

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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Richard L. Revesz

Dean and Lawrence King Professor of Law

April 15, 2008

The Honorable John F. Walter
United States District Court
Central District of California
312 N. Spring Street
Room 176, Courtroom 16
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: United States v. Melvyn I. Weiss No. CR 05-587(E) – JFW

Dear Judge Walter:

I am the Dean of New York University School of Law. I have been on the NYU faculty for 23 years and am currently the Lawrence King Professor of Law. Before beginning my academic career, I had the great honor of serving as a law clerk to Chief Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Justice Thurgood Marshall of the Supreme Court of the United States.

I came to know Melvyn Weiss well when I assumed the deanship of New York University School of Law in 2002. I had big shoes to fill when my predecessor, John Sexton, now President of NYU, moved on after 14 exceptional years in which NYU catapulted to the top of the law school rankings. Mel, who had served as a Trustee on the Law School Foundation Board since 1993 and whose involvement with the school goes back almost half a century, played a pivotal role in that transformation. As I took over at the helm, I looked to Mel as a member of the Board for guidance and support in steering the institution. Mel provided me with unfailingly sound advice as I navigated a challenging transition, and I was immediately impressed by his knowledge and vision.

As a faculty member, I had long known of Mel by reputation. His generosity and leadership in endowing the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) at the Law School was legendary. NYU had introduced the LRAP program in 1984 to address the growing need for high quality lawyers at public interest law agencies. Recognizing the financial constraint that the Law School's tuition places on students after graduation, LRAP was designed to alleviate the burden of Law School debt in order to enable

graduates to pursue public interest careers. Mel became a champion of the program, leading the charge to build its endowment as it became increasingly expensive commensurate with its success as more graduates entered the program. He also funded a public interest forum to attract distinguished figures working in government and public interest careers to come and speak to students about their experience. His support for a network of public interest initiatives has been instrumental in reinforcing the ethos of public service that is so important to the Law School's mission.

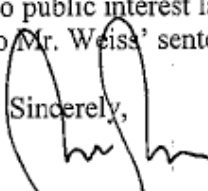
Under Mel's stewardship, the principle of full debt repayment for individuals who make a lasting commitment to public service law has become a cornerstone of our institutional philosophy. Today, our LRAP program is one of the most generous in the nation, providing loan repayment support to more than 450 graduates. We spend more on it – \$4.3 million last year – than any other school, and typically fund around 12% of the graduating class. This could not have been possible without Mel's commitment. Thanks to his generosity, the program has had enormous success in attracting students committed to public service careers and in making it possible for them to fulfill their professional goals. His legacy has created an outstanding pool of public service lawyers to do work in every conceivable area of the law.

As Dean of the Law School, I have been privileged to work with Mel and have come to deeply respect his legal acumen, intellectual curiosity, and generous spirit. He has been a mentor and a friend, offering useful advice on a range of institutional concerns. As a senior member of the Law School's Board of Trustees until 2007, Mel helped me to define the vision and goals of this institution, and to strategize how best to advance the broader educational mission of the Law School. His leadership in supporting public interest work – he and I have had many long conversations about how to improve the Loan Repayment Assistance Program to enhance the benefits to law school graduates and maximize its effectiveness – was crucial in training several generations of lawyers who are now giving back to the community.

I have always known Mel to be an empathetic and caring person; I have been deeply impressed by his profound love for and devotion to his family. He has a wonderful relationship with his wife, Barbara, and takes extraordinary interest and pride in the accomplishments of his three children.

The court, understandably, has an image of Mel Weiss that has developed from the proceedings in which he has been involved. I thought it important that the court also have an opportunity to see another view of him, one marked prominently by his admirable, genuine, and long-lasting contributions to public interest law and legal education. I hope that this information is relevant to Mr. Weiss' sentencing proceeding.

Sincerely,



Richard Revesz