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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:

My name is Stanley Sporkin. I am a practicing attorney who served in the U.S. government for more than 40 years. I started my legal career as a clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Caleb M. Wright in the District of Delaware. I clerked for three years for Judge Wright and then for a short period for Judge Paul Leahy. After one year in private practice I became a member of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission where I served for almost 20 years, the last seven (1974-81) as director of the SEC's Division of enforcement. I then became General Counsel to the CIA to be followed by 14 years as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Columbia. I retired from the bench in 2000 and am presently a sole practitioner.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Melvyn I. Weiss who is scheduled for sentencing in your court on June 2, 2008. My relationship with Mr. Weiss has largely been on a professional basis. I have known him for over 30 years. I first met him when I was with the SEC. He represented investors. I, in my government capacity, was charged with the protection of the financial interests of those very same investors. Essentially we both shared the same overall objective: of righting wrongs that subjected investors to financial losses. During my years at the SEC, particularly the 1974-1981 period and recently as a mediator where Mr. Weiss represented one of the parties, I observed Mr. Weiss's efforts on behalf of investors. I found him to be a person of great intellect, creative, and with high morals and principles. Thus, I was truly shocked when I learned of Mr. Weiss's difficulties with the law.

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Because of my background at the SEC, I know how important Mr. Weiss' role was in helping the securities regulation process. Up until recently, when the SEC was given the power to get back from wrongdoers some of their ill-gotten gains, it was strictly up to class action lawyers to obtain those monies to compensate investors for their losses. Over those years, Melvyn Weiss was the leading plaintiff class action lawyer. According to his firm's web site, it has been instrumental in recouping over \$45 billion for investors. It was largely through Mr. Weiss' leadership that his firm was able to obtain these dramatic results.

Even now, where the SEC is authorized to pursue corporate wrongdoers to make them repay investors for their losses, the private bar is still necessary because it is able to obtain more realistic recoveries. The SEC simply does not have the resources to effect complete recoveries and thus it relies heavily on the plaintiffs' securities bar to assist it in its endeavors.

I know what a judge faces when called upon to sentence an individual. It was the most difficult part of my judicial role. Stripping a person of his freedom is not a decision that is lightly made. In preparing to sentence someone I would look at that person's entire life. I would balance the many good things with those that brought about the breach in the law.

As I look at Melvyn Weiss's career I see many good things that I believe warrant careful consideration and possibly earn him the break that his up to now unblemished record deserves. At the age of 72 his remaining productive years may not be that many. While he must pay the price for his actions, he certainly does not need to be given a sentence that would preclude him from ever being able to once again become a productive member of society. I know you will hear from many of Mr. Weiss's friends, both professional and social, who will tell you the many wonderful things Mr. Weiss has done for his fellow citizens. He is a person with a big heart who has befriended those in need, such as the families of those who were victims of the Holocaust.

I am writing this letter to you because I want to and not because I was asked to do so. This is the first such letter on behalf of an individual defendant that I have ever written. I know that these letters are important to the sentencing process and therefore I am providing my views in the hope they will aid the court in dealing with the daunting task before it to impose a fair and just sentence. It is in that spirit that I write this letter.

Sincerely,



Stanley Sporkin