about any task that he was given. He was committed to seeing Mario Cuomo win and his passion for Mario Cuomo became a lifelong relationship of love and respect for one another.

Throughout the years following 1994, I stayed in contact with Joe. We worked on creating joint press events when he worked at HUD for Secretary (Andrew) Cuomo and then in the AG's office for AG Cuomo when I was the Deputy County Executive for Andy Spano and as Secretary for Governor Paterson.

In 2011, I went to work for Governor Andrew Cuomo, first as his Senior Advisor and then as Secretary to the Governor from July 2011 thru February 2nd, 2015. As the Executive Deputy Secretary for Governor Cuomo, Joe was involved in overseeing Legislative outreach and administrative operations, as well as working with the regional ombudsmen, organized labor and community groups throughout the state. Joe worked closely with me during the state budget process. He was able to effectively communicate to different interested parties what the administration's position was on various policy and funding issues in the Governor's proposed budget as well as what the differences were between the Administration and the Legislature during budget negotiations and what was in the final adopted budget. The same was true with respect to major Legislative initiatives proposed by Governor Cuomo during the Legislative session that was outside the budget process. Joe was a very effective liaison on behalf of the Governor with different constituency groups.

I also worked with Joe on identifying and recommending candidates to fill positions on various state boards and commissions and we worked closely when it came to scheduling and organizing governmental events for Governor Cuomo.

Judge Caproni, to conclude, the most important things I can share with you is Joe was a loyal and tireless worker to both Mario and Andrew Cuomo and a dedicated public servant. Second, individuals, like Joe and I, who have dedicated ourselves to public service, become enriched from the sense of accomplishment we experience as the direct result of the work we do to improve society at large. The people we meet also enrich us, as do the friendships we make along the way. This dedication often comes with personal sacrifice – sacrifice away from our families, our friends, missing out on school and other extra curricular events with our kids. Third, I know that Joe was a wonderful son to his parents and is a loving, caring brother to his siblings. Joe was and remains the rock and the anchor of his family. He was and is invaluable to them; he did and does take care of everything for his family out of unconditional love and without complaint. Joe was a good friend to me and many other people and you could count on Joe being there for you, if you needed him. And finally, I ask for your compassion; especially if you are a parent, please do not to separate Joe from his family, especially his two daughters. Joe has been and is a terrific father to his two daughters. Any father would envy the relationship that Joe has with them. I ask that you not separate that father-daughter bond at a time when his daughters are young and impressionable and need the guidance of *both* their parents as they grow in life. I ask that when you evaluate and look at Joe's entire life that you will be compassionate and show mercy when you make your sentencing decision. I am happy to speak to you further if that would be helpful to you at all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry Schwartz

[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I'm writing with regards to Joe Percoco. As I know sentencing is approaching, I wanted to offer perhaps an additional perspective on Joe in hopes that you might take it into consideration when deciding his fate.

I worked with Joe on and off for over ten years. We worked on campaigns together so this wasn't a pass his desk at 9am and again at 5pm kind of thing. On campaigns we worked sixteen hour days on a good day; we worked weekends; we got to know each other's families; we saw each other at our best and our worst. We worked together when there were 100 of us, but also for many years, when there were only 4 of us. Through that time I got to know Joe— as a fiery and bold co-worker, as a devoted husband to Lisa, as a compassionate father to V[redacted] and J[redacted], as a fiercely loyal friend. Above all, I got to know Joe as a caretaker. Whether mowing his mom's lawn, caring for Lisa during[redacted], running to watch the girls at their soccer game, or coming to a friend's rescue with a flat tire fix, Joe has always been there for everyone. In fact, I remember him doing all of those things in the course of one day. Regardless of his workload, which was often immense, he made time to help anyone who needed it. He is the person you can call on, whether you just talked to him yesterday or haven't talked to him in months. He constantly puts the needs of others before himself.

Joe is a hard-working, productive member of society. He contributes greatly to the lives around him. He's been like a big brother to me in the past, and he is someone I have come to depend on time and again. A prolonged absence from his family and friends would be detrimental to all of us. I hope you might take this into account when considering his sentence.

If there is any way I can be of more help or provide more information please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].

Sincerely,
Bridget Siegel
[redacted]

Joseph Solicito
[redacted]

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District
of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

My name is Joseph Solicito, I am a 51 year old self employed landscape contractor residing at [redacted] I met and became friends with Joseph Percoco back in high school. I was the best man at his wedding and godfather to his eldest daughter, V[redacted].

The reason for my letter is to hopefully help you better understand the person who will stand before you for sentencing.

Joseph Percoco, as I described in my best man speech, is one of the most loyal family oriented people I ever met.

Losing his dad at an early age Joe had to grow up quickly and become the man of the house. He was a father to his two sisters and the stability his mom needed and demanded. An example of Joe's commitment to his family that has always stuck in my head is when Joe got engaged to his wife Lisa, who lived and wanted to remain in Staten Island after the wedding. This was a problem for Joe because his mom and sisters were still in Rockland County. He knew his mom would not be happy about him leaving Rockland and living an hour away. She might not complain, but he refused to desert his family. So what did Joe do? Since his mom worked in a bagel store for years and dreamed of owning her own bagel/bakery, Joe found an available store in Staten Island to open a bagel store for his mother and make her dream a reality while keeping her close. He risked his own money to open her a store. But it didn't end there, Joe would leave Rockland every morning at 3:00 am to pick up his bagel maker in Hackensack, NJ because the baker didn't drive or have a car, and then drove him to Staten Island every morning. He didn't want his mother to be inconvenienced and woken up early, and he wanted the bakery running successfully so his mom could move to Staten Island with him after his wedding. He would then go to work for the day for the Governor Mario Cuomo.

After many years in Staten Island and the birth of his two daughters, Joe really wanted to move to the suburbs similar to where he grew up to give his family a better life, a

bigger yard, and good schools. For years and years Joe spoke of leaving, and kept saying one more year and he would leave for a well paying job, and use his law degree, but every year he'd stay out of his loyalty to the Cuomo's. He never wanted to leave the Cuomo's because they always seemed to need him and he had extreme loyalty to that family, he loved them. They would ask for another year and he would give it to them.

I spent many hours trying to figure out how my friend, the most loyal, honest, hardworking person I knew, got into this situation. He didn't have the heart to disappoint the Cuomo's and disappoint his family, and got himself where he is now, in something that became too much to handle.

Judge I know Joe a long time, I know his character, I've experienced his loyalty, and witnessed his devotion to his family. Joe is a good person who I am sure is extremely sorry for any bad decision he has made along the way. I would ask you to please show him some leniency in his sentence so he can watch his daughters grow up and continue to provide for his family.

Thank you for your time and understanding.
Any questions you may have for me, my cell is [redacted]

Joe Solicito

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 1007

July 9, 2018

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Mark Streb and I have known Joe for nearly 15 years. I have and always will consider Joe a friend of mine. I have worked for the Executive Branch of government, NYS Legislature, City of Troy, a labor union and as a private consultant. I live at [redacted]. I have worked with Joe and have worked directly for Joe.

I'm writing this letter in support of Joe to share with you the person I know and respect in the hope that you will consider this information when he stands in front of you for sentencing.

I can't remember the first time I met Joe but it was either through government public service or working on political campaigns. Over the years as I have gotten to know Joe and his family as he has with my family, the words that come to my mind to describe Joe is loyal, caring, honest and driven. I remember one instance when I was at a political function with my children, he made a point to come over to my family and thank not just my wife and I for coming but thanking my children for attending. I have been to many events and for Joe to take the time to come over and thank my children showed true class and caring. As a father, I know he has always worked to raise his children with respect. I remember the first time I met Joe's girls he made a point to make sure they shook my hand, look me in the eye and say hello "Mr. Streb". In this day and age that parental teaching moment of manners unfortunately is an exception and not standard.

Through the years I always enjoyed working for and with Joe because he was always straightforward and protected his staff. Everyone knew that Joe always had your back. He expected results and made sure that everyone would succeed as a team. After major events, Joe would take a few moments to send everyone a note congratulating and thanking them on a job well done. Some would say small but he wanted to make sure people knew they were appreciated.

When the time comes for sentencing, please consider these qualities of Joe and I humbly request that you show leniency in your sentencing.

Sincerely,

Mark Streb

Mark Streb
[redacted]

JACOB B. TEITELBAUM
RABBI OF CONG. ATZEI CHAIM SIGET
1511 50TH STREET
BROOKLYN NY 11219

יעקב דוב טייטלבוים
רב דק"ק עצי חיים סיגוט
ברוקלין נ. י. יצ"ו

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Justice Valerie Caproni.

Please permit me to introduce myself. My name is Jacob B. Teitelbaum, and I serve as the spiritual leader of the Siget community and Congregation of New York. I am also the son of the venerated Grand Rabbi of the Satmar community, Rabbi Zalman Leib Teitelbaum.

I respectfully approach your honor on behalf of an individual who has served the community selflessly for many years with distinction and without compensation, indeed his dedication and devotion to avoiding conflict and disruption has averted many a crisis situation in the Jewish community.

Mr. Percoco has always volunteered in a time of need to help smooth out difficulties and restore calm many times at a great cost of time and effort.

Mr. Percoco has demonstrated maximum discretion in his efforts for the Jewish community and his accomplishments were legendary, When Mr. Percoco became involved everyone listened and complied with his recommendations.

Dear Justice Valerie Caproni, without attempting to address whatever transgression Mr. Percoco has been convicted of, we appreciate your honor taking into consideration his many achievements that were never acknowledged nor compensated yet saved the State hugh sums of money by settling disputes and conflicts that would have been costly both morally and physically.

We do not wish to burden your valuable time however we beseech you to use your authority to balance punishment with inspiration and remand Mr. Percoco to a penalty of community service, which he is so capable of performing and will also benefit the community he serves.

In conclusion we offer our sincere prayers and blessings for your continued success in your exalted position and health and happiness in your career.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jacob B. Teitelbaum

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

Please allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Michael and Sherry Toscano. We are father-in-law and (step) mother-in-law to Joseph Percoco. During our 31 years of marriage we have resided in Bay Ridge Brooklyn, Staten Island and upon retiring in 2017 currently live in Toms River NJ.

We have had the honor and pleasure of knowing Joe for over 25 years. We whole heartedly gave our blessings when he and Lisa became engaged 20 plus years ago.

We witnessed Joe's determination as he provided for his young family while attending law school in the evenings. We watched in admiration as Joe took charge of his young wife's recuperation following [redacted]. He created a schedule for family and friends to ensure Lisa had round the clock help with their 2 small children, cooking, cleaning, etc. Joe himself handled most of the laundry and food shopping.

Joe is and has always been a family man. While living in Staten Island he kept close watch on his widowed mother and his sister who shared a home. He would shovel their sidewalks and driveways and then do the same for Lisa's mom. Joe regularly visits the gravesites of his late parents.

We were eager to discuss our retirement plans with Joe as he always gave us such good advice. So naturally when drawing up our wills we chose Joe as our executor.

Joe is a devoted husband and father. He has handed down to his 2 daughters love for our great country and the importance of honesty and loyalty. Joe does not tolerate lying or bigotry from them and insists they treat others with respect, especially their mother. His oldest daughter in particular strives to be like dad. We watch in amusement when the 2 of them debate an issue.

Joe worked long, long hours and many, many weekends. He likes nothing better than spending his down time Lisa and the girls. When we enjoyed a weekend visit we were attending a lacrosse match or walking the high school track while he coached and/or practiced with his daughter. A laid back dinner on the porch with Joe at the grill was the perfect Saturday night.

We are proud to know Joseph Percoco and to call him our son-in-law. If indeed he has made any missteps along the way rest assured the man we know will remember and regret them for the rest of his life. We respectfully ask the Judge to consider his qualities, contributions and years of dedication to family members, friends and coworkers alike when determining his sentence.

Sincere regards,

Sherry Toscano Michael Toscano

Michael and Sherry Toscano

Domenic F. Trunfio, Esq.
[redacted]

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I am writing on behalf of Joe Percoco. I have been public service for my entire career and most of that has been in law enforcement. I began my career serving our country in the United States Navy JAGC. I have known Joe for many years, ever since he worked for then New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. I obviously know what Joe was indicted and tried for, but I have never spoken with him about the charges. I know he faces sentencing soon and I was hoping to give you some perspective of my interactions and knowledge of Joe before you sentence him.

Joe was always professional in my dealings with him. Whether I was working with him while he was in the AG's Office or while he was in the Governor's Office, he was always direct and honest with me. He always kept his word. You always knew where you stood with Joe and I can tell you that this has not been my experience in over 25 years of dealing with people in political offices in every level of government. If Joe could help on an issue, he would. If he couldn't help, he would tell you that. He wasn't necessarily a policy guy, but he would direct you to the people that were. Over time, I got to know Joe on a more personal level and there are two things that struck me about him as I got to know him better. I thought I would share these two things with you.

First and foremost, Joe is devoted to his family. He was very close to his mother and he was devastated when she died. His wife and kids mean the world to him. Despite having a demanding, high profile job with high levels of stress and intense pressures, he's a doting father who has made an effort to raise his kids to respect others, to work hard and to go out and "do good in the world." As I have gotten older (and hopefully wiser), I have learned that you can tell a lot about the character of a man, whether he be flawed or not, by the way he treats his family and raises his children. In that regard Joe is a good man.

The second thing that sticks out to me about Joe is that he was never pretentious or boastful about his position. In my experience, he always tried to help when he could, and he always tried to do the right thing, despite the competing interests and pressures from all sides that he routinely navigated. Not once did I ever hear him factor in political benefit for either himself or the person he worked for. When we disagreed on an issue, he never held it against me the next time. I always appreciated that and I always considered him a "stand-up" guy. Joe has always respected me and my position and, in fact, he was adamant that I did not have to write this letter on his behalf. I have chosen to do so because I genuinely care about him and his family.

I will close by saying this: I honestly don't know what Joe did or didn't do. What I do know is that he truly regrets that he put himself in this situation and I believe he deserves a second chance and the opportunity to rehabilitate himself and his reputation. Your honor, I know sentencing is your decision and that most decisions judges make are difficult, especially when one's life and future is in the balance. I just wanted you to hear a different perspective about my experience and knowledge of Joe before you make that decision on his future.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be heard.

Very respectfully,

Domenic F. Trunfio

George Weinberger

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I would like to introduce myself. I am the Chairman Emeritus of Agudath Israel of America. Agudath is the largest advocacy and social service organization representing the Orthodox Jewish community in America. As part of its mission, Agudath interacts with government on the local, state and national levels.

For more than a decade, I had the opportunity to interact with Joe Percoco. I made many trips to Albany on behalf of Agudath to advocate on behalf of various legislative initiatives. I found him to be honest, fair minded and accessible. He was always able to cut to the heart of the matter and make things happen. There were many serious issues that we were dealing with. Joe always gave the appropriate attention to these issues. We didn't always agree, but we respected each other's point of view.

I know Joe has been convicted and is facing sentencing. I would ask your honor to consider the contributions he has made and the future contributions that he can make.

He is a good man and can contribute greatly to society. I am sure that he regrets his past actions and will do good things when he rejoins society.

Sincerely,

George Weinberger

Chairman Emeritus

Agudath Israel of America

Dear Judge Caproni,

I am writing to ask you to consider the information below as you decide the sentence of Joe Percoco and exercise leniency based in part on this letter.

I graduated from St. John's Law School in 1984 and was admitted to the Connecticut bar that year and to the New York bar in 1985 (second attempt on the exam). I was an associate concentrating in employment discrimination and labor relations at a couple of New York City law firms until 1987.

After serving as a volunteer lawyer on Governor Mario Cuomo's re-election campaign in 1986, I was given the opportunity to join the Administration. I worked in a number of capacities with increasing levels of responsibility until November 1994. My last two assignments were as Counsel to the Lieutenant Governor and then Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Governor. My last job encompassed a good number of the responsibilities Joe had during his time with the Andrew Cuomo administration, so I understand the job and the pressures. I worked closely with many gubernatorial staffers throughout that period of time, including Joe.

Since 1995, I have practiced law a little and built a successful government relations firm. Joe and I stayed in touch throughout his years at HUD, OAG and the Governor's office. I also stayed in touch with Mario and Andrew Cuomo. I know that they both relied upon Joe through the good and challenging times. I personally worked with Joe on Andrew's campaigns and, on occasion, on client matters after Andrew became Governor and Joe assumed his position.

Joe never did anything – ever – to advantage me or my clients unfairly or illegally to be sure. He extended the courtesy of his office and our friendship to give me his honest, unvarnished thoughts and guidance.

I met Joe in 1988; he was an intern. He had a terrific work ethic and demonstrated a strong desire to help the team; he showed an early understanding of what I will call Mario Cuomo's mission. Our relationship grew as we increasingly interacted with each other over the next few years. He was trustworthy, reliable and effective. And he was honest; there was never a doubt. These were excellent qualities given the intensity and challenges of the work.

I recognized in Joe a kindred spirit – working class background, economic challenges and an understanding that the way forward was more education and hard work; no shortcuts. I cannot recall a useful anecdote but my letter is not about anecdotal evidence of Joe's character. My letter is about 30 years of knowing Joe as a professional and a person. Indeed, throughout our careers we have argued and he has been sharp; it is his passion and personality – not a character flaw and never to suggest anything questionable or improper.

As Counsel to the Lieutenant Governor, I was pleased to write a letter to St. John's Law School recommending Joe for admission. I didn't have to, nobody asked me to except Joe. I was happy he chose the law as his next step and had every confidence he would succeed. Joe is a proud man who is deeply remorseful and embarrassed about how he lost his compass and what he did. He knows he let a great number of people down.

I know this because we talked as big brother to little brother. I take my share of responsibility for not being there for him as he made the bad judgments he knows he made. One anecdote – when I read in the paper about the narrative of this case and began to follow its development, I reached out to Joe for lunch. Rather than offer him sympathy, I threatened to beat the hell out of him (as if I could!). I saw him cry. I knew then and there he understood his mistakes and regretted them profoundly – he knew he blew it. We have since talked about his wife, kids and the way forward.

Joe knows he has work to do and a penalty to pay. But I know and fully believe that his debt to society, his family and his colleagues will be repaid in full as he is permitted to contribute to the well-being of those he cares about most and loves deeply.

Joe's profound sense of loyalty, commitment and friendship led him to make some terrible judgments.

Please give Joe a chance to get his life back on track. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

David N. Weinraub

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

I respectfully submit this letter to urge Your Honor to display leniency and compassion in connection with the forthcoming sentencing of Joseph Percoco.

By way of introduction, I am the CEO of Outerstuff, a sports apparel manufacturer, and a member of the Orthodox Jewish community who is active in Jewish communal affairs. I have come to know Mr. Percoco through the work I have done with him over the course of his public service as an aide to Governor Andrew Cuomo.

It is not my purpose in this letter to pass judgment regarding any crimes Mr. Percoco may have committed. Nonetheless, everything I know about this individual persuades me that while he may have been found guilty of a crime, he is far from being a criminal. To the contrary, I have found Mr. Percoco to be a man with a big heart, and an impressive track record of caring for some of the most vulnerable and downtrodden members of society.

During Mr. Percoco's tenure in the Governor's office, we had occasion to collaborate on certain humanitarian causes, such as the time in December 2013 when he approached me about participating in the Governor's holiday drive for needy children. Outerstuff decided to donate approximately $125,000 worth of coats to this humanitarian cause – and while Mr. Percoco's name never appeared in any of the press releases or news stories about this donation, I can attest that it was his persistence, and sincerity, that persuaded us to undertake this humanitarian gesture. He really cared – and that made us really care.

Though the years, I have had several occasions to interact with Mr. Percoco. I always found him to be receptive to issues of concern to the Jewish community, a fierce warrior on the battlefield against anti-Semitism and a staunch advocate of religious freedom. His public service made a real difference.

As Your Honor considers the nature and severity of the punishment Mr. Percoco should receive, I would respectfully urge that you focus on the entirety of the person – not just on the crime for which he was convicted, but on the much broader picture of a faithful public servant whose deep human concern for needy members of society is exemplary.

Many thanks for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Sol Werdiger

VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

Post Office Box 566, Monroe, NY 10949
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Mayor
Abraham Wieder

Administrator-Clerk
Gedalye Szegedin

Trustees
Moses Goldstein
Jacob Freund
Samuel Landau
Jacob Reisman

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Re: Joseph Percoco

Dear Judge Caproni:

My name is Abraham Wieder, I am President and CEO of Monroe Cable Co. which provides wire and cable to the U.S. Navy. I reside at [redacted]. I have served as a village trustee and have been its mayor for the past 21 years.

Your Honor, I am writing to request that you kindly extend any leniency allowed by law for Joseph (Joe) Percoco. The late Governor Mario Cuomo introduced us more than 25 years ago, and we have been friends ever since. The introduction occurred in the early 1990s when I lobbied to separate the Village of Kiryas Joel from the Monroe Woodbury School District. The separation became necessary when the Monroe Woodbury School District found itself unable to provide culturally for Kiryas Joel's 'special needs children' who were predominantly Chasidic Jews.

The governor tasked Joe with finding a workable solution that would address Kiryas Joel's unique needs, without overburdening the Monroe Woodbury School District and without violated the separation of Church and State. Joe visited with the families of the 'special needs children' and from his facial expressions I knew that he was the right man for the job. He listened attentively and asked pertinent questions until he was fully versed with the situation. It took more than three years and legal battles that when all the way up to the United States Supreme Court but ultimately we prevailed, thanks in no small part to Joe's belief in, and dedication to, this project.

It has been twenty years now and the Kiryas Joel School District, which Joe was so instrumental in creating, is actively providing for those 'special needs children' in a culturally friendly environment while working hand in hand with the Monroe Woodbury School District. I was therefore saddened to learn of Joe's conviction.

I respect the rule of law and our justice system so I must accept the courts findings. But please understand my quandary. For a quarter of a century now I found Joe to be a man of his word, never sugar coating any situation but doing so with caring and with sensitivity. Joe bridged the gap between the Monroe Woodbury School District, the Village of Kiryas Joel and the State Legislature for the benefit of 'special needs children'. I therefore feel the need to reciprocate to Joe by helping bridge the gap between Joe Percoco the dedicated public servant and the Joe Percoco who had a momentary lapse in clear thinking.

From the bottom of my heart, I beseech you to please balance the decades of Joe's public service against the misdeeds he was found guilty of and kindly find it in your heart to give him a chance to rehabilitate himself.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, should you wish to discuss this matter further I can be reached at [redacted]

Respectfully,

Abraham Wieder

The Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I would like to tell you something about myself. I am 71 years old. I grew up in Le Roy New York in the Western end of the state and have lived here, except for college in Ohio and graduate school in Texas, for my entire life. I was elected Trustee of Le Roy in 1976 and Mayor in 1978. I served five terms as Mayor. I served on the Genesee County Democratic Committee from 1976 and I was its Chairman for 11 years until 2007. Governor Mario Cuomo appointed me as a Regional Commissioner of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation in 1992. I was held over for two years into the Pataki administration. Governor Spitzer asked me in 2007 to take the position as Special Assistant at Department of Environmental Conservation. I worked as a geologist/geochemist and an administrator. After retiring in 2015, I was again elected to the Village Board in Le Roy and now serve as Vice Mayor.

I have known Joe Percoco well for nearly 20 years. I was chairman of the Genesee County Democratic Party and also of the WNY Chairman's Association and an early supporter of Andrew Cuomo for NYS Governor when Joe and I got to know each other. In regard to the campaign, he cautioned us to be above board and observe proprieties in support of the candidacy. His candidate lost the primary but Joe kept in contact with me and other chairmen. All of the county chairs in this region relied on Joe for advice. I think we all had a great deal of respect for him and appreciation for his help. He was smart, efficient, competent, a perfect gentleman and hard working. He was always willing to share his time to help us navigate the state bureaucracy. Despite his long hours, he was clearly devoted to his family and often missed them.

I have spoken with Joe and he has told me that he is through working in politics. It has caused great pain to himself and his family. He regrets that this association has put him in his present position. My personal opinion is that we need more people in politics like the Joe I know.

As a long-term Village of Le Roy Mayor, Genesee County Democratic Chairman, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation administrator, I feel I have had a fair amount of influence. Joe never asked or suggested we give business or special treatment to anyone; but he was helpful in referring our local questions and problems to appropriate state offices.

Joe and I became friends over these years and I know him well enough to trust him. I once sent him a homemade wooden cutting board, something I made in my shop and often gift to friends. Joe responded that he would have to check with the ethics office to see if he could accept it. I consider that to be an indication of his integrity.

I know that Joseph Percoco has been convicted and I hope that you will consider his many good qualities and the good things he has done. I worry that the public perception of politics is so negative that anyone could be thought guilty by association. I hope you will consider this letter and my thoughts when you impose your sentence.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning my experience with Mr. Percoco. My numbers are home [redacted] and cell [redacted]. I live at [redacted].

Sincerely yours,

Raymond E. Yacuzzo