

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130  
TELEPHONE: 504 581-9065

November 4, 1986

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Brian Berson has asked me to write a letter of recommendation on his behalf, and I have agreed to do so without hesitation. Although I have only heard positive things about his lawyering, both from lawyers who worked with him in the Federal Public Defender's office and criminal lawyers from the private bar who have had cases with him, I prefer to speak from my personal experience.

Brian and I were co-counsel in 1986 in a 13 defendant case and a four week trial. Brian's preparation was thorough, his grasp of complicated and interrelated facts impressive. Brian conducted one of the most well thought out, effective cross-examinations of a turned witness (there were a good half dozen of these creatures) of any lawyer in the case. He controlled the witness, forced him along uncomfortable paths, and wound up with few scratches and much to argue from.

Brian's closing argument was also exceptional. In a multi-defendant case, with most defendants similarly situated, it is difficult to add effectively when you are the fifth or sixth arguer in line. Without boring the jury by repeating what had gone before, without competing counterproductively with the lawyers before him and those to come, Brian succeeded in presenting a unique characterization of the government's evidence which reinforced other arguments while it complimented them. A fine argument indeed!

I would expect that the described evidence of Brian's skills as they were displayed in a major trial would provide substantial information by which to evaluate him and his potential. If there is more that I can offer in amplification, I would be happy to do so on request.

Sincerely,

RG:sm