

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 1:12cr521 (LO)
	)	
CHAD DIXON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

**DEFENDANT’S POSITION WITH RESECT TO SENTENCING**

Comes now, the defendant, Chad Dixon, by counsel, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual, § 6A1.2, and submits his Position With Respect to Sentencing.

At the outset, it must be said that the government has taken a step too far, resorting to hyperbole that grossly distorts Mr. Dixon’s character and offense conduct. Most particularly, its characterization of Mr. Dixon as “having admitted to a career of criminal deceit” is a shameless attempt to prejudice him in the eyes of this Court which the Court should not tolerate.

As the government well knows, it is NOT a crime to provide polygraph countermeasures training to anyone, including convicted sex offenders, federal job applicants and members of the intelligence community who are seeking to obtain or retain security clearances. Nor is it a crime to include the completely *truthful* statement that people can be taught how to produce truthful polygraph charts even if one is “flat out lying” in Internet advertising. The government’s attempt to suggest otherwise is a deliberate effort to inflame the passions of this Court. While understandably unpopular with law enforcement and other government agencies, polygraph countermeasures training is widely available and unless the person providing the training knows that the countermeasures training will be used to commit a criminal offense (as in this case,

obstructing an agency proceeding), it is protected First Amendment speech. Like it or not, providing polygraph countermeasures training, even to the most despicable among us, is not a crime.

### **Offense Conduct**

In 2007, Mr. Dixon briefly set up a website offering polygraph training using materials offered for free on the Internet by an organization called anitpolygraph.org. He trained one person for a marital fidelity polygraph before deciding that he could not effectively provide the training or afford to maintain his website.<sup>1</sup> After seeing a news program about polygraph testing in late 2009, Mr. Dixon again began researching information on polygraph testing, including manuals issued by the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute and a report issued by the National Academy of Science (“NAS”) which was charged with conducting a scientific review of the research on the validity and reliability of polygraph examinations, particularly for personnel security screening.<sup>2</sup> Contrary to the government’s claim that Mr. Dixon “stole” these materials, (Dkt. No 19, at 8), he downloaded most of this information, including the Defense Department manuals, for free from the Internet.<sup>3</sup> The NAS Report concluded, among other things that:

*“Almost a century of research in scientific psychology and physiology provides little basis for the expectation that a polygraph test could have extremely high accuracy. The physiological responses measured by the polygraph are not uniquely related to deception. That is, the responses measured by the polygraph do not all reflect a single underlying process: a variety of psychological and*

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<sup>1</sup> The government’s attempt to characterize Mr. Dixon’s statements to the Probation Officer about the timing and circumstances of establishing his polygraph business as “misleading” is just another unwarranted attempt to prejudice this Court. (See Dkt. No. 19 at 8, n.2).

<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=10420&page=1](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=10420&page=1)

<sup>3</sup> Available on antipolygraph.org website at <https://antipolygraph.org/read.shtml>.

physiological processes, including some that can be consciously controlled, can affect polygraph measures and test.” (emphasis in original).<sup>4</sup> NAS Report, p. 212.

He also discovered Doug Williams’ website which offered to train people to “ALWAYS PASS YOUR POLYGRAPH TEST – NERVOUS OR NOT – LYING OR NOT – NO MATTER WHAT”. (See Website as it appeared in September 2009, available at

<http://web.archive.org/web/20090930160659/http://www.polygraph.com/>, Exhibit 1). The site

advertised Williams as:

“the only one that teaches you how to always pass every type of polygraph and CVSA (voice stress test) – including pre-employment polygraph exams for ALL local, state and federal positions, such as, DHS, FBI, SECRET SERVICE, CIA, NSA, DOD, DHS,CBP, POLICE SHERIFF, STATE POLICE, HIGHWAY PATROL, FIREFIGHTER, RCMP, as well as periodic criminal, S.O. maintenance, post-conviction testing, (PCSOT), parole and probation, specific issue, full scope, life style, sporting, and spouse/partner fidelity. It is a proven fact that Doug Williams can teach you how to pass ANY POLYGRAPH TEST given by ANYONE.” (emphasis in original).

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<sup>4</sup> See also for example, NAS Report, p. 78:

“If the assumptions about large and involuntary responses to relevant questions are true, the polygraph test would be characterized by high sensitivity and specificity—it would discriminate very accurately between deception and truthfulness—and it would be immune to countermeasures.

“Such assumptions are not tenable in light of contemporary research on individual and situational determinants of autonomic responses generally (Lacey, 1967; Coles, Donchin, and Porges, 1986; Cacioppo, Tassinari, and Berntson, 2000a) and on the physiological detection of deception in particular (e.g., Lykken, 2000; Iacono, 2000). There is no unique physiological response that indicates deception (Lykken, 1998). If deceivers in fact have stronger differential responses to relevant questions, it does not necessarily follow that an examinee who shows this response pattern was lying (see Strube, 1990; Cacioppo and Tassinari, 1990a) because differences in people’s anticipation of and responses to the relevant and comparison questions other than differences in truthfulness can also produce differential physiological reactions.”

The website also promoted Williams as a veteran of the Air Force who had been assigned to the White House Communications Agency, and a decorated veteran of the Oklahoma City Police Department where as a Detective Sergeant he was in charge of the Polygraph section of the Internal Affairs Unit. His website cited impressive credentials, among other things, that: (1) Williams has been qualified as an expert witness on polygraph testing in numerous courts and had testified before the U.S. Congress during hearings on The Employee Polygraph Protection Act which prohibits most private employers from using lie detector tests, either for pre-employment screening or during the course of employment;<sup>5</sup> (2) Williams was a member of the board of the Office of Technology Assessments, an investigative arm of the U.S. Congress impaneled to study the validity of the polygraph as a lie detector; and (3) Williams had been featured most of the major news programs on major television and cable networks including CBS 60 Minutes, CBS Nightwatch, NBC Nightly News, CNN News, Fox's Exploring the Unknown, NBC Dateline, Fox News, CNN News Stand, and others. (See Exhibit 1). Williams offered his manual and DVD training materials for sale for \$49.94 plus shipping and offered to provide individualized training for \$1,000 at his preparation training room and for \$3,000 plus expenses "at your location." (See Exhibit 1).<sup>6</sup>

During this time, Ashley Shook, Mr. Dixon's fiancé, was pregnant with their first child together and was attending school. Because of plant closings, Mr. Dixon had lost a number of electrical service contracts at local industrial plants that served as the backbone of his electrical company's business. He was already several months behind on his mortgage payments and

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<sup>5</sup> See 29 U.S.C. § 2001 et seq.; 29 C.F.R. Part 801.1 et seq.

<sup>6</sup> In February, 2013, Customs and Border Patrol executed search warrants on Doug Williams' home and office after recording an undercover training session similar to the sessions recorded in Mr. Dixon's case. Mr. Williams has been threatened with prosecution but has not been charged.

facing foreclosure. As their bills continued to pile up, Mr. Dixon looked for ways to supplement his income and allow his fiancé to remain in school. He purchased Doug Williams' manual and read it several times. After practicing the techniques that Williams taught, he hired a polygraph examiner, made up a story and passed three polygraph tests.

After almost a year of sporadic efforts to put together a website, Mr. Dixon started his polygraph business, Polygraph Consultants of America, with \$1,000 to \$2,000. He believes that he has provided training to between 50 and 70 people (as opposed to the government's estimate of 69 to 100), but no longer has access to his computer and credit card records which were seized by Customs and Border Patrol in April, 2012. Most of the people he trained sought his assistance preparing for marital fidelity polygraphs. He modeled his website on Doug Williams' site, repeated verbatim, Doug Williams' guarantees about teaching anyone how to pass the polygraph "lying or not," and followed Williams' manual when conducting his training sessions, including practice questions Williams developed as a reference for his clients. He also advised his clients do deny receiving polygraph countermeasures training. However, he told people with pending criminal charges that he would not train them if they admitted committing a crime to which they had not already pled guilty, and refused to train convicted sex offenders who told him that they were having ongoing sexual contact with minors. He was less cautious with the people seeking training in connection with pre-employment polygraph screening, having thoroughly (if erroneously) convinced himself that job applicants with undisclosed criminal backgrounds would be discovered and disqualified through routine criminal record checks that were part of the employment application process – as he believed would be the case with the first undercover agent who admitted being caught smuggling drugs into a prison where she told Mr. Dixon she had previously worked as a corrections officer. Mr. Dixon was also convinced that the second

undercover agent claiming to be the brother of a Mexican drug cartel member had no chance of surviving the routine background checks routinely performed on applicants for federal law enforcement positions. He would be the first one now to say that because of his utter disdain for the use of polygraph testing, he failed to appreciate the degree to which federal agencies might rely on polygraph test results in making employment hiring or retention decisions. However, far from embarking on “a career of criminal deceit,” Mr. Dixon was a struggling owner of a small family-owned electrical contracting company, with a third child on the way, who saw a way to stave off foreclosure and protect his family from ballooning financial debt.

Chad Dixon stands before the Court having pled guilty to obstructing a federal agency proceeding and wire fraud. His guilty pleas are based on advice he provided to two federal job applicants (Applicant A & B), and two federal contractors that they should deny receiving polygraph countermeasures training during pre-employment or security clearance polygraph examinations.<sup>7</sup> He has not been charged, nor has he been convicted of providing polygraph training to adulterers or convicted sex offenders. Hardly a mercenary, Mr. Dixon was paid \$1,000 plus expenses for providing this training. As a condition of his guilty pleas, Mr. Dixon has agreed to forfeit \$17,091.07, representing the total amount of proceeds he obtained as a result of his offenses. The government’s exaggerated attempts to lay the fate of society’s most vulnerable and the protection of our national borders at Mr. Dixon’s feet should be seen for what it is.

Similarly, descriptions of Mr. Dixon as “brazenly train[ing] members of the intelligence community . . . without regard for the threats his actions and those persons potentially posed to

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<sup>7</sup> The government has provided the Probation Officer with evidence that Mr. Dixon trained a total of seven clients associated with four federal agencies which he does not dispute.

national security,” grossly exaggerate Mr. Dixon’s mental state and presume that polygraph security screening has some scientific validity. It does not require much looking to find a respected scientist who has convincingly argued that polygraphs do not operate above chance levels and are therefore detrimental to national security because federal agencies are relying on a methodology the validity of which cannot be scientifically established. *See, e.g., United States v. Scheffer*, 523 U.S. 303, 309–10 (1998) (discussing the scientific community’s polarized views on polygraph testing).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See also Opening Statement of retired Supervisory Special Agent Dr. Drew C. Richardson before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts (Richardson, September 27, 1997) (“There is almost universal agreement that polygraph screening is completely invalid and should be stopped.” Available at <https://antipolygraph.org/hearings/senate-judiciary-1997/richardson-statement.shtml>). Likewise, the NAS Report concluded that:

“Polygraph testing yields an unacceptable choice for . . . employee security screening between too many loyal employees falsely judged deceptive and too many major threats left undetected. Its accuracy in distinguishing actual or potential security violators from innocent test takers is insufficient to justify reliance on its use in employee security screening in federal agencies. (NAS Report at 219).

The Report similarly concluded that:

“A belief that polygraph testing is highly accurate probably enhances its utility for such objectives as deterrence. However, overconfidence in the polygraph—a belief in its accuracy that goes beyond what is justified by the evidence—also presents a danger to national security objectives. Overconfidence in polygraph screening can create a false sense of security among policy makers, employees in sensitive positions, and the general public that may in turn lead to inappropriate relaxation of other methods of ensuring security, such as periodic security re-investigation and vigilance about potential security violations in facilities that use the polygraph for employee security screening. It can waste public resources by devoting to the polygraph funds and energy that would be better spent on alternative procedures. It can lead to unnecessary loss of competent or highly skilled individuals in security organizations because of suspicions cast on them by false positive polygraph exams or because of their fear of such prospects. And it can lead to credible claims that agencies that use polygraphs are infringing civil liberties for insufficient benefits to the national security. Thus, policy makers

Mr. Dixon is prepared to testify that neither of the two people with security clearances who he trained *ever* disclosed to him that he intended to lie about or conceal material disqualifying information during his actual polygraph examination, or that they were interested in receiving the training for any reason other than being extremely nervous about a false positive outcome. Some of the other federal job applicants were nervous about failing because of past marijuana and alcohol use and wanted to improve their chances of obtaining or retaining federal employment. Mr. Dixon also estimates that he refused to conduct or complete at least seven or eight training sessions after his clients revealed that they had committed criminal acts for which they had not already been prosecuted and convicted. Although neither undercover agent admitted having committed an undisclosed criminal offense or indicated a present intent to commit future criminal acts, Mr. Dixon has made it clear that he is thoroughly disgusted with himself for providing them (and others) with the training. (See Letter from Mr. Dixon, Exhibit 3). The government has nevertheless argued for a lengthy prison sentence on the grounds that Mr. Dixon *potentially* compromised the security of our borders and *potentially* compromised our national interests, without allowing him to confront any identifiable security threat.

The government has not revealed any information it claims was actively concealed by any federal job applicant or contractor required to undergo polygraph testing other than failing to admit receiving countermeasures training. It is, therefore, impossible to assess whether potentially disqualifying information existed, or was already available to the federal agencies

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should consider each application of polygraph testing in the larger context of its various costs and benefits.)” (NAS Report at 7).

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“Overconfidence in the polygraph – a belief in its accuracy is not justified by the evidence – presents a danger to national security objectives.” (NAS Report at 210).

from other sources, or whether hiring or retention decisions were subsequently affected by the discovery that countermeasures training was received by these seven individuals. As a result, Mr. Dixon cannot confront or refute the government's characterizations and the Court cannot properly determine what weight they should be given in imposing sentence.

With one exception, Mr. Dixon is also prepared to testify that none of the convicted sex offenders he trained for maintenance polygraphs told him that he intended to conceal *current* or *future* sexual contact with minors. After the individual identified as “[a] 39-year-old man from Carrollton, TX, convicted of indecent sexual contact with a child” admitted to Mr. Dixon that he was having ongoing sexual contact with a minor, Mr. Dixon located his probation officer in Texas and reported the information.<sup>9</sup>

The government also knows from the large number of records it seized from Mr. Dixon's home, its own investigation, and approximately twenty hours of debriefings with Mr. Dixon immediately following the search and after he retained counsel that only between 10 and 20 percent of his clients were applying for federal positions or security clearances or were suspected or convicted sex offenders. Most of his clients wanted marital fidelity polygraph training.

Nor did Mr. Dixon intend to undermine the law as the government contends. His actions when confronted for the first time by law enforcement officers demonstrated precisely the opposite. During the execution of a search warrant at his home, Mr. Dixon pointed out documents to the agents that they had failed to discover during the search. Rather than being the “master of deceit” the government imagines him to be, Mr. Dixon freely volunteered the undiscovered evidence that the agents would have left behind. When requested, Mr. Dixon voluntarily submitted to lengthy proffer sessions with federal agents and prosecutors during

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<sup>9</sup> See telephone records (Exhibit 2).

which he answered detailed questions about the people he had trained, fully described how he conducted his countermeasures training, and provided detailed accountings of the individual sessions he conducted. He freely admitted teaching the techniques that he learned by studying and replicating materials sold on the Internet by Doug Williams, and he admitted advising his customers, including federal job applicants and contractors, to lie about taking his training.

### **Guideline Calculations**

Mr. Dixon submits that the Probation Officer has properly calculated the Guidelines at an offense level of 12, criminal history level I, with a resulting guideline range of 10 to 16 months imprisonment and a fine range of \$3,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Dixon further submits that Probation Officer appropriately determined that he should not receive a two-level enhancement for Mass Marketing and another two-level enhancement for Sophisticated Means, pursuant to §§ 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(ii) and 2B1.1(b)(10) with respect to the wire fraud offense, or that he should receive a three-level enhancement for Substantial Interference with the Administration of Justice and another two-level enhancement for Extensive in Scope, Planning or Preparation, pursuant to §§ 2J1.2(b)(2) and 2J1.2(b)(3)(C) with respect to the obstruction offense. Finally, Mr. Dixon submits that a sentence of imprisonment, either within or below the properly calculated range of 10 to 16 months, does not appropriately take account of the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and is substantially greater than necessary to achieve the goals of sentencing.

#### ***§ 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(ii) – Mass Marketing***

The government contends that Mr. Dixon should have been given a two-level enhancement pursuant to § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(ii) which provides that the enhancement applies if the offense was committed through mass-marketing. Mr. Dixon adopts in full the arguments made by the Probation Officer in the Addendum to the Presentence Report as reason for rejecting the

enhancement. As the Probation Officer appropriately noted, the enhancement only applies if *the offense* was committed through mass-marketing. § 2B1.1(b)(2). The offense in this case involved the seven federal job applicants who sought out his training. The fact that Mr. Dixon taught polygraph countermeasures to as many as 69-100 customers who may have seen his website over approximately eighteen months has no bearing on the question of whether mass marketing was used to commit the instant offense.

Application Note 4 defines “mass-marketing” for purposes of subsection (b)(2) to mean:

a plan, program, promotion or campaign that is conducted through solicitation by telephone, mail the Internet, or other means to *induce* a large number of persons to (i) purchase goods or services; (ii) participate in a contest or sweepstakes; or (iii) invest for financial profit. “mass-marketing” includes, for example, a telemarketing campaign that *solicits* a large number of individuals to purchase fraudulent life insurance policies. (emphasis added).

Mr. Dixon submits that the act of creating a website designed to attract what is concededly a very limited number of customers already looking for polygraph countermeasures training through the use of keywords and phrases is not within the meaning of “mass-marketing” which requires a plan, program or campaign that is designed to reach a large number of people and induce them invest or make purchases. Although Mr. Dixon originally paid a web designer to assist him in setting up his website in 2007, the site he used for Polygraph Consultants of America (“PCA”), used no such web designer and was hosted by Intuit for which he paid a fee of \$1.99 per month plus a pay-for-click fee. The site was not professionally managed and did not make use of targeted blast emails or pop-up ads on other popular web sites that are the kinds of mass-marketing tools designed to reach large numbers of prospective customers. Nor was his website affiliated with any marketing group that sends out individualized recommendations to its users as was the case in *United States v. Bell*, 72 Fed.Appx. 25 (4th Cir. 2003) (unpublished) (upholding a mass-marketing enhancement where the defendant sold sports cards on the eBay

website, a well-known, professionally managed website that operates its own marketing by sending individualized recommendations to the users via email).

Furthermore, the fact that Mr. Dixon may have copied Doug Williams' proprietary materials and offered them for sale on his website has nothing to do with mass-marketing and adds nothing to the government's argument. Nor does the fact that he or his customers routinely traveled across the country to provide his training.

More importantly, however, the two-level increase is unwarranted because the enhancement speaks in terms of *victims*. The enhancement is intended to apply where mass-marketing was used to attract large numbers of *victims*. As noted by the Probation Officer, none of the people who viewed Mr. Dixon's website, including the seven federal job applicants who were the basis for this offense, was a *victim*. See *United States v. Lacey*, 699 F.3d 710, 716-17 (2d Cir. 2012) (interpreting subsection (b)(2) as applying to frauds in which the mass media is used to attract *victims* into schemes that will separate them from their money); *United States v. Pirello*, 255 F.3d 728 (9th Cir. 2001) (advertisements solicited customers to send money for computers that the defendant had no intention of providing). The four government agencies identified by the prosecution as victims in this case were not the targets of Mr. Dixon's Internet advertising. Accordingly, the Probation Officer correctly found that the enhancement is not appropriate and should not be applied.

**§ 2B1.1(b)(10) – *Sophisticated Means***

The government contends that Mr. Dixon should have been given a two-level enhancement pursuant to § 2B1.1(b)(10) because the offense involved sophisticated means. Mr. Dixon adopts in full the arguments made by the Probation Officer in the Addendum to the Presentence Report as reason for rejecting this enhancement.

The enhancement under § 2B1.1(b)(10) is warranted only when defendant's offense involves "especially complex or intricate offense conduct pertaining to the execution or concealment of an offense." § 2B1.1, *Cmt. n. 8(B)*. There was nothing complex or intricate about Mr. Dixon's conduct and no attempt to conceal anything in this case. Examples provided by the Application Note include locating the main office of a telemarketing scheme in one jurisdiction and locating the soliciting operations in another jurisdiction, as well as conduct such as hiding assets or transactions or both through the use of fictitious entities, corporate shells, or offshore financial accounts. Thus, the enhancement is appropriate when the offense conduct, viewed as a whole, "was notably more intricate than that of the garden-variety [offense]." *United States v. Hance*, 501 F.3d 900, 909 (8th Cir.2007).

Describing "sophisticated means" in a tax case, the Fourth Circuit has held that:

The enhancement requires some means of execution that separates the offense before us from the ordinary or generic. As the Seventh Circuit has explained, the "average criminal tax fraud ... involves some concealment; 'sophisticated' tax fraud must require more." *United States v. Kontny*, 238 F.3d 815, 820–21 (7th Cir.2001). On the other hand, a defendant need not utilize the most complex means possible to conceal his fraudulent activities in order for the court to find that he used sophisticated means. *United States v. Madoch*, 108 F.3d 761, 766 (7th Cir.1997). The court need only find "the presence of efforts at concealment that go beyond (not necessarily far beyond ...) the concealment inherent in tax fraud." *Kontny*, 238 F.3d at 821. A sentencing court should consider the cumulative impact of the criminal conduct, for the "total scheme" may be "sophisticated in the way all the steps were linked together." *United States v. Jackson*, 346 F.3d 22, 25 (2d Cir.2003); *see also United States v. Halloran*, 415 F.3d 940, 945 (8th Cir.2005) (upholding enhancement where "certain aspects of [defendant's] scheme were not especially complex or especially intricate" but "his total scheme was undoubtedly sophisticated").

*United States v. Jinwright*, 683 F.3d 471, 486 (4th Cir. 2012). Similarly, for the enhancement to apply in this case, some complex or intricate means of execution or concealment must exist.

The Government contends that the enhancement is appropriate for the wire fraud offense because the use of both physical and mental countermeasures to manipulate the outcome of

polygraph examinations is itself complex and sophisticated, as is the process of teaching polygraph countermeasures. In the government's view, the need for Mr. Dixon or his customers to travel between states and the use of hotel rooms to conduct day-long training sessions is sufficient to separate this from an ordinary and generic offense and amounts to sophisticated means. This Court could not possibly conceive of a more ordinary set of circumstances.

Mr. Dixon started his business with an investment of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 which included setting up a website and an 800 number for potential customers to use. He learned the techniques he taught to his customers without the benefit of professional training or an advanced educational background, using the materials he purchased openly on the Internet for \$49.95, and by practicing the countermeasures he was planning to teach. He never purchased polygraph equipment and did not offer his customers practice polygraph examinations. He satisfied himself that he was qualified to teach polygraph countermeasures after he was able to successfully defeat three polygraph examinations for which he paid between \$750 and \$1,000. The written materials Mr. Dixon distributed to his customers were reproductions of the teaching materials he purchased from Doug Williams over the Internet.

There was nothing complex or sophisticated about Mr. Dixon and his clients meeting in his office or a hotel room for a seven to eight hour period where they practiced the simple techniques Mr. Dixon taught himself.

Mr. Dixon also made absolutely no effort to conceal his identity as the owner of Polygraph Consultants of America, or to avoid detection. Nor did he conceal the amount or source of the payments he received for his services. He operated CPA out in the open, much like a mom-and-pop business that was anything but sophisticated and complex. A two-level enhancement for sophisticated means is therefore not appropriate.

**§ 2J1.2(b)(2) – Substantial Interference with the Administration of Justice**

The Government asserts that Mr. Dixon should receive a three-level enhancement pursuant to § 2J1.2(b)(2) which applies if the offense resulted in “a substantial interference with the administration of justice.” “A substantial interference with the administration of justice” can include “the unnecessary expenditure of substantial governmental or court resources.” § 2J1.2, *Cmt. n. 1*. Other examples of “substantial interference with the administration of justice” include “a premature or improper termination of a felony investigation; an indictment, verdict, or any judicial determination based upon perjury, false testimony, or other false evidence.” § 2J1.2, *Cmt. n. 1*.

The government claims that Mr. Dixon caused the unnecessary expenditure of substantial governmental resources because the usual number of steps and time required by Customs and Border Patrol’s Quality Control Unit are increased when countermeasures are used by an applicant during pre-employment polygraph testing. Specifically, the government claims that Mr. Dixon provided countermeasures training to CBP applicants on at least seven occasions.<sup>10</sup> The government also claims that two of those applicants confirmed using Mr. Dixon’s countermeasures training during their pre-employment polygraph examination and that the other five CBP applicants *possibly* used the techniques.

Mr. Dixon adopts in full the arguments made by the Probation Officer in the Addendum to the Presentence Report as reason for rejecting this enhancement. More particularly, Mr. Dixon agrees with the Probation Officer that any need for Customs and Border Patrol to expend

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<sup>10</sup> The Probation Officer has determined that there were a total of seven applicants associated with four federal departments and/or agencies. PSR ¶¶ 15, 91. The evidence does not indicate that Mr. Dixon provided countermeasures training to seven *CBP* applicants as the government states. (See Dkt. No. 19, p. 13).

additional resources was the direct result decisions made by the applicants, not Mr. Dixon, after being warned by the employer of the possible consequences of using countermeasures techniques. Therefore, as the Probation Officer states, the *applicants* were responsible for the unnecessary expenditure of government resources.

In addition, Mr. Dixon submits that adding an additional level of screening to an agency's employment application process is sufficiently different from the examples of the conduct constituting a *substantial* interference with the administration of justice as to preclude its application in this case. Unlike the premature or improper termination of a felony investigation, indictment or judicial determination, interfering with an agency's hiring process, even through the use of deceptive measures, does not substantially impair the administration of *justice* or require the expenditure of substantial governmental resources. Compare *United States v. Oxendine*, 237 F. App'x 852, 855 (4th Cir. 2007) (requests for new trials attributed in part to witness tampering, false statements, and false grand jury testimony was evidence of interference with the administration of justice and constituted an unnecessary "expenditure of substantial governmental or court resources" supporting an enhancement under § 2J1.2(b)(2)); *United States v. Dudley*, 941 F.2d 260, 265 (4th Cir. 1991) (perjury before the grand jury had "a substantial interference with the administration of justice," where perjurious statement resulted in additional investigation that included tracing serial numbers on a large number of bills an exhaustive review of records).

Thus, for the enhancement to apply, the unnecessary expenditure government resources must be *substantial*. § 2J1.2, Cmt. n.1. As noted in the *Background Commentary* to the Guideline, the specific offense characteristics are intended to reflect the more serious forms of obstruction. Apart from stating that further investigation is required where the use of

countermeasures is suspected, the government has provided no evidence that any federal agency actually expended any additional resources, no less *substantial* resources, confirming the use of countermeasures by the job applicants Mr. Dixon trained – two of whom apparently admitted using the countermeasures training which may have eliminated the need for much of the review process. The relatively simple review process the government described – calling for a second test and review by two quality control examiners – cannot possibly require the kind of *substantial* expenditure of government resources contemplated by the Guideline.

Finally, the base offense level of 14 for obstruction of an agency proceeding appropriately reflects the harm caused by Mr. Dixon's interference with agency hiring procedures in this case. Compare *United States v. Sampson*, 245 F. App'x 263 (4th Cir. 2007) (evidence, including law enforcement officer's testimony that as much as 1000 extra man hours were expended because of defendant's actions and false claims, supported three-level enhancement for substantial interference with the administration of justice). For these reasons, the three-level enhancement for substantial interference with the administration of justice is not appropriate.

**§ 2J1.2(b)(3)(c) – Extensive in Scope, Planning, or Preparation**

The Government contends that a two-level enhancement is warranted pursuant to § 2J1.2(b)(3)(c) because the offense was extensive in scope, planning and preparation. Mr. Dixon adopts in full the arguments made by the Probation Officer in the Addendum to the Presentence Report as reason for rejecting this enhancement.

Furthermore, the enhancement applies only to *offense* conduct that was extensive in scope, planning and preparation. The offense conduct in this case involved seven federal job applicants, not the 69 to 100 (or 50-70) individual customers Mr. Dixon trained.

Mr. Dixon submits that none of the enhancements argued by the government is supported by the law or the facts and that the Probation Officer properly calculated the offense level at 12 with a resulting guideline range of 10 to 16 months imprisonment.

**Section 3553(A) Sentencing Factors**

Since the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), district courts are required to give "respectful consideration" to both the Guidelines and the factors contained in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) when determining an appropriate sentence. Section 3553(a) requires the Court to impose a sentence that is "sufficient but not greater than necessary" to satisfy the statutory goals of sentencing after making an "individualized assessment based on the facts presented." *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 49-50 (2008); *Rita v. United States*, 551 U.S. 338, 351 (2007). The Court must begin its analysis by correctly calculating the advisory sentencing guideline range, but it is then free, in light of the other statutory sentencing factors, to impose an entirely different sentence - one which is "sufficient, but not greater than necessary to comply with" the goals of sentencing. *See Rita*, 551 U.S. at 350-51.

As a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220, 226-27 (2005), the federal sentencing guidelines are no longer mandatory, but are only advisory. The guidelines are "not only not mandatory on sentencing courts; they are also not to be presumed reasonable." *Nelson v. United States*, 555 U.S. 350, 352 (2009) (emphasis in original); see also *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 50 (2007) (stating that judges "may not presume that the guidelines range is reasonable" in considering how the statutory factors apply to an individual defendant); *Kimbrough v. United States*, 552 U.S. 85, 101 (2007) (noting that sentencing courts may vary from the advisory guidelines based solely on policy considerations, including disagreement with the policy considerations underlying the guidelines in a case). In

other words, the advisory guidelines are only “the starting point and the initial benchmark” in determining a sentence. *Gall*, 552 U.S. at 49. Sentencing judges “must make an individualized assessment based on the facts presented.” *Id.* at 50. In order to do so, the Court is directed to consider various specific factors, set out in § 3553(a), including among other things, the nature and circumstances of the offense, the defendant’s characteristics, and the need for the sentence imposed.

#### **I. Mr. Dixon’s History and Characteristics**

Section 3553(a)(1) requires the Court to consider “the history and characteristics of the defendant.” 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1). Much can be learned about Mr. Dixon’s character from his writing about his father’s death and the birth of his first child.

“Andrea (ex-wife) was almost full term with her pregnancy when the 4th of July 2001 came around. Every year we would do a firework show. Dad was one of the safest electricians you could imagine. I watched this man work on high voltage gear daily and never would he skip safety protocol. That’s what made his accident so tough to handle. We all gathered after working the 4th of July on a gas station rewire, yes we all had to work on the 4th. That was dad for you. Dad sent me and another guy to pick up some extra mortars. These are commercial grade fireworks that were 8 inch mortars. Huge powerful fireworks. We all met at dad’s house and us boys prepped the launch tubes just like we had done in the years previous. You dig a pipe deep in the ground and place the fireworks in the tube to be safely launched in the air. Dad always did the lighting of the fuse. There were probably a dozen of us there. All the family, sons and cousins, uncles, mom’s family and a few workers that worked for dad. Jimmy, Aaron, myself, and rusty a family friend who worked for dad launched one of these by ourselves before the rest of the family gathered and it malfunctioned. It went about ten feet into the air and reported a 2nd time shooting it sideways into a neighbor’s yard. We thought we messed up placing it in the tube and was worried dad would be pissed because we lit one without him. So none of us ever mentioned it. I regret that now. Maybe dad would have been more skeptical if we would have told him. So he begins lighting some of the fireworks and all was well with the 1st few. As I mentioned these are the same types of fireworks that city’s use during firework shows. They are huge. Dad lit one and nothing happened. He was standing about 20 feet away from the tube holding jimmy’s little girl’s hand. Dad walked toward the tube and the mortar reported up about 6 feet and reported a 2nd time striking dad in the jaw area. The mortar continued to report sending fireballs everywhere. Jimmy grabbed Kaylie and hovered over her

and Aaron and I went straight for dad. I remember seeing his feet flying through the air. You can't imagine the power behind these commercial grade fireworks. One of his shoes landed on the roof of my brother's house that was next door to dads. Both shoe laces were tied and snapped at the point where he tied them. His pants were shredded with holes and were being held together by the zipper. His shirt was gone and he was burnt from the secondary report showers. The yard was full of smoke from the sulfur and people were screaming. I remember reading the news paper and one of the fire man described the smoke and blood as a " war scene ". When I made it to dad he was a mess. It took about 5 seconds to recognize that it was bad and I sent rusty with specific instructions to call 911. Where the fire work struck him in the jaw there was just nothing there but mangled flesh and blood. Aaron and I both had CPR training. Dad got a discount on insurance by sending Aaron to EMT school so Aaron went to work almost immediately. We had a pulse but he wasn't breathing at all. Aaron climbed on dads legs and pumped and ordered me when to do mouth to mouth. His jaw and mouth was a mess. He had no jaw bone on one side so every time I blew the air would escape. I attempted to hold his skin together trying to get air to his body but with every breath that I would blow, the air would leak through the mangled flesh and out between the fingers in my hand. We wrapped his jaw with a shirt attempting to hold it together. Aaron and I both tried to get air to him but were unsuccessful. Rusty came back and told us that help was on the way. It seemed like an hour before anybody from the fire department or ambulance service arrived but was probably more like 10 minutes or so. Little did we know but dad needed a tracheotomy? He had a portion of his jawbone lodged in his throat that was blocking his airway. We live about a mile and a half from the hospital. I don't know why we didn't load dad up and take him straight there ourselves. I kept on thinking that help is on the way. A paramedic or a fireman or a trained professional was going to come and dad was going to be hurt but that he would live. This man was by far the toughest guy that I had ever met. I watched him cut his thumb almost off on a job, he put a McDonalds napkin around it, and taped it up with electrical tape. I remember trying to talk to him. I told him it's going to be ok and asked him to squeeze my hand. He gave a subtle squeeze only once. His eyes were glossy and half open, and the amount of damage to his face was just unbelievable. Every time I tried to hold his face together, pieces would slip through my fingers. Another dreadful circumstance took place 20 minutes before dad's accident. There was a car wreck and the only hospital paramedic was at that accident. The only people left were EMT's that were not prepared to handle that kind of trauma. He desperately needed a tracheotomy at the scene. Instead the emergency room doctor did it upon dad's arrival. I will never forget the EMT's face and comments when he first approached dad laying in the yard. He told me to stop CPR and to let go of his jaw and throat area. As soon as I did the torn flesh that I was holding together just fell apart. The EMT kept saying oh my god, oh my god and he was rubbing his hands on his pant legs. The kid was clueless on what to do first. He fumbled through his medical box trying to get an airway but had no success. My brother reacted immediately. He grabbed dad's legs and told me and jimmy to grab his arms and we put him on the stretcher and I

remember Aaron screaming to get him to the hospital. I think the EMT was relieved. Everybody was screaming and crying, mom was a wreck. It was utter chaos. En route to the hospital dad went into cardiac arrest but they used the defibrillator on him and he responded. The ER doctor worked on him until the helicopter arrived and did a good job of stabilizing him. They had a tube through his throat and told us that he was alive and stable and the trauma team in Fort Wayne was ready to go to work as soon as he landed. I was still in work clothes and had burns from the firework on my arms, neck and face. We were covered in blood and I only had one boot on. I drove back to dad's to find my boot and the yard was horrific. There was blood everywhere. My boot was lying next to dad's deck and as I picked it up I noticed a large chunk of dad's jaw bone laying there. I panicked. I grabbed my boot and ran to the car. Nobody changed we just went straight to the trauma center in Fort Wayne. I remember watching the helicopter fly overhead. I had only one contact in. At some point during the initial 2 report blasts one of mine had been knocked out. So we get to the trauma center and dad was alive but was in surgery. The first report was promising. He was stable, they sewed his jaw shut and restored his airway and there was no damage to his esophagus. This was a relief. There was so much hanging flesh and blood that we all thought there were damage to his throat. It appeared for the time being that he was going to make it. The next day dad was in trauma ward monitoring unit. They brought in a brain specialists who did some tests. This lasted pretty much the whole day on July 5th. That night around 10 pm they gave us the news that dad was in a vegetative state and that his brain cycles were well below normal. The best recovery possible would be that dad who was the most active man I had ever met was pretty much going to be brain dead. He went too long without oxygen. Had we loaded him up and taken him ourselves would have gotten him to the hospital at least 10 to 15 minutes sooner. This proved to be the deal breaker for dad. If it were one of us boys or one of his workers dad wouldn't have hesitated. He would have picked whoever it was up and went straight to the hospital without thinking.

“At any rate Andrea I and were walking to the dorm they gave us following a brief visit to dad's bed. It was tough seeing him like that. His face was swollen, he had burns all over, still had the dirt from work under his nails. Andrea stayed at the station while I went into the room to talk to dad. I told him a few things and started out of the trauma unit when Andrea's water broke. The nurses got her in a wheel chair and wheeled her upstairs to obstetrics. They get her situated and it came time for the epidural. A student from Indiana University came in and announced he was a student and that he would administer the epidural. I just assumed this was normal, I had never had a kid before and neither did Andrea. So this guy try's and try's and after about 15 minutes of not getting the needle in the right spot I lost it for a second. So I talked to the nurse and she told me to relax and sent another student who struggled as well. Out of chance the brain surgeon who was working with dad decided to come up and check on us and realized I was pissed and freaking out and was nervous about something going wrong. It was hard to control your emotions when your dad had half of his face blown off

on life support three floors down and they are sending us fucking students to deliver my son. Dad's doctor asked everybody to leave the room and told me to hold Andrea's hand until he gets back. He came back with dr. Douglas boss. This guy was a pediatric trauma surgeon that dad's doctor works with. He was about dad's size, very big guy with a deep voice and motioned for me to come to the hall way. He told me his name and announced his credentials and told me that he was a pediatric specialist and was there to make sure that my son comes into this world with no problems or worries. Before I could even speak he threw his arms around me and squeezed and I flat out lost it. This was the first time that I really broke down. We must have stayed there hugged up in that hallway for 5 minutes. I bet people who didn't know the whole situation thought that I had lost it. He told me no more students and ordered us to a private room. He came in about every half hour to check on us. As labor progressed Andrea slept the night away. He said its time and he woke her up enough to push and she would go right back to sleep. When Ethan came out he asked for me to cut the cord but by this time I had seen too much, slept too little, and ate nothing. I felt light headed and closed my eyes to regroup and I remember dr. boss telling me to keep my eyes open, keep my eyes open he said over and over. When I opened them everything was grey. No color whatsoever. Dr. Boss had Ethan in one hand and gave me a nudge to a corner in the room with the other where I slid down the wall and was out. I woke up with an IV and an oxygen line in my nose and the dr. standing over me with the news that Andrea was fine and that Ethan James Dixon was healthy and kicking. Ethan James Dixon born on 07/06/2001. We gave him dad's name, James."

Letters from family members, business associates, members of Mr. Dixon's community and friends paint a similarly compelling picture of a man who gives selflessly to others, and most particularly to children, a man who everyone seems to look to for assistance, and who doesn't make excuses for his behavior, no matter the cost. The following excerpts are just a few examples:

"I am Chad's mother Dani L. Dixon. I am 58 years old and have been on disability since 2008. I bring this to your attention only as it pertains to Chad. I draw social security disability in the monthly amount of \$785.00 for myself and in addition I draw \$875.00 monthly as a widow's pension. Before my illness I worked as an expanded duties dental assistant. I made about \$40,000 a year and with careful budgeting I was able to make it on my own. I became very sick in December of 2005. During the period of 2005 through 2008 I developed Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus or MRSA. This infection spread to my bones resulting in 13 general anesthesia surgeries. Additionally it spread to my gallbladder and left me with 3 leaky heart valves. Other ailments include a chronic thyroid disease and low potassium levels. Both of these can be very

debilitating when not easily controlled by medications, which is my case. On 06/15/2010 I underwent surgery for a double mastectomy for breast cancer. All my sons were helpful but truly I tell you Chad was excellent at helping with my needs. Night after night I would awake to find Chad sleeping in a chaise lounge next to my bed. Chad would go by my house, collect mail and pay my bills; he managed to keep me afloat.

\* \* \*

“During emergencies such as severe weather Chad scurries to provide power to people without any. In a situation where Chad can’t restore the power he has often provided use of his 4 generators to get people by. Chad does other deeds such as removing fallen trees and other debris. He has many times tarped roofs for people to prevent further damage. Unfortunately at a time when other contractors take advantage of the situation by over charging people in need, Chad is proud as he helps people for free or at a reduced rate. Chad says you get what you give. Often times Chad will receive good jobs as a result of his charity.”

Letter from Dani L. Dixon (Exhibit 3).

“Chad has come to my aid numerous times when I am running behind on one of contracting jobs. At times there is wording in a contract where by if the contractor doesn’t meet a deadline, the contractor can be fined per day. I work another full time mainly because of the benefits. Sometimes I am required to work overtime on short notice, which can throw a wrench in he gears of my contract job. When asked Chad is always there.

“Since my dad died and my mom is now very sick Chad has taken the lead and has Christmas, Thanksgiving or often just family get togethers such as cook outs at his house. This really takes a load off mom since she wants us all to stay close and believes what Chad learned from her and dad, that to stay bonded closely as a family we must spend quality time together. Mom feels guilty and struggles with the idea that she can’t do what she was once able to do. Chad again in his usual style just talks to mom and tells her that it is easier at his house since it is bigger and so is the family. She will go the day before and helps and then brings a dish or two to the event. This makes her feel content. Our mother became gravely sick several years ago. As hard as she fought she could not stave off the physical damages this left her with. While me and my brother Aaron are there for her whenever we can be. This pales by comparison what our youngest brother Chad has done for her. He never begrudges the extra time reassuring Aaron and I that since he is self employed it is easier on him.”

Letter from James Wm. Dixon (Exhibit 3).

“Chad has physically and financially helped several in our family including me. My mom could not possibly survive on her own without Chad. Additionally Chad is constantly helping others, sometimes with work on their home at no or little charge. Chad’s greatest volunteer work is no doubt the time he works with children in different sporting events in this county and others. Many children who otherwise couldn’t play in sports are able to because of Chad.”

Letter from Aaron Von Dixon (Exhibit 3).

“The Chad Dixon that I know is a youth sports coach and a mentor to children in the community. He has volunteered in a number of community summer sports leagues as a coach and also acts as a personal mentor to a lot of children within our community. This man spends hundreds of hours helping these youngsters athletically, and emotionally. His conduct with these kids not only impacts them on the field and on the court, but he also preaches fundamentals such as hard work, positive attitude, honesty, and academics that many of these kids will continue to use in the years to come off the court. I know that he has positively impacted a large volume of kids in our community and I’m sure many of these kids will never forget him or his passion for teaching and aiding in their development. I know the amount of time he spends doing this has to be a huge sacrifice for him to make, but if you see him doing it, or ask him about it, you would never know it. He genuinely loves helping these youngsters excel athletically, academically, and emotionally.

“I also know Chad to be a dedicated father. When I see him the conversation almost always will turn to his children. He is such a proud father who strives for the absolute best for his children. Chad has 4 kids that I know would be absolutely devastated to not have him in their lives. Following his father’s accident in 2001 Chad worked 2 full time jobs. He would work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and then immediately would go to his day shift job trying to provide for his children. He continued this relentless routine for more than 5 years. I don’t know of many men who could persevere through such a schedule. If you could spend 5 simple minutes watching this man interact with his children you would be as convinced as I am that this man plays such an important role in their lives. His children has always been priority one in his life.

“Chad and I spoke in length about his polygraph business and the legal problems that have arisen as result. The tone in his voice as he explained the situation to me told a tale that needed no words. I know he was embarrassed and was as humble as I have ever seen. He told me that it was one of the biggest mistakes in his life and expressed tremendous regret for the decision that he made. We talked about his financial situation prior to his polygraph business and I am convinced that the foreclosure process and the growing financial debt he was facing along with a pregnant fiancée influenced his decisions to pursue this polygraph business. The part of my conversation with Chad that has stuck with me the most is his regret for the hardship this has caused his family, fiancée, kids, and his

employees. He is truly sickened to the point of disgust with himself. He blames nobody for his legal problems but himself. Subsequently he agonizes over the consequences this will have on so many additional people but none more than his kids.”

Letter from Jason Dean McVicker, Esq. (Exhibit 3).

“I have seen him purchase ball equipment for needy kids, and he has spent hours on the ball field with me and kids without any of the kids being present. I have made long trips with him taking multiple kids home who didn’t have rides just so they could be a part of what others were doing. I have participated in many pick-up games of all sorts where we were the lone adults to referee the playing field so the kids could enjoy a fun filled game. My own kids have spent countless hours with him and have even called him their second dad.

“I have witnessed Chad help out many other people over the years. I am firmly convinced that chad could handle incarceration, however, I think it would be a harsh punishment to his own kids and many others. Justice could be served in other ways, and I am convinced Chad has learned his lesson and would never repeat these mistakes.”

Letter from Russell Davis (Exhibit 3).

“I have known Chad Dixon for seventeen years of my life. Because we both work in the construction field, Chad and I have had the opportunity to work together on some of the same job sites. His company Expert Electric is highly recommended in this community because of Chad’s integrity in the field as well as his great customer service. I also know that Chad is heavily involved in Lincoln Field youth baseball. Chad coaches his sons’ team and spends countless hours through the summer donating his time to our children in Marion. Some of the children on Chad’s team come from single parent, low income homes that aren’t able to afford to play baseball or provide transportation to and from practices and games. But because of Chad’s heart for children he is able to help some of the kids who are in need by paying for other kids to play as well as picking them up and dropping them off for games and practices. As a result of that, Chad is extending grace to children whom most people in society write off.”

Letter from Andrew H. Morrell (Exhibit 3).

“Chad has always been the one to help out the less advantaged. If it was helping the less fortunate child with new baseball equipment on the youth team he coached, or having a cookout for friends and family alike. Chad has always been a model citizen and more than once has stepped up to help those in need. I remember Chad drafting a kid on his son’s baseball team one summer that was not as talented as some other kids because he thought he could help impact the child’s life. There was a kid that was kicked off of a team because of bad attitude.

The next season the commissioner of the league wasn't going to let this kid play but chad stepped up and took him under his wing. That kid won the sportsmanship award and continues to play baseball to this day all because of how Chad is with these kids. These are just a few of the many examples of Chad's true character and kind heart."

Letter from Brad McPherson (Exhibit 3).

"When Chad started his polygraph training, we were going through some very hard times. I was pregnant with my first daughter and still in college. Due to my hours in school and the pregnancy, I was unable to work. Chad had to support me one-hundred percent. His electrical contracting business was slower than usual which made this especially hard. During this same time, Chad's house was facing foreclosure and we were worried about health care costs, where we would live and me not dropping out of school. Chad had researched the polygraph in college and came up with a plan to supplement his income and support our family. I look back at those days with some regret. I wish I helped more financially. I know deep down in my heart that if we weren't struggling financially that we wouldn't be in the mess that we are in today. I agree that a wrong is a wrong, but I do not believe that Chad would deliberately do something that he knew to be illegal. Ignorance is no excuse and Chad will be the first to explain that he has no excuse. I do feel that these are mitigating circumstances.

"I know Chad to be an ambitious, hardworking, family man who is community-minded and selfless, especially to the youth in our region. During football, baseball and basketball seasons, Chad is the dad who is at every practice and game not only helping and encouraging his own child, but the whole team. He is the dad who puts in countless after-hours giving individual help and support to the whole team. Chad not only acts as a coach to these young men but also as a mentor guiding them in the right direction for their future. Just this past summer, I received an email from an old friend asking if Chad Dixon was my Fiancé. She explained to me how her son was on his baseball team and set the following message:

"Please tell Chad I appreciate him sooo much the way he is with Logan. Logan loves him so much. I have worked with Logan myself but never had the response Chad has with him."

"That is just one point of view; I couldn't possibly recall all the children whose lives he has touched in one way or another in the past five years we have been together.

"Chad is an incredible father to not only our two young daughters (Haylee, 7 months and Gracie 3 years), but also to our two older children (Ethan 12 and Morgan 8) from his first marriage. From singing lullabies to having team parties to helping with homework to attending school programs to playing catch to

reading bedtime stories, he is everything someone could ever hope for in a father. I can't imagine any of the four kids not having him around. He means so much to them and to me."

Letter from Ashley Shook (Exhibit 3).

"Mr. Dixon has always been the type of person to help his fellow man in need. A few years ago, my family was in financial distress. My husband had cancer, lost his job and then I lost mine due to downsizing. We became 4 months behind on our house payment and on the verge of foreclosure. As I was talking to Mr. Dixon and just explaining the hard times my family was going through, he offered to loan me the money to bring the mortgage payment up-to-date. Since that time we have slowly gotten back on our feet and I have offered to pay him back but we will not accept the repayment. He states that I should keep the money and use it for my kids. I broke down and cried my eyes out. Nobody has ever helped us like this. He was truly a godsend.

"Mr. Dixon also was my youngest son's baseball coach. During that season I witnessed firsthand how involved he is with not only the success of his own son but the success of the all of the boys on the team. He always made sure that when they traveled, all of the boys had a good time. My husband and I were not in a position to be able to stay in motels or take our son to the fun centers with the team during the traveling All-Star season. So Mr. Dixon would make sure that all of the kids (including my own), were able to go along with the rest of the team. I cannot repay him enough for allowing my son to have those experiences. If you could talk to my youngest son and ask him what kind of a coach, a dad, a person Chad is, only then you would understand the kind of guy that you're getting ready to sentence."

Letter from Rachelle O'Brian (Exhibit 3).

It is impossible to believe that Mr. Dixon would have knowingly aided any individual he believed had the present intention to harm a child.

A sentencing court may impose a variant sentence if the court determines that a sentence within the guidelines range does not serve the factors in § 3553(a). *United States v. Moreland*, 437 F.3d 424, 432 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006). In this case, there are compelling family circumstances demonstrating that individuals in Mr. Dixon's family will be very badly hurt if he is not available to take care of, and provide for them. Apart from the loving and extraordinarily close relationships Mr. Dixon shares with his children and other family members, he is the provider for

four dependent children, none of whom is over the age of 12, and provides needed financial and other support to his mother who is nearly completely disabled. Mr. Dixon's mother has income of only \$1,660 per month. She suffers from Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) which spread to her bones and gall bladder resulting in 13 surgeries and causing three leaky heart valves. She has chronic thyroid disease and low potassium levels requiring carefully controlled and expensive medication. In 2010, she also underwent a double mastectomy for breast cancer. Mr. Dixon has paid her bills and kept her financially afloat since she went on disability in 2008. He is also the person in his family primarily responsible for her care.

If Mr. Dixon is incarcerated, he will no doubt lose the electrical contracting business he took over from his father. Although he has at times struggled to keep the business going, he has put his heart and soul into making a success. He has three employees all of whom have families who are just getting by in what remains a depressed economy. The income earned by his fiancé as a new teacher is not nearly enough to support her and their two children or prevent them from losing their home. Mr. Dixon's ex-wife and two children from his first marriage are also dependent upon his regular support payments to keep a roof over their heads and food on their table, as are the families of his three employees. Mr. Dixon has also come to the aid of countless children and families who continue to depend upon his generosity and the humanitarian care he provides.

Under the current sentencing regime, this Court is free to consider the impact of removing Mr. Dixon from the community in fashioning an appropriate sentence. See e.g., *United States v. Schroeder*, 536 F.3d 746, 755-56 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (“[w]hen a defendant presents an argument for a lower sentence based on extraordinary family circumstances, the relevant inquiry is the effect of the defendant's absence on his family members”); *United States v.*

*Munos-Nava*, 524 F.3d 1137, 1148 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (*Gall* “indicates that factors disfavored by the Sentencing Commission may be relied on by the district court in fashioning an appropriate sentence,” and holding that the sentencing court’s finding that the defendant’s family circumstances were extraordinary – the defendant cared for his eight-year-old son as a single parent and had elderly parents with serious medical problems – was supported by the record); *United States v. Lehmann*, 513 F.3d 805, 809 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (affirming a downward variance to probation with a condition of community confinement rather than guidelines range of 37 to 46 months of imprisonment where the district court found that a prison sentence would negatively affect the defendant’s disabled son). The Court should do exactly that.

## **II. The Need for the Sentence Imposed**

Section 3553(a)(2) also requires that the sentence imposed reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, provide just punishment for the offense, and provide the defendant with needed rehabilitation. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(A).

The Court should reject the government’s suggestion that a term of imprisonment is necessary to deter Mr. Dixon from committing future offenses. Apart from the fact that he has no prior criminal record, Mr. Dixon has done nothing to suggest that he is likely to reoffend or that he is attempting to avoid the consequences of his actions. Mr. Dixon voluntarily shuttered his polygraph business. To a person, he has made it clear that he blames no one but himself for the circumstances in which he finds himself and that he accepts full responsibility for his actions. (See Letters, Exhibit 3). People who know Mr. Dixon far better than the government are morally certain that he would not have engaged in conduct that he believed to be illegal. During first recorded undercover training session, the agent asked Mr. Dixon what he would do if the government found out about him. Mr. Dixon responded that he was sure that they knew all

about him and that nothing he was doing was illegal. Mr. Dixon's uncensored response is convincing evidence that a clear warning from law enforcement that his conduct was illegal and a request that he stop providing countermeasures training would almost certainly have sufficed.

Nor is a term of imprisonment necessary to promote respect for the law that has never before been enforced in this manner, or to communicate effectively that this conduct is unacceptable. As recently as June 3, 2013, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol official who heads CBP's Credibility Assessment Division made the keynote opening presentation at the American Association of Police Polygraphists' annual seminar. He told a room full of police polygraph examiners that "[n]othing like this [legal approach] has ever been done before." (See Exhibit 4). The government has still not arrested any of the other thirty or more individuals still known to be providing the same training, including Doug Williams, the individual it has identified as having trained almost 5,000 people on how to beat the polygraph test – a person who has unabashedly advertised himself on 60 Minutes and throughout the national media as the former "Cop Turned Crusader" who can teach anyone, *lying or not*, to always pass a polygraph test. Mr. Dixon has done nothing that warrants the government's attempts to make him the poster child for its newly undertaken campaign to wipe out polygraph countermeasures training.

In this case, a sentence of probation or community confinement that includes the \$17,091.07 forfeiture and a requirement of community service will also promote respect for the law send the necessary message to people who have never before had reason to believe their polygraph businesses were illegal that there are limits to the countermeasures training they can legally provide. "Respect for the law" does not automatically require a harsher punishment. Respect for the law must be read in its broadest sense – including avoiding unduly harsh punishment when the offense and the individual defendant do not deserve it. Persons viewing

this case will see that for a crime that Mr. Dixon did not know he was committing, his reckless actions will have jeopardized his hard won reputation, put him at risk of losing his electrical contracting business, leaving his family and employees without a means of support, and most importantly, placed him at risk of being separated from his children who will never understand how their father could have done something that took him from them. See *United States v. Anderson*, 533 F.3d 623 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (affirming a downward variance based on “other ways in which the defendant had suffered atypical punishment such as the loss of his reputation and his company, the ongoing case against him from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the harm visited upon him as a result of the fact that his actions brought his wife and friend into the criminal justice system”).

### **Conclusion**

Sentencing courts have wrestled with the elements that make up just punishment. As one noted district court judge has commented:

[i]f ever a man is to receive credit for the good he has done, and his immediate misconduct assessed in the context of his overall life hitherto, it should be at the moment of his sentencing, when his very future hangs in the balance. This elementary principle of weighing the good with the bad, which is basic to all the great religions, moral philosophies, and systems of justice, was plainly part of what Congress had in mind when it directed courts to consider, as a necessary sentencing factor, “the history and characteristics of the defendant.”

*United States v. Adelson*, 441 F. Supp. 2d at 513-14 (Rakoff, J.). In the context of Mr. Dixon’s overall life, a sentence of probation or community confinement is “sufficient but not greater than necessary” to achieve the goals of sentencing.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAD DIXON  
By Counsel

/s/

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Nina J. Ginsberg, Esquire  
VSB # 19472  
*Counsel for Chad Dixon*  
DiMuroGinsberg, P.C.  
1101 King Street, Suite 610  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-684-4333  
Fax: 703-548-3181  
[nginsberg@dimuro.com](mailto:nginsberg@dimuro.com)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2013, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to the counsel of record.

I further certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was sent by regular mail and e-mail this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2013 to the following:

Uzo Asonye, Esq.  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
2100 Jamieson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[uzo.asonye@usdoj.gov](mailto:uzo.asonye@usdoj.gov)

Charles Connolly  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
2100 Jamieson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[Charles.Connolly@usdoj.gov](mailto:Charles.Connolly@usdoj.gov)

Eric L. Gibson  
Trial Attorney  
Public Integrity Section  
Criminal Division  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Bond 12308  
Washington, DC 20530  
[eric.gibson2@usdoj.gov](mailto:eric.gibson2@usdoj.gov)

Anthony J. Phillips  
Trial Attorney  
Public Integrity Section, U.S. Dept. of Justice  
1400 New York Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
[anthony.phillips@usdoj.gov](mailto:anthony.phillips@usdoj.gov)

Tracy White  
U.S. Probation Office, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[Tracey\\_White@vaep.uscourts.gov](mailto:Tracey_White@vaep.uscourts.gov)

/s/

---

Nina J. Ginsberg, Esquire  
VSB # 19472  
*Counsel for Chad Dixon*  
DiMuroGinsberg, P.C.  
1101 King Street, Suite 610  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-684-4333  
Fax: 703-548-3181  
[nginsberg@dimuro.com](mailto:nginsberg@dimuro.com)

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Police polygraph expert, Doug Williams will get you properly prepared to pass your polygraph test. In fact, he is the only one who can get you properly prepared because he is the only one with authentic credentials, a technique that is tested & proven to be effective, and the demonstrated ability to teach you how to

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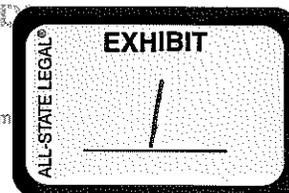
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Here is a hard, cold fact: The U.S. Supreme Court recently cited scientific evidence which proves that if you are not properly prepared, you have a 50% chance of failing your polygraph test, just because you're nervous - even if you're telling the truth!

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You would not take any other test without preparing for it first. So, don't take your polygraph test without preparing for it! And when you get prepared, make sure you are properly prepared!

### Employee Polygraph Protection Act

Did you know that Doug Williams was given the VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE AWARD as "the one person most responsible for the Employee Polygraph Protection Act becoming a Federal Law"? Do you know about the rights this law provides pertaining to the use of polygraph testing in the workplace? Educate yourself. Click on the title above to read this law.

Learn more about Doug Williams here!

About Doug

Doug answers your questions here!

Questions

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THERE IS ONLY ONE ORIGINAL!

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## 1. An up-to-date, (updated regularly), easy to understand manual, with practice polygraph exams.

The technique in this manual is the only way to get properly prepared!

It is the only one that doesn't teach outdated "countermeasures" - instead it teaches you exactly how to produce a perfect, realistic, truthful polygraph chart.

It is the only one that is undetectable by the polygraph operator - the only thing the polygraph operator will see is a truthful chart!

It is the only one developed and tested by an authentic police polygraph expert, and it is the only one that is frequently updated so you know the information is current. And it is proven to work on both the analog and computer polygraph instruments - and, yes it works on the one equipped with the famous "butt pad".

It is the only one that teaches you how to always pass every type of polygraph & CVSA (voice stress test) - including pre-employment polygraph exams for all local, state and federal positions, such as, DHS, FBI, SECRET SERVICE, CIA, NSA, POLICE, SHERIFF, HIGHWAY PATROL, FIREFIGHTER, DOD, DHS, RCMP, as well as periodic, criminal, S.O. maintenance, specific issue, full scope, life style, sporting, probationary, and spouse/partner fidelity.

It is the only one that has practice polygraph exams with current polygraph test questions for each type of test.

NEW! Doug Williams has expanded the section on INTERROGATION in his manual. This information describes and explains deceptive body language. Besides being an expert polygraphist, Doug also taught interrogation techniques at the Police Academy. Now you will not only learn how to ALWAYS PASS your polygraph test, you will also be prepared for your interrogation/interview by knowing what the polygraph operator looks for in your body language and the techniques he will use during the interrogation/interview phase of the polygraph exam.

## 2. An online training video or DVD.

This training video is the only one of its kind, (available online & DVD), and it features Doug Williams describing what a truthful polygraph chart should look like and demonstrating how to produce it on an actual polygraph instrument

## 3. Guaranteed unlimited expert consultation.

Police polygraph expert, Doug Williams is the only one that offers guaranteed unlimited expert consultation. Doug will personally answer all your questions. And you can call 405-226-4856 or e-mail [doug@polygraph.com](mailto:doug@polygraph.com) anytime - 12 hours a day - 7 days a week! You are not just

### WHAT ARE THEY SO WORRIED ABOUT?

Many polygraph examiners are now warning people not to research the polygraph prior to their test. They even tell people to stay away from POLYGRAPH.com by name. Why would they do that? The answer is simple - they know Police Polygraph Expert, Doug Williams can teach you how to ALWAYS PASS your polygraph test. That just proves Doug's technique works! Think about it, if it didn't work they wouldn't say anything about it.

### DON'T BE A CHUMPI!

The polygraph examiner wants you to be ignorant about his scam, telling you not to prepare for your test - saying that all you have to do is tell the truth. But that is a lie! Just telling the truth doesn't work - truthful people are called liars 50% of the time! But Doug's technique always works, and when you use it you will pass your polygraph test 100% of the time! Doug does not teach "countermeasures", he simply teaches you how to pass the polygraph test - and when you use his technique, the only thing the polygraph examiner will see is a perfect truthful chart! When it comes to passing your polygraph test - do it right, or don't do it at all! GET PROPERLY PREPARED AND PASS - OR BE A CHUMP AND FAIL!

### IF YOUR TEST IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, THE BEST TRAINING IS IMPORTANT TOO!

Thousands of intelligence agents, and federal, state & local law enforcement officers passed their polygraph and got their jobs because they were properly prepared - and thousands of others have passed criminal, fidelity, and probationary tests because they also got Doug's material and were properly prepared. What other test would you take without preparing for it first? Why would you take your polygraph test without preparing for it first?

Doug Williams is a certified police polygraph expert, his credentials are authentic, they have been checked and verified by every major news corporation in the world. To watch some of these media clips, just click here:

Media Clips

### GET PROPERLY PREPARED, OR YOU WILL WISH YOU HAD!

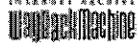
Doug recently received this email: "Prior to beginning the poly for FBI you are required to sign a waiver regarding countermeasures. Is your manual considered to be a countermeasure?"

NO! When asked, you can truthfully say you have not studied "countermeasures" because Doug doesn't teach ridiculous "countermeasures", his manual and video/DVD simply teach you exactly how to produce a perfect "truthful" polygraph chart - one that he as a polygraph expert has proven to be completely realistic and undetectable by the polygraph examiner.

### FAILING TO PROPERLY PREPARE IS JUST PREPARING TO FAIL!

*"The polygraph test is the most important test you will ever take! Don't even think about taking it until you are properly prepared!"*

*And even if you have been told not to 'prepare' for the test, you still owe it to yourself to get my manual & video/DVD - at least find out how the test works and what questions will be asked - and then decide whether or not you want to use my technique."*

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*And even if you have been told not to 'prepare' for the test, you still owe it to yourself to get my manual & video/DVD - at least find out how the test works and what questions will be asked - and then decide whether or not you want to use my technique."*

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## DOUG WILLIAMS

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- A decorated veteran of the Oklahoma City Police Department, Doug held the rank of Detective Sergeant in charge of the Internal Affairs/Polygraph Section.
- As an expert police polygraphist, Doug administered thousands of tests for the Oklahoma City Police Department and for many other agencies including the Secret Service and the FBI. He has also administered hundreds of tests as a private polygraphist.
- A veteran of the US Air Force, Doug was assigned to the White House Communications Agency where he worked in the White House Situation Room and served as communications advisor to two U.S. Presidents. He took his first polygraph examination, administered by the CIA, as part of the security clearance for this White House staff position which required TOP SECRET CRYPTO/PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY. (This is the highest level security clearance possible and required that Doug pass a background investigation conducted by many different agencies including the SECRET SERVICE, FBI, NSA, CIA, & DIA)
- A graduate of Oklahoma City University, Doug holds a BS degree with dual majors in Criminal Justice/Psychology.
- A graduate of the National Training Center for Lie Detection in New York City. Completed a 257 classroom hour program of formal polygraph studies. satisfied the post-resident requirements



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*And even if you have been told not to 'prepare' for the test, you still owe it to yourself get my manual & video/DVD - at least find out how the test works and what questions will be asked - and then decide whether or not you want to use my technique."*

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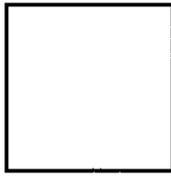
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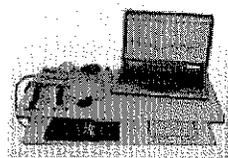
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**Doug's manual saying, "...if I were somehow forced to take a polygraph test in relation to some important matter, I would certainly use these proven countermeasures rather than rely on the truth and my innocence as safeguards; an innocent suspect has nearly a 50:50 chance of failing a CQT administered under adversarial circumstances, and those odds are considerably worse than those involved in Russian roulette. (A Tremor in The Blood: Uses and Abuses of the Polygraph, 2nd ed., Plenum Trade, 1998, p. 277)**

2) A realistic practice polygraph test - with questions individually designed to match the test you are going to take.

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Doug Williams 405/226-4856  
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If you need Doug Williams to testify as an expert witness in a case involving the polygraph, the fee is: \$2,000 per day (plus expenses)

- Qualified as an expert witness on polygraph testing in numerous courts, has testified in arbitration hearings for law enforcement officers fired for failing polygraph tests - and has been successful in getting them reinstated! Testified as an expert witness before the U.S. Congress for passage of the Employee Polygraph Protection Act.
- Was given the VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE AWARD as "the one person most responsible for the Employee Polygraph Protection Act becoming a Federal Law". This law prohibits the use of polygraph testing as a condition of employment in the private sector, and it also gives some rights and protections to those who are exempt from the law and still subjected to polygraph testing.

**Here's something to think about: If the polygraph really does work, we don't need a Federal Law to protect people from it. But the fact is, it doesn't work! Polygraph testing is dangerous because it often brands truthful people as liars - and as a result, it ruins reputations, careers, and lives! If you are not protected by this law, and you are subjected to polygraph testing, you must learn how to protect yourself. You must get properly prepared for your polygraph test - that is your only protection!**

- Was the only expert witness to testify against the use of the polygraph in the Texas Senate and House, and was solely responsible for the passage of a law that prohibits the use of the polygraph in internal investigations of Texas State Troopers.
- Member of the board of the Office of Technology Assessment, an investigative arm of the US Congress impaneled to study the validity of the polygraph as a "lie detector". Doug introduced evidence that the polygraph test was not valid as a "lie detector", and demonstrated that a person could be taught to beat the test.
- Has been a guest lecturer at a number of major colleges and universities.
- Featured on most of the major news programs, on all of the major television and cable networks including CBS 60 MINUTES, CBS NIGHTWATCH, NBC NIGHTLY NEWS, CNN NEWS, FOX NETWORK'S EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, NBC DATELINE, FOX

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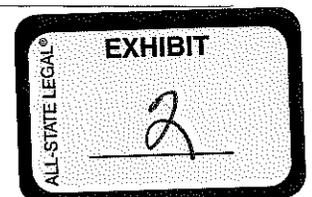
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**Voice, continued**

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2/04	8:22P	765-618-8619	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	6	---	---	---
2/04	8:29P	765-667-8025	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	2	---	---	---
2/04	8:30P	765-517-3649	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	5	---	---	---
2/04	10:03P	765-667-8025	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	2	---	---	---
2/05	1:32A	765-662-9981	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	1	---	---	---
2/05	12:32P	765-618-8619	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	5	---	---	---
2/05	12:40P	765-618-4849	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	1	---	---	---
2/05	12:43P	765-618-4849	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	1	---	---	---
2/05	1:22P	765-618-7799	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	2	---	---	---
2/05	2:24P	765-618-7799	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	1	---	---	---
2/05	3:24P	765-667-6562	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	1	---	---	---
2/05	3:56P	765-667-1844	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	2	---	---	---
2/05	5:53P	765-618-7799	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	2	---	---	---
2/05	5:55P	765-618-8619	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	1	---	---	---
2/05	6:04P	765-618-8619	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	3	---	---	---
2/05	6:11P	765-667-6562	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Marion IN	2	---	---	---
2/05	6:12P	765-251-0266	Off-Peak	N&W,CallWait	Marion IN	Incoming CL	1	---	---	---
2/05	6:12P	765-251-0266	Off-Peak	N&W	Marion IN	Incoming CL	2	---	---	---
2/05	6:17P	000-000-0086	Off-Peak	N&W,CallVM	Marion IN	Voice Mail CL	1	---	---	---



The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

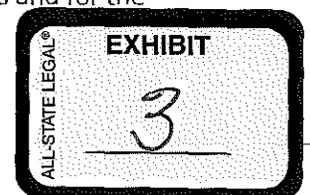
RE: Chad Dixon

Dear Judge O'Grady

My name is Chad Dixon scheduled to be sentenced in your courtroom on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. I don't really know where to begin. It's with a heavy heart and deep regret that I'm writing you. I will start with my kids.

I have four wonderful children. Ethan is my oldest and only son and is 12 years old. If you have seen me then you have seen Ethan minus many wrinkles and minus the extra weight in the belly. Ethan is an athlete to say the least. He plays baseball, football, soccer, basketball and will be joining the wrestling team this year. Morgan is my oldest daughter and is 8 years old. She is an exact replica of her mother. She is a beautiful, charismatic little girl that is full of life and is absolutely brilliant. I literally have to fight back tears during the awards ceremony for academics at school. She cleans house year after year. I couldn't be a prouder parent. Gracie and Haylee are my two youngest daughters that I have with my fiancée Ashlee. Ashlee is a school teacher so I'm sure it comes by no surprise that Gracie, who is 3 years old now, is advanced academically. This kid has been saying her abc's since she was 1.5 years old and can now count to 100. Gracie loves reading books, coloring and singing with dad. We actually have a handful of songs that we have created that are very silly but a lot of fun. Haylee is 8 months old and is a spit fire. She is now fully mobile and has places to go and people to see. She could be the happiest baby in the world.

My kids are my life. Because of that I can't tell you how thoroughly disgusted I am at myself for allowing myself to be put in this situation. I'm sure you hear people tell you all the time that if they could rewind life I wouldn't have done what I did. For me it is so the truth. I have made some mistakes in my life. This one was one of the biggest mistakes in my life. It is second only to the decisions that I made the night of my father's accident. I chose to wait for the ambulance instead of loading him up and taking him to the hospital myself. That decision cost him his life. The decisions that I made to even get started in the polygraph industry was clearly the 2<sup>nd</sup> dumbest decision that I have ever made and could not only cost me my freedom but could cost me my business, my home, most of all my relationship with my children. I never considered that what I was doing could land me in jail and potentially lose those that mean so much to me. I will not try and use ignorance as an excuse. I can't tell you how many times my father spoke those very words "ignorance is no excuse dougie" and I genuinely believe it deep down inside. The truth is I don't have a good excuse. I wish that I did. I have even tried to come up with a handful of different people to blame, and different circumstances that can be blamed for the decisions that I made. Unfortunately, regardless of how true these events are, these are just excuses. The only person that can have fingers pointed at them is me. I truly hate myself for these decisions and for the



stupid things that I have said during the course of my polygraph work. I have accepted that the only genuine and man like thing to do is to be honest about these events and hope that the truth will count for something. I cooperated with the entire investigation from day one.

I had such a bitter and biased view on polygraphs. I was convinced that they are not effective and I was amazed at how simple it was to pass. The techniques that the government refer to as countermeasures that I would teach was to relax and breathe normally on relevant questions, and to count backwards in increments of 3 silently on control questions along with an occasional tiny pinch of the abdominals. I couldn't believe that this was enough to produce truthful charts. Because of the simplicity of these methods and all the horror stories posted on other web sites and blogs surrounding the inaccuracies of this machine gave me a false sense of security as to what I was doing. I just couldn't imagine any institution relying so heavily on this machine because of how documented its inaccuracies are. After reading Doug Williams book I was shocked at the tricks the examiner will go through to convince subjects that this machine works in ways that it just doesn't. I was so dead set in my mind that this machine was bogus and I think this mind set made me feel that what I was doing wasn't illegal and wasn't that bad. I admit that when investigators began questioning me, it made me look at this from their perspective which was much different than how I was previously viewing what I had done.

I think back to when I was first questioned. I was so convinced that the polygraph was such a joke and I could recite facts about studies that had been done proving that the machine was terribly flawed. On the first day I was questioned I argued with the investigators these very things. The machine is junk, truthful people fail every day without ever uttering a single lie. It's been documented time and time again; polygraphs are not admissible in court blah blah blah. These are the things I would use as a rebuttal to these investigators when they asked me questions. The supervisor very calmly asked me, "Who do you think you are? You're an electrician in Marion Indiana and you are deciding who and what makes a good government employee?" He said some things that made me look at this much differently than I was. He pointed out that all of the rebuttals that I was giving were all true. He said the polygraph is inaccurate and it's not perfect. I was stunned. And then very calmly asked me "how does any of that makes it ok to suggest to somebody that they should lie during a federal interview?" After looking back on what has happened I don't have a good answer to that question. The reason is because no good answer exists. Only excuses. I want to tell you that I didn't know that this was illegal, and that's the truth. I did not set out to break the law and I never attempted to conceal any information during their investigation. But does that make this ok? I can hear my dad telling me once again that ignorance isn't an excuse, and he is right. To be completely honest I worked very hard to convince myself that this was ok, and that there was nothing wrong with what I was doing. I think I did this to appease my own conscience. I would relish in excitement every time I read an article that discredited the polygraph or when I found a new study that shows the polygraph was incredibly flawed. I now believe that I used these facts to justify in my mind that what I was doing was harmless, after all the machine was a mess. This sickens me to say but I believe that I did this because I didn't want to stop doing it. I was slowly getting out of debt; I was coaching more, providing travel baseball opportunities to kids that wouldn't have otherwise had the chance to experience it and I love coaching these kids in baseball. I worked so

hard to convince myself my conduct was O.K. because I didn't want to stop doing it. I wanted it to be O.K.

Judge O'Grady I do not blame anybody for my situation but me. I fully accept complete responsibility for my actions. Words cannot describe how hard that is to say to you knowing that you hold the glue that keeps my family together with your decision come sentencing day. If you choose to incarcerate me, I won't blame you for the many problems that will arise as a result. I have myself to blame for this mess and that's what makes all of this so hard to swallow. I had to explain to my 12 year old that this is going on and there is a possibility that dad may not be around for a while. It was by far the toughest conversation that I have ever had with him. His reaction is etched in my mind for life. He was incredibly emotional. I'm afraid that if I go to jail will he understand? Will he hold this against me? Will our relationship be as close and as good as it is now? I worry that it won't. I have not told my 8 year old about this in detail. She is a sweet, kind loving girl but far too fragile emotionally. I wouldn't even know how to tell her. I feel that I have let my father down. He would have never put himself in this mess. Since his accident I have tried to do what he did. He worked 2 jobs for 25+ years; I only did it for a bit less than 6 years while working at the hospital and for the electrical contracting business. I thought I was being ambitious and thought of myself as a go getter. I think about what he would say to me if he were alive today. I can picture the disappointment in his face. I worry about my mom. Her finances are a mess, her health is in shambles. I worry my brothers, as good hearted as they are cannot and will not do for her what I do. I don't think that they could afford to help the way Ashlee and I do. I worry about Ashlee and the babies. I don't know how she will ever make it alone. We will surely lose the house and the car. There is no way that she can possibly keep up with the maintenance, the mortgage, taxes, insurance and monthly bills such as utilities on top of baby food and diapers and gas for the cars, and medical expenses. She is a beginning school teacher and her salary just isn't enough to provide for the girls and a home. I worry about Haylee and Gracie being so young. I worry about Ethan and Morgan's grades, and wonder if their friends at school will give them grief.

I am also concerned for my business. I finally have enough recurring commercial customers that rely on my services to keep their business afloat and allows my business to be self-sustaining. If I get incarcerated these businesses will have no choice but to hire another firm to do this work for them. I worry about the guys that work for me. These guys rely on me to pay their bills, rent and mortgage, and to support their kids and families. All of this because of me. All of this because I did not clearly think this polygraph business through well enough. I was clearly way out of my league and just didn't appreciate or recognize the extent that the government uses this instrument. I can't believe my choices have led me to this and the potential for so many uninvolved people to suffer as a result.

I also worry about my ex-wife. I pay her child support on my oldest two children. We have joint custody but she is the custodial parent for those two. She needs that money to live. I know the burden it puts her in when I fall behind. If I'm doing larger jobs the draws are spaced out and much of my cash flow goes to the overhead required to keep the business running. This alone is very hard on her. Getting her support paid is priority one when it comes to my bills. I am currently up to date and have set aside enough money to pay her through September. I don't know what she will do or to what extent Ethan

and Morgan will go without if I'm incarcerated. It's hard to accept that my kids will suffer because of me. It's a terrible feeling.

I also worry for the kids that I coach. Will the other coach know when to back off of little Logan? Will he teach them the fundamentals correctly? Will any of these kids quit? Will he put in the time necessary to develop these kids? I have coached many of these kids for years and volunteer hundreds of hours each year with extra practices and one on one practices to help that struggling kid. I know this may seem petty to you but I genuinely love these kids, every last one of them.

In closing, I find myself feeling selfish, and hypocritical to even ask you to be lenient with your sentencing. For my family and so many others who had nothing to do with this that is what I'm begging you for. I ask that you allow me to continue to work and support my family both financially and emotionally. I ask that for the sake of the men and their families who depend on the money I pay them, for the sake of my ex-wife, and my fiancée that you please be lenient with your sentencing. I will be the first to tell you that I screwed up and blame only myself for this situation. I can assure you that you will never ever see my face in your courtroom ever again. It is by far the scariest room that I have ever been in without question. I hope that my requests haven't offended you in any way. I also thank you for your time in reviewing this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chad Dixon".

Chad D Dixon

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge O'Grady:

As you know Chad Dixon will be appearing before your Honor on 08/23/2013 for sentencing on charges of obstructing a US government agency proceeding and wire fraud.

I am Chad's mother Dani L Dixon. I am 58 years old and have been on disability since 2008. I bring this to your attention only as it pertains to Chad. I draw social security disability in the monthly amount of \$785.00 for myself and in addition I draw \$875.00 monthly as a widow's pension. Before my illness I worked as an expanded duties dental assistant. I made about 40,000. A year and with careful budgeting I was able to make it on my own. I became very sick in December of 2005. During the period of 2005 through 2008 I developed Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus or MRSA. This infection spread to my bones resulting in 13 general anesthesia surgeries. Additionally it spread to my gallbladder and left me with 3 leaky heart valves. Other ailments include a chronic thyroid disease and low potassium levels. Both of these can be very debilitating when not easily controlled by medications, which is my case. On 06/15/2010 I underwent surgery for a double mastectomy for breast cancer. All my sons were helpful but truly I tell you Chad was excellent at helping with my needs. Night after night I would awake to find Chad sleeping in a chaise lounge next to my bed. Chad would go by my house, collect mail and pay my bills; he managed to keep me afloat.

In 2001 when Chad was only 22 years old tragedy struck our family. Chad's father Jim was hit by a firework and died 8 days later. We had been married 27 years. Jim was an excellent father and our sons were lost without him. Jim owned and operated a successful electrical and contracting company together with his 3 sons. They were partners and Jim always split the money evenly. Jim never drew a penny more than the boys.

On 07/03/2001 Jim had asked Chad to pick up a box of pre-ordered fireworks. Chad did so. On the evening of 07/04/2001 Jim lit a firework and it malfunctioned. As a pyrotechnics expert from Purdue University explained that by "jumping fuse" this allowed Jim no time to clear the area. This was a larger type firework that had several reports or ignitors. The first report was the most forceful in order to send the firework high in the sky. This firework had 5 reports. Each report would go off individually igniting a display of color. My sons and I along with my brother's family watched in horror as we saw Jim thrown into the air head over heels. He landed 20 feet away in our son's yard that lived next door. As the boys tried to run to help other reports were going off causing Jim further damage. Aaron and Chad were the first to reach Jim and with a shaken and quivering voice Chad screamed 911, get 911. I started toward Jim to help. Chad immediately stopped me telling me do not come down here. As I started to approach again I saw Aaron taking his own shirt off and was wrapping it around Jim's head. I became hysterical when I saw Jim's face mostly gone. Jim's shirt was burned and completely off his body. His shorts were barely on with the zipper just hanging. Jim was completely knocked out of his shoes. Aaron a trained EMT and Chad continued with Jim trying to clear his airway and then started CPR when Jim had no pulse. Both Aaron and Chad were breaking up emotionally. They were trying so hard to help Jim and almost like taking turns they would put their head next to Jim's or on Jim's chest pleading for their dad to hang on, help was on the way. Chad along with family and friends kept a vigil day and night for the 8 days Jim was in the trauma center. The hospital provided a dorm like room where we could shower and change clothes.

Chad blamed himself over and over because he had picked up the fireworks. He would also say that when he saw the extent of Jims injuries he should have known that Jims airway was blocked and that there was no time to wait for and ambulance. He says to this day he should have loaded his dad into his truck and driven immediately to the hospital which was just 2-3 minutes away. That way the doctors could have done a tracheotomy to establish oxygen flow. As the years go by Chad now refuses to talk about this horrific incident.

Chad was to start pre-law at Indiana Wesleyan University that fall. He quickly withdrew and he and his brothers continued to run the family business. His brothers eventually went their own way. Chad runs the business successfully to this day. Chad says he will never give up on the business his dad had started from the ground up.

I so appreciate the compliments I have received over the years, thanking me for a son that is so kind and so generous. Recently a lady named Ann who I used to attend Church with told me that Chad always comes to her aid whenever she calls. Chad has said that Ann calls frequently and tells me that sometimes it's only a light bulb that needs changed. Chad never charges her. She lost her husband a couple of years ago. Ann lives in a trailer in a bad neighborhood and is of little means. She expresses to Chad that she is afraid. Chad is on the lookout for a better place that is within her budget. I have every reason to believe that Chad will come up with something for Ann that is far more comfortable than where she presently is. Chad has already been to the local HUD office and has talked to 2 landlords. Because we had several rentals over the years Chad knows several landlords who are good quality and take care of their properties and also their tenants.

During emergencies such as severe weather Chad scurries to provide power to people without any. In a situation where Chad can't restore the power he has often provided use of his 4 generators to get people by. Chad does other deeds such as removing fallen trees and other debris. He has many times tarped roofs for people to prevent further damage. Unfortunately at a time when other contractors take advantage of the situation by over charging people in need, Chad is proud as he helps people for free or at a reduced rate. Chad says you get what you give. Often times Chad will receive good jobs as a result of his charity.

Chad is a father to 4 children, 3 girls and a boy ranging in ages from 8 months to 12 years old. Chad is divorced from his ex wife Andrea with whom he has the 2 oldest children Ethan and Morgan. Chad always pays support. Many times he has given Andrea money when she was in need. Chad always each year takes Ethan and Morgan shopping for school supplies, clothes and shoes. The bigger gifts at Christmas and birthdays he provides. He has always said that children need both of their parents equally and works hard at having a good relationship with Andrea. Chad has his children pretty much as he wishes, which is a lot. It is clearly evident that the children and Chad love each other immensely. The children get excited just upon seeing their dad. It is of no exaggeration to say that Ethan idolizes his dad. Chad is presently engaged to Ashlee. Chad and Ashlee have 2 children Gracie and Haylee. Ashley is a teacher at heart and always willing to help the children when needed.

For years Chad has volunteered as a pal club coach, little league coach as well as soccer. Often Chad headed up fundraisers to raise money for entrance fees into a tournament. When they have fallen short Chad and perhaps another parent or two have picked up the slack. On numerous occasions Chad has bought uniforms or shoes for a child whose family could not afford to. Chad set up commercial batting cages at his house where he would invite the entire team to practice. Chad is such a good father and so bonded to his children I can't imagine the suffering they would go through if he should have to go away.

I'll never forget the day Chad came to my house to tell me of the wrong he had committed. He said it was one of the worst days of his life. I was in total shock and disbelief. Through many tears shed Chad had to convince me of his wrong doing. I just couldn't believe it. He said he was so sorry over and over for bringing

this shame on his family. Chad and I have talked repeatedly about what he has done. He never makes excuses and has actually stopped me when I have tried to. The last time I did that Chad asked me to please stop, saying it is doing neither of us any good. He told me there is no denying he did wrong. Chad is so full of regret and sorrow and not because he got caught. He tells me he is so afraid that the stress will further my health problems. It is so sad to hear him say that although he wishes his dad were still here, he can't imagine having to put him through this. He suffers intensely thinking of an absence from his children.

Chad is of great aid to me. I truly don't know what I would do without him. Just to be able to talk to him at lonely times. I know I will survive, and so it is of much greater concern to me about Chad himself and most of all his children.

Chad would no doubt lose his business if he is incarcerated. This would leave no support for his children and others that depend on him for their jobs.

Chad has taught several workers from the ground up electrical and contracting skills. Recently one of Chad's workers Nick was hired at the local Veterans Hospital as an electrician because of the skills taught him. Chad also provided the needed documentation of hours that Nick worked in training as an apprentice under Chad. Now Nick receives better pay and has benefits. Chad loves to see someone progress, he never feels any ill will or betrayal. Recently when the local Chrysler Plant was hiring Chad encouraged his brother Aaron and cousin Shane to apply. They did and were hired.

Chad made a gross mistake, he broke the law, he knows, I know, everybody knows. There is however no doubt in my mind that Chad has learned his lesson and would not repeat these offenses or any other illegal acts.

It is with deep sorrow and a broken heart that I have to write this letter pleading mercy from this Honorable Court for my son Chad. It is with my deepest sincerity that I implore Your Honor to consider any lesser sentence.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Also so appreciated is the time you took to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Dani L Dixon

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge Liam O'Grady;

I am James Wm. Dixon III, older brother to Chad Dixon. I fully understand the seriousness of the federal charges Chad has plead guilty to and am deeply concerned about his future. The outcome of this hearing scheduled for August the 23<sup>rd</sup>, could make a huge impact on not only Chad but so many others as well.

Chad has 4 beautiful children that are his life. As Chad often says that he can't fathom what people live for if they don't have children in their lives. Chad has one of the greatest relationships with his children that one could ever imagine. This is not just the opinion of our family but so many people have recognized this and have talked about it. Chad seems to have the perfect way of teaching kids, instilling discipline all the while motivating them to do things that are age appropriate. From the time they were born Chad was hands on. They always eat together as a family because Chad says this is invaluable. That to be a successful family you have to spend time together. Chad has worked with them since they were young teaching them table manners, telephone etiquette along with other stuff that goes along with having kids. ABC,s counting numbers, learning body parts etc. Chad often makes it fun by making up some kind of game or contest to get them to pick up after themselves. At a cook out just this summer, Chad was complimented by a couple on how well behaved and polite his children always are. When they asked Chad his secret he answered its easy, I do exactly what my parents did when we were being raised.

It was devastating to Chad when his wife Andrea filed for divorce. When his kids at times would repeat something negative that was said by Andrea or her boyfriend, Chad sometimes would say negative things in rebuttal to us (the adults in the family) but I never heard him talk bad of his ex wife or boyfriend to the kids. Rather he would explain how fortunate they were to now have 2 families that loved them. I just had to ask Chad how he could stand that. Chad told me that at first all he wanted was his wife back and then he made the realization that was not to going to happen. He said he made a vow to always protect his kids from adult business and problems that often arise in situations like this. Fortunately Chad is engaged to a wonderful girl, Ashlee who shares his views on child rearing. Ashlee says that her passion had long been to be a teacher, she achieved this and holds a Masters degree in Mathematics. I asked her once why she didn't find a job that pays better and that this would be easy with her degree. I felt stupid as she quickly put me in place by asking me who do you know that actually gets to do something they love everyday. She said it doesn't even feel like work to her. She has proven this over and over by helping most of the 8 children in our family alone. Ashlee assures us that this is never a burden to her and that she always gets more than she gives. It is clearly obvious to us that she loves children and loves to help them. She and Chad have two younger children,

Gracie who is three and Haylee who is 8 months old. Chad and Ashlee have plans to marry. Together they will continue to build a loving and supporting home for all the children.

Chad has come to my aid numerous times when I am running behind on one of my contracting jobs. At times there is wording in a contract where by if the contractor doesn't meet a deadline, the contractor can be fined per day. I work another full time mainly because of the benefits. Sometimes I am required to work overtime on short notice, which can throw a wrench in the gears of my contract job. When asked Chad is always there.

Since my dad died and my mom is now very sick Chad has taken the lead and has Christmas, Thanksgiving or often just family get togethers such as cook outs at his house. This really takes a load off mom since she wants us all to stay close and believes what Chad learned from her and dad, that to stay bonded closely as a family we must spend quality time together. Mom feels guilty and struggles with the idea that she can't do what she was once able to do. Chad again in his usual style just talks to mom and tells her that it is easier at his house since it is bigger and so is the family. She will go the day before and help and then brings a dish or two to the event. This makes her feel content. Our mother became gravely sick several years ago. As hard as she fought she could not stave off the physical damages this left her with. While me and my brother Aaron are there for her whenever we can be. This pales by comparison what our youngest brother Chad has done for her. He never begrudges the extra time reassuring Aaron and I that since he is self employed it is easier on him.

Chad has been very open with us about the federal laws he broke. My brother and I were definitely taken aback when he told us the trouble he was in. It is so hard to see Chad in this situation. If I could I would trade places with Chad I would without a second thought. It was shocking to hear this about Chad. Initially Chad probably spent 4-5 hours with me and Aaron trying to fill us in on details. Things seemed kind of confusing as Chad tried to explain things to us. Chad even seemed somewhat confused and admitted he was unsure of a lot of things. This was the evening of the day that Chad's house was raided. As time went on Chad knew he was guilty of breaking some laws. He has since then accepted full responsibility for his actions. The stress he is under is clearly evident. Chad looks like he has aged 10 years in the last several months. He still is constantly apologizing for the pain and suffering he has put on so many people. Chad can't get through a conversation without breaking up when it comes to talking about his children. Chad is deeply concerned about mom and truly believes this may actually kill her.

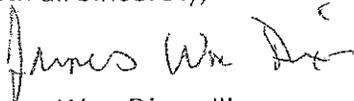
Although Chad is the youngest he is the one we all kind of look up to for help and advice. Chad had always wanted to become an attorney. Because mom and dad didn't have enough money after Chad graduated from high school but they assured Chad things were getting better each year and promised him he could enroll in the next 2-3 years. Chad wanted to attend a local private school that was rather expensive. In 2001 Chad was able to enroll in pre-law starting in that Fall.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2001 my father was going to lite off some fireworks. Dad had us stand about 40 feet away on a deck for safety. We were actually higher than where my father Jim was positioned in the yard. He was close enough to the deck that we couldn't see him as he bent down to lite the fuse. An unbelielable loud explosion was heard and immediately my brothers and I knew something was terribly wrong. As my middle brother Aaron started to run to dad he was knocked flat on the deck. Aaron was 6ft 3in tall and weighed over 200 lbs. This was because of the sucusion of reports going off that normally wouldn't go off until the firework was in the sky high above. Simultaneously with repotss going off we see my dad thrown high in the air. He actually landed in my yard next door. The entire scene was so awful and kaotic. Reorts still going off and deafining sonds of explosives, the air was filled thick with a heavy sulfur. Someone screamed to call 911 call 911 When I reaced my dad I thought I was going to literally pass out. I dropped to my knees and could hardly breathe. My dad was hardly recognizable. Both Aaron and Chad were so emotional yet trying to hold back so dad wouldn't know how bad he was hurt. Chad asked dad to squeeze his hand if he could hear him. My dad squeezed Chads hand. Blood was everywhere. He lost his clothes and shoes when hit with the first report. Pieces of his face were hanging ready to fall off so one of my brothers wrapped their shirt around Jims face to try and stop the bleeding and also to keep what was left from falling off. Dad was charred with burns all over his chest and top of his back. He was taken to our local hospital and then immediately air lifted to Parkview trauma center. Our local newspaper said it looked more like a war scene out of Bierut rather than just a firework accident. A fireman was quoted as saying this device was closer to a motar shell exploding than any firework.

I know my brother as well as anyone and can honestly say that Chad has died a thousand deaths over what he has done. He continus to wear down each day as August 23<sup>rd</sup> approaches. He has never tried to justify his actions. I wish with all my heart Your Honor that you could spend time with chad and see his true character. Chad is a loving father, a helpful neighbor and certainly a good citizen that has given away a lot of services because of heart strings being tugged and trust me this does not take much. I write to you today in hopes of a sentencing without incarceration. I don't believe that Chad poses a threat to anyone but just the opposite. So many people need Chad, put total trust in him and relie on him. Although our family feels that Chad has clearly learned his lesson and would never reoffend we have met and decided that we need to lesson burdens we have put on him and instead we need to aid Chad. Chad has carried a big burden with big shoulders since dads death in 2001.

In closing I beg Your Honor to impose a lighter sentence without incarceration. If I can be of any assistance or should you have any questions please cotact me. I kindly thank you for your time and patience in hearing me out.

With all Sincerety,

  
James Wm. Dixon III

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Your Honorable Judge O'Grady;

re: Chad Dixon

I am Chad's older brother Aaron Von Dixon. It is on his behalf that I write you today. It is so unlike Chad to be in the trouble he is in. Although he is the youngest of 3 sons, it is Chad to who seems to be the leader and the one we go to for help and advice.

Chad has physically and financially helped several in our family including me. My mom could not possibly survive on her own without Chad. Additionally Chad is constantly helping others, sometimes with work on their home at no or little charge. Chad's greatest volunteer work is no doubt the time he works with children in different sporting events in this county and others. Many children who otherwise couldn't play in sports are able to to because of Chad.

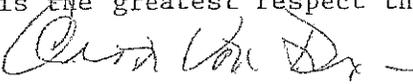
We all lost are dad when we were in our early twenties. We all witnessed this gruesome tragedy as dad was hit in the head with a firework. This was in 2001. My mom has been sick since shortly after this.

Chad is always fun to be around. The children in our family all love uncle Chad and he loves them loves them in return. Our family often spends time at Chad's house. Many times the children stay over at his house. Fair to say Chad's children are his heart and soul. Chad loves spending time with them, their relationship is great and it is clearly evident that Chad's children love their dad. He is a super father and great family man. Chad is engaged to Ashlee who works as a school teacher. She and Chad have two children together. You would never know that all 4 children weren't Ashlee's, they are treated fairly. The problems that sometimes exist in other split families don't seem to exist in Chad's. Chad and Ashlee both communicate well with Chad's former family.

Tension mounts as Chad's sentencing date of August the 23rd approaches. I know that Chad has done wrong. Chad has openly acknowledged this over and over. He also has assured all of us that he would never ever put himself or his family through the pain that his actions have caused. He has the greatest fear of losing his children. When talking with Chad he paces back and forth and talks about how he cannot believe what he has done. His family and kids always are brought up.

I come before Your Honorable Judge today and beg for mercy for my brother Chad. I can't imagine not seeing Chad and his children together. This would be most difficult for Chad. However I fear most of all for his children. Our family is broken hearted and so is Chad. Chad is deeply sorry and would never repeat these actions. Chad has never offended in the past and says he never would in the future. He realizes that their is way to much to lose.

It is the greatest respect that I write to Your Honor,

  
Aaron Von Dixon

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge O'Grady:

My name is Meghan Hanrahan, and I am a recent graduate from the Mental Health Counseling program at Boston College. I currently work for South Bay Mental Health Inc., in Lynn, MA doing individual, couples, and family therapy with clients age 3 through the lifespan. The majority of my work is community outreach due to the financial limitations of my clients. I have known Chad Dixon since October 2009, when he and his fiancée Ashlee Shook visited Bloomington, Indiana. Ashlee and I lived on the same floor our freshman year and Indiana University, and are best friends. I will serve as the maid of honor in their wedding.

Prior to agreeing to write this letter, Ashlee informed me of the obstruction of a U.S. government agency proceeding and wire fraud charges against Chad. I remember being told about Chad's polygraph company, as he conveyed no deviance around this endeavor, or attempts to keep his business plans clandestine. The predominant reason for this objective was that Chad had the means and capability to provide a better living for his family. Since I met Chad, taking care of his family has been the driving force of his ambition. He works immensely long hours as an electrician, and also makes a point to remain involved in his children's extracurricular activities through coaching.

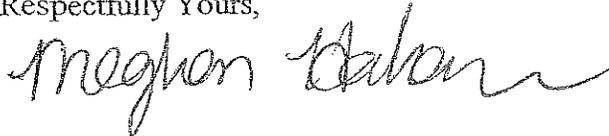
This intrinsic desire to care for those he loves has been one of the few adjustments Ashlee had to make in her and Chad's relationship. She is also 'a caretaker', not to mention an incredibly independent and capable young woman. Thus, receiving help, especially monetarily, from Chad was initially quite uncomfortable for her, as she never wanted him to feel taken advantage of by herself. Similarly, whenever I would visit Ashlee and Chad, he was always incredibly generous with his time and money. Knowing that I was a college student, and of limited means, he not only would pay for Ashlee's dinners, but mine as well. He also insisted on giving me gas money because it was easier for me to drive to Marion, IN than for Ashlee to visit me in Bloomington. Notably, Chad never expected anything in return for these acts of kindness. He was well aware that Ashlee and I rarely saw each other, so he would often times eat dinner with us, and then give us time alone to catch up. There were never any instances where he appeared possessive or controlling of Ashlee. His love for her is unconditional and founded on respect.

After Ashlee and Chad visited me in Bloomington, IN in 2009, Ashlee found out she was pregnant. They had only recently begun dating, and her family was outraged by the age difference, so many of them were not speaking to Ashlee. Ashlee also was still finishing her Bachelor's degree. Chad remained a constant presence at her side, regardless of how her family treated him. He supported Ashlee 100%, and made certain that her pre natal care was of the highest caliber. He never pressured her to quit school or give up on her family. He was able to see in the situation through a long term perspective and remained patient and poignantly

dependable through the many battles they faced over the next year. Her family came around as his actions evidenced a man of stability, good character, and moral grounding. He demonstrated tremendous faith and self-assurance when facing numerous uncertainties and complications that were out of his control. He remained constant and unshaken in his love for Ashlee, and belief that they would be a uniquely happy family.

Chad's motivation in life stems from his love for his children and fiancée. As the current charges suggest he has faltered greatly in this domain, the effects on his spirit are palpable. The self-assurance and sense of worth he has built around being the best father and partner he can be, has been shattered. True to nature, he pleads guilty to the current charges, and openly holds himself accountable for his choices, sans excuses. Should he be shown leniency in court, I have no doubts that he will comply with whatever the court recommends without incident. Chad Dixon is a greatly beneficial member to society through his occupational capabilities and civic engagement. He is not a man to make the same mistake twice, and has greatly taken all recent events to heart. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meghan Hanrahan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Meghan Hanrahan, M.A.

August 12, 2013

The Honorable Liam O'Grady

United States District Judge

401 Courthouse Square

Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge O'Grady:

We are Cory and Jaymie Shook, brother and sister-in-law to Chad's fiancé, and uncle and aunt to his children. Cory manages the Noblesville The Cellular Connection store, while Jaymie works for The Wesleyan Church, Inc. in Indianapolis, Ind., in a marketing role. We have known Chad for four years, since he began dating Cory's sister. We have connected at family functions, babysat each other's children, and otherwise been friendly ever since.

One of the first things that struck us about Chad was what a good parent he is. He is very involved in his children's activities, monitoring homework and coaching baseball. His two oldest children were about 5 and 7 when we first met them, and we remember being very impressed by how well they minded, how smart his daughter was compared to other children her age, and how disciplined his son was in baseball. Jaymie said to Cory on one particular bonfire night, "When we have kids, I want them to act like Chad's kids." Chad is always up-front and honest with his children, which was why we were surprised that he would be convicted of doing something dishonest. It just is not who Chad is.

Chad is someone who is empathetic. One day when Jaymie was pregnant, she was feeling down. Chad noticed and told her how great she looked and picked her spirits right up. Recently when we visited with our toddler, the little guy was upset about something, so Chad took him to find some toys and played with him for way longer than an adult should have to sit on the floor. He recognizes when others are feeling down and takes steps to make them feel better. Chad's empathy is a trait we truly appreciate in our friends and family.

Chad is someone who is dedicated. Baseball is his son's passion, so Chad has gone all in. He coaches his son's team during practices and games and works with his son day in and day out whether or not it's baseball season. He even skips beach vacations for baseball tournaments. Chad's dedication to his children is something that we all want to see in our parents.

Chad is someone who is responsible. When his two older children are with their mom, they might or might not get their homework done, go clothes shopping for school, or remember to bring the tools they need to the practice to which they are heading. Chad ensures that they always have what they need. Similarly, with his electrician's business, Chad looks out for each of his employees as well as his

clients. He has told us before that he feels responsible for each of them and wants to be sure to do what is best for them. Chad's sense of responsibility is something that we truly admire.

Chad's two youngest daughters, our nieces, are just 8 months old and 3 years old. They will greatly benefit by having their father in their life daily to impart these traits to them, so we ask you, Judge O'Grady, to please be lenient in your sentencing of Chad. He understands what he has done and will teach his children yet another lesson by accepting the consequences for his actions.

Thank you for considering our request for leniency. We trust God will guide you during sentencing and that Chad and his family will come out stronger for this difficult experience, with Chad perhaps able to teach his son and three daughters lessons that they otherwise would not have learned.

God bless,

Cory and Jaymie Shook

Jason Dean McVicker, Esq.  
[REDACTED]  
Marion IN 46952  
[REDACTED]

The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

Dear Honorable Judge O'Grady:

My name is Jason Dean McVicker writing to you in behalf of Mr. Chad Douglas Dixon. I currently serve Grant County Indiana as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I am an active member of the Indiana state bar association and the Grant County bar association. I have also served in Collier county Florida, and Brevard county Florida as an assistant state attorney.

I have known Chad since he was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Chad and my brother went to school together and were very close friends. There were countless nights Chad would stay the night with my brother as they were growing up. I have enjoyed watching Chad grow from the child that I knew long ago into the man that I am good friends with to this day. I also got to know Chad's parents and have always considered them to be an extremely stable and respectable family that raised their children with core values and morals. I would describe Chad as a true friend.

Chad has recently informed me of his ongoing legal issues within the eastern district of Virginia as a result of his conduct within the polygraph industry. To be honest I was completely bemused and shocked. I have never thought of Chad as a criminal or one that could commit criminal acts. The manner in which he runs his electrical business, the amount of hours he volunteers to youth sports, the manner that he runs his household and my personal relationship with Chad made this news almost unbelievable. I have never known Chad to break the law and have always viewed his moral and business decisions to be above reproach.

The Chad Dixon that I know is a youth sports coach and a mentor to children in the community. He has volunteered in a number of community summer sports leagues as a coach and also acts as a personal mentor to a lot of children within our community. This man spends hundreds of hours helping these youngsters athletically, and emotionally. His conduct with these kids not only impacts them on the field and on the court, but he also preaches fundamentals such as hard work, positive attitude, honesty, and academics that many of these kids will continue to use in the years to come off the court. I know that he has positively impacted a large volume of kids in our community and I'm sure many of these kids will never forget him or his passion for teaching and aiding in their development. I know the amount of time he spends doing this has to be a huge sacrifice for him to make, but if you see him doing it, or ask him

about it, you would never know it. He genuinely loves helping these youngsters excel athletically, academically, and emotionally.

I also know Chad to be a dedicated father. When I see him the conversation almost always will turn to his children. He is such a proud father who strives for the absolute best for his children. Chad has 4 kids that I know would be absolutely devastated to not have him in their lives. Following his father's accident in 2001 Chad worked 2 full time jobs. He would work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and then immediately would go to his day shift job trying to provide for his children. He continued this relentless routine for more than 5 years. I don't know of many men who could persevere through such a schedule. If you could spend 5 simple minutes watching this man interact with his children you would be as convinced as I am that this man plays such an important role in their lives. His children has always been priority one in his life.

Chad and I spoke in length about his polygraph business and the legal problems that have arisen as result. The tone in his voice as he explained the situation to me told a tale that needed no words. I know he was embarrassed and was as humble as I have ever seen. He told me that it was one of the biggest mistakes in his life and expressed tremendous regret for the decisions that he made. We talked about his financial situation prior to his polygraph business and I am convinced that the foreclosure process and the growing financial debt he was facing along with a pregnant fiancée influenced his decisions to pursue this polygraph business. The part of my conversation with Chad that has stuck with me the most is his regret for the hardship this has caused his family, fiancée, kids, and his employees. He is truly sickened to the point of disgust with himself. He blames nobody for his legal problems but himself. Subsequently he agonizes over the consequences this will have on so many additional people but none more than his kids. I also do not feel that Chad's actions were those of a criminal who intentionally set out on a course of calculated and deliberate illegal conduct. Rather poor judgment and bad decisions influenced by financial strain has led him to the current legal situation he finds himself in.

In closing, I ask that you take into consideration that this is Chad's 1<sup>st</sup> criminal offence, and also the amount of cooperation he gave prior to him ever being charged. I understand that Chad answered hundreds of questions willingly that was used to convict him of these crimes and that he completely accepts full responsibility for his conduct. I genuinely believe that if anybody deserves a second chance it is this man. Please consider his kids and his fiancée along with the added financial difficulties that any term of incarceration will bring. This is a good man, a great father, a fantastic coach, who happened to make a few bad decisions that have cost him significantly already.

I appreciate your time in considering this letter.

Respectfully,



Jason Dean McVicker, Esq.

Dear Judge O'Grady,

My name is Mark Stefanatos I am a Detective Sergeant with the City of Marion Indiana Police Department. I have been a Police Officer for almost 18 years. My current assignment is the Drug Task Force. I also serve as the youth football coordinator for Oak Hill school systems. I am also a member of the Oak Hill Youth baseball board.

I have known Chad Dixon for about 17 years. I first met him when he was still in High School. He was a good kid that worked every day with his father doing work on rehab houses and electrical work. His father was tragically killed at his home with his family present. Chad continued what his father had taught him and has been a small business owner since then.

I was surprised to hear that he had made choices that landed him in this situation. I believe that Chad made a bad choice. I am sure if he thought his actions out or had a do over this letter would not be written by me or others.

Chad is a hard worker, husband and father. He steps up and provides for family. He is very active in his kids life. I have personally observed him volunteer for Youth Soccer, Baseball and Football. I think that Chad has great passion for his kids to compete and be class act kids. I have watched him praise his kids and be stern when either needs to be done.

I hope that's Chad's character outweighs this mistake that will follow him the rest of his life. Please consider his volunteer work and his kids.

Thank You,  
Mark Stefanatos

[REDACTED]  
Converse Indiana 46919  
[REDACTED]

Dear Judge O'Grady:

Hello. My name is Russell Davis. I am a youth baseball coach and construction worker here in Marion. I have known Chad Dixon for about thirty years. We have been close friends for about the last fifteen years.

I was around for the set of misfortunate circumstances that Chad has pled guilty to. Even though he has pled guilty and is ready to accept his punishment, I think it would be a grave injustice to a great deal of children in the Marion area as well as his four children if he is incarcerated. Chad has spent many hours and money on a lot of kids when he was not obligated to do so.

I have seen him purchase ball equipment for needy kids, and he has spent hours on the ball field with me and kids without any of the kids being present. I have made long trips with him taking multiple kids home who didn't have rides just so they could be a part of what others were doing. I have participated in many pick-up games of all sorts where we were the lone adults to referee the playing field so the kids could enjoy a fun filled game. My own kids have spent countless hours with him and have even called him their second dad.

I have witnessed Chad help out many other people over the years. I am firmly convinced that Chad could handle incarceration, however, I think it would be a harsh punishment to his own kids and many others. Justice could be served in other ways, and I am convinced Chad has learned his lesson and would never repeat these mistakes.

These facts are what I have personally witnessed. Chad has a good heart and is a selfless person. He is very involved in rearing his children. I think incarceration would negatively affect many young lives for that period and even possibly the duration of their lives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Russell D. Davis

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 14, 2013

Dear Judge O' Grady:

My name is Andrew H. Morrell. I am the pastor of Hills Chapel Community Church in Marion, Indiana. I am also the president of Gillespie & Morrell General Contracting, LLC in Marion as well. I am 32 years old, married to my lovely wife Kasey, and have three wonderful children. I am extremely involved in my community through the church, Boy's & Girls Club of Grant County, Marion High School athletics, food drives, and Habitat for Humanity.

I have known Chad Dixon for over seventeen years of my life. Because we both work in the construction field, Chad and I have had the opportunity to work together on some of the same job sites. His company Expert Electric is highly recommended in this community because of Chad's integrity in the field as well as his great customer service. I also know that Chad is heavily involved in Lincoln Field youth baseball. Chad coaches his sons' team and spends countless hours through the summer donating his time to our children in Marion. Some of the children on Chad's team come from single parent, low income homes that aren't able to afford to play baseball or provide transportation to and from practices and games. But because of Chad's heart for children he is able to help some of the kids who are in need by paying for other kids to play as well as picking them up and dropping them off for games and practices. As a result of that, Chad is extending grace to children whom most people in society write off.

When I found out that Chad has plead guilty to obstructing a U.S. government proceeding and wire fraud I was appalled. My first thought was, "how could such a great father, business owner, and volunteer in our community do something so irrational?" Then I was forced to look at my own life and remembered why God had called me to be a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are many things in my own life that I have done in which I am embarrassed about. Chad's human, I'm human, and your honor, you're human. We've all made mistakes and I'm extremely thankful to Jesus Christ that I have been given another chance. The key thing is that we don't continue to make the same mistakes. We must recognize our own shortcomings in life, accept our responsibility in our actions, change our way of thinking and acting, be thankful for any grace we receive, and share our lives' with others that we may be able to reach. I strongly feel that Chad accepts the responsibility for his actions and will make a change for the better. In talking with him he has never once tried to make an excuse for his actions and desires to prove to himself and others that he will be better.

Chad is one of the most intelligent individuals that I have ever encountered in my life. Although he made a huge error it will not overshadow all of the great things that he has done and will do in his life. I feel that Chad used his intelligence in the wrong manner. Chad's father has always been a huge part of his life. In Chad's early adulthood his father Jim died as the result of a fireworks accident. Jim's death devastated the Dixon family. Mr. Dixon was a part of every major decision of Chad's life until his death. If he would have still been alive today I don't think I would be writing this letter to you because "Big Jim" (what we called him) would've helped steer Chad's decisions in the right direction. Chad was fully aware of the decision he made to start Polygraph Consultants of America, but I believe that having his father in his life now would've lead to better decisions for PCA.

Judge O'Grady, thank you for your time in reading this letter. I'm sure that you are an extremely busy man and read many documents throughout your day. My prayer is that Chad will be given a fair judgment and that he comes away a better man and makes a greater impact on his children and the many lives' that he touches in the Grant County community. Blessings to you as you seek justice for our country.

Sincerely,



Andrew H. Morrell  
Husband/Father/Pastor/Business Owner  
  
Marion, IN 46952

Dear Judge O'Grady:

Hello, my name is Brad McPherson and I am the General Manager of Loves Travel Stop in Biloxi Mississippi. I was previously the General Manager at the Loves Travel Stop in Marion, IN. I am writing this letter in support of Chad Dixon, and to help you understand what a stand up citizen of Marion, IN Mr. Dixon is. I have known Chad for most of my adult life. We were acquaintances at Marion High School as teenagers and our lives later crossed paths in college. We met again at a meet and greet for young professionals of Grant County which Chad and I both participated in. I became aware then that Chad was the owner of Expert Electric and could be of use when we had problems at my Loves Travel Stop location. Chad and his company were always very courteous to the needs of my business as well as the needs of my customers. I used Chad Dixon and Expert Electric for electric jobs at the location because I believed Mr. Dixon had the same core values of integrity, hard work and respect that myself and the company I represented had. Since the beginning of our business relationship we are so very thankful that we have Chad and his business on our team of vendors. He is relentless in his pursuit to serving his customers in an honest and dependable manner.

I was shocked and dismayed upon learning of the charges Mr. Dixon pled guilty to. This was totally out of character of the Chad Dixon I had grown up with and consider a friend to this very day. I still have no problem interacting with Mr. Dixon and having him over to spend time with my family. It is the good character and sound decision making that Chad has demonstrated throughout his life that has lead me to this opinion of Chad's character. Chad did tell me that he made some mistakes with his polygraph business. The whole process has humbled him to say the least.

Chad has always been the one to help out the less advantaged. If it was helping the less fortunate child with new baseball equipment on the youth team he coached, or having a cookout for friends and family alike. Chad has always been a model citizen and more than once has stepped up to help those in need. I remember Chad drafting a kid on his son's baseball team one summer that was not as talented as some other kids because he thought he could help impact the child's life. There was a kid that was kicked off of a team because of bad attitude. The next season the commissioner of the league wasn't going to let this kid play but chad stepped up and took him under his wing. That kid won the sportsmanship award and continues to play baseball to this day all because of how Chad is with these kids. These are just a few of the many examples of Chad's true character and kind heart.

Chad Dixon is first to me a great friend, but more importantly he is a fantastic father to his children and a very supportive fiancé to his fiancée Ashlee Shook. Ashlee has been an extremely positive and influential force in Chad over the last year. I believe Chad is in a great place in his life and is ready to succeed every single day. Chad is very involved in youth sports in the community volunteering to coach youth baseball, soccer and football teams every summer. He has impacted many lives by supporting youth sports in the community.

I believe that it is important that Chad Dixon be able to continue the positive paths of coaching and running his electrical business and please ask for leniency in sentencing. Mr. Dixon is truly a

positive force in the community and I believe that the positive impact he has made in the youth of Grant County should be strongly considered during sentencing. Last I would like to say Thank You for considering my letter and allowing me to introduce to the Chad Dixon I have learned to call a true, respectful, friend.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad McPherson

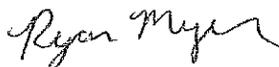
Dear Judge Liam O'Grady

My name is Ryan Meyer and I currently live in Indianapolis. I grew up in Marion, IN and have been a family friend to the Dixon family for over 20 years. I attended middle school, high school, and college with Chad and his brothers and first cousins all my life. I have also worked alongside the entire Dixon family in special projects with their family business, D&S Electric, several years ago with Chad and his father Jim Dixon before he passed away due to a sudden accident involving a firework malfunction. If my memory serves me correct, Chads son Ethan was born within a few days after his father's passing. I tell you this to demonstrate what I know to be the most challenging time in Chad's life. As we talk about character which is what this letter is primarily about, I want to display this moment in his life when community prayer took effect as the city sat back and watched how Chad, the youngest of his family, reacted when the sudden switch of grief and responsibility struck his life. I will never forget how proud people were to see his integrity when the happiest and saddest moment of his life collided within damn near 24 hours of each other. I remember him having to 'grow up' in about a days time.

Around 10 years ago, the Dixon boys, specifically Chad, inherited their father's business and assets and continued to grow the electrical businesses into a running, profitable and reputable business in the community. I have always laughed at the fact that Chad was 22 at the time and doing business on his own, something that myself or none of our circle of friends were ready for as we all were still in college. Chad also held a second job at Marion General Hospital for a number of years working 3<sup>rd</sup> shift to provide for his children and family. Chad is always actively involved in community activities including softball leagues and sports enthusiasm for his Superstar (recently made the newspaper paper for baseball excellence) son Ethan Dixon.

I am aware of the offense that is being brought against Chad regarding perhaps taking his entrepreneurial spirit to the line of the law and having a toe cross over. I believe this to be a unique case and have no idea what the law calls for on something like this. I can tell you with confidence that I sincerely believe and know the thought ALONE of spending time away from his family and business is enough to learn his lesson and step away completely from this line of work. Chad's life plate is very full of good things. As a lifelong friend, I humbly ask for your leniency in the judgment against my friend. What I can promise you is that Chad is in no way a threat to our society and especially our government. I know by talking with him the lesson is learned and he is ready to move forward on your grace. Please consider his little league team that looks up to him, and think about his kids that would be crushed to lose their father even for the shortest of terms. He definitely made some mistakes but he is the first to own up to those mistakes and I hope and pray that this counts for something.

Thank you again for taking time to consider my letter.



Ryan Meyer

August 1, 2013

Dear Judge O'Grady,

My name is Ashlee Shook, Mentor Teacher at McCulloch Junior High in Marion, Indiana. Though Chad and I have only been in a relationship for five years, I have known him for many more. He grew up in the same neighborhood as me, and went to grade school with three of my siblings. I know Chad better than anyone.

When Chad started his polygraph training, we were going through some very hard times. I was pregnant with my first daughter and still in college. Due to my hours in school and the pregnancy, I was unable to work. Chad had to support me one-hundred percent. His electrical contracting business was slower than usual which made this especially hard. During this same time, Chad's house was facing foreclosure and we were worried about health care costs, where we would live and me not dropping out of school. Chad had researched the polygraph in college and came up with a plan to supplement his income and support our family. I look back at those days with some regret. I wish I helped more financially. I know deep down in my heart that if we weren't struggling financially that we wouldn't be in the mess that we are in today. I agree that a wrong is a wrong, but I do not believe that Chad would deliberately do something that he knew to be illegal. Ignorance is no excuse and Chad will be the first to explain that he has no excuse. I do feel that these are mitigating circumstances.

I know Chad to be an ambitious, hardworking, family man who is community-minded and selfless, especially to the youth in our region. During football, baseball, and basketball seasons, Chad is the dad who is at every practice and game not only helping and encouraging his own child, but the whole team. He is the dad who puts in countless after-hours giving individual help and support to the whole team. Chad not only acts as a coach to these young men but also as a mentor guiding them in the right direction for their future. Just this past summer, I received an e-mail from an old friend asking if Chad Dixon was my Fiancé. She explained to me how her son was on his baseball team and sent the following message:

"Please tell Chad I appreciate him sooo much the way he is with Logan. Logan loves him so much. I have worked with Logan myself but never had the response Chad has with him."

That is just one point of view; I couldn't possibly recall all the children whose lives he has touched in one way or another in the past five years we have been together.

Chad is an incredible father to not only our two young daughters (Haylee, 7 months and Gracie 3 years), but also to our two older children (Ethan 12 and Morgan 8) from his first marriage. From singing lullabies to having tea parties to helping with homework to attending school programs to playing catch to reading bedtime stories, he is everything someone could ever hope for in a father. I can't imagine any of the four kids not having him around. He means so much to them, and to me.

I am aware of the events regarding Chad's guilty plea. I truly believe that Chad has already suffered extensively for his actions. He has aged more in the past year than all of the five years we have been

together. He has stressed and worried about every aspect of having to be in prison away from his family and his electric contracting business. He is truly not the same man. I know that when this is over he will rebound and show the world how great he truly is.

I know that a prison term will serve as a tremendous hardship for me, who will have the responsibility of paying the costs of living for our home, car, and daughters. This situation has put our family in the tightest financial spot we've ever been in. We are already struggling to pay bills and falling into debt. After figuring the numbers, I do not make enough to support our daughter's everyday needs along with the cost of living bills that Chad takes care of. If Chad has to serve his time in prison, the girls and I will be adversely affected not only short-term, but long term as well. The day care, gas, mortgage, electric, phones, insurance, and medical expenses to name a few. More importantly than financially, all four kids will have to be without their father there to help mold them into unbiased, educated, well-rounded human beings. Every day on my way home from work, after picking up the girls from daycare, my three year old tells me she's scared while laughing hysterically. She laughs so much it's hard to make out what she is saying. I say scared of what?! And she says scared Daddy's going to get me! When we get home, he chases her around and tickles her making her laugh uncontrollably and she lives for that moment every day. It's so routine for her now even if he's not home from work yet, she waits by the front window looking for him. When he pulls in the drive way her excitement is through the roof. I can't imagine having to tell my daughter that she doesn't get to see her daddy for a while. I also get scared thinking that Haylee, being so young. Will she remember him? It breaks my heart to even think about it. I know I will suffer financially in this situation, I also know that Chad's ex-wife and kids will suffer without the extra income from child support each month. He is self-employed and may fall behind from time to time but you can take it to the bank as soon as he gets a check from a big job she is the first to get her support. I hear people and even friends complain about paying child support, but never this man. He wants to pay it and is tireless in his efforts to make sure that she and his kids get that money. I'm afraid that he will be gone at such a crucial developing time for his older two kids. This is a time when they really need a stable relationship with their father to help them make the right decisions and choose the right goals. He drives them to exceed in every aspect especially academically. A "c" grade on a report card is not acceptable in his home. And in five years I have only seen a "c" brought home once. Let me tell you the look on his sons face when he walked through the front door was utter disappointment. Chad and his son worked extensively that next grading period and he has made the honor roll ever since. Judge, he is such a tremendous father. Words can't describe how important he is to all of us.

I also believe that a prison term will serve as a hardship for the employees of his small electrical contracting business. The four men he employs count on his company to live. Not only do these four men depend on the job to live, but they depend on this job to support their wives and kids. If Chad is sentenced to prison, these families will suffer. Chad doesn't only serve as their boss, but also as a friend who will drive across town when they have a flat tire, or help their family move apartments last minute when it's pouring down rain.

Because of the significant difficulties that will be faced by his family, who themselves were blameless in

this crime, I plead with you, to grant Chad Dixon a sentence of probation or at least the lowest possible sentence. I believe that the financial debt and the anguish that he has put himself through are punishment enough than keeping him out of the work force and away from his family. He certainly will not be in a position to be able to repeat his offense and I know that he will never repeat any illegal activity to put his family at risk the way he has ever again. I can't tell you how many times this man has apologized to me for putting his family in this situation. We have spent many nights crying ourselves to sleep over this. Please I pray that you appreciate the kind of man that will have to stand before you at the end of this month and understand all that he does for his family and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashlee Shook". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop on the 'S'.

Ashlee Shook

Rachelle O'Brien

Gas City, IN 46933

August 5, 2013

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge O'Grady:

My name is Rachelle O'Brien, and I have known Chad Dixon for 25 years. I am a wife, mother of two very active boys, student, and an Administrative Assistant to the Controller of a paper plate factory. Chad and I go way back.

I have gone to school with Chad Dixon since we were in Elementary school. So Chad has always been a very good friend of mine. I trust him with the life of my children. He has been a baseball coach to his son and my son for years. I have had the pleasure of playing against his team as well as on his team. I have also had the pleasure of watching him work with the kids on a daily basis to help improve their skills, whether it was in fielding, hitting, or their attitudes. He always worked for improvement and always gave positive feedback. To say it mildly, the man has a way of motivating children. He is the only guy I have met that can make kids run laps in practice and the kids still love him.

I am aware of the offense that Chad Dixon has pled guilty to and let me tell you it was a surprise to hear. But I know Chad, and have talked with him about these charges and have a better understanding. I also know from these conversations that he regrets the decisions that he has made. His character is not that of a person who would commit a crime. He is not one who would hurt anyone intentionally. Chad told me that he made some mistakes and is one of the biggest regrets of his life.

Mr. Dixon has always been the type of person to help his fellow man in need. A few years ago, my family was in financial distress. My husband had cancer, lost his job, and then I lost mine due to downsizing. We became 4 months behind on our house payment and on the verge of foreclosure. As I was talking to Mr. Dixon and just explaining the hard times my family was going through, he offered to loan me the money to bring the mortgage payment up-to-date. Since that time we have slowly gotten back on our feet and I have offered to pay him back – but we will not accept the repayment. He states that I should keep the money and use it for my kids. I broke down and cried my eyes out. Nobody has ever helped us like this. He was truly a godsend.

Mr. Dixon also was my youngest son's baseball coach. During that season I witnessed firsthand how involved he is with not only the success of his own son but the success of the all of the boys on the team. He always made sure that when they traveled, all of the boys had a good time. My husband and I were not in a position to be able to stay in

[Recipient Name]  
August 12, 2013  
Page 2

motels or take our son to the fun centers with the team during the traveling All-Star season. So Mr. Dixon would make sure that all of the kids (including my own), were able to go along with the rest of the team. I cannot repay him enough for allowing my son to have those experiences. If you could talk to my youngest son and ask him what kind of a coach, a dad, a person Chad is, only then you would understand the kind of guy that you're getting ready to sentence.

Chad Dixon is not only a kind hearted person, but he is also a great father. I have had the opportunity to spend some time with his fiancé, his 3 daughters and his son. They are truly a blessed family. I have watch Chad be highly involved with both of his older children in their school activities and sports. I have also witnessed how much his loves his baby girls. He loves his family and is constantly caring for them. He disciplines as well as loves his children. They adore their father and that can be seen by anyone who is around them.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider my letter. I understand that Mr. Dixon made a huge mistake and he even agrees that he should pay for that mistake; all I ask is for leniency in the punishment that is handed to him. I know this is not the typical person that you sentence on a daily basis. Please, all I ask is that you consider these things first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rachelle O'Brien  
Administrative Assistant

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Justin Riddle and I am writing on behalf of Chad Dixon. Although the unfortunate situation at hand has arisen for him, he is a wonderful father, husband, brother, businessman and friend. I have had a personal and business relationship with him for years and he has been a very upstanding figure the whole time. He has done many electrical and contracting projects for my family's businesses (TJR Equipment, TJR Fabrication, and Carico Systems) without flaw or delay. He is very meticulous with his work and is my preferred contractor. Dixon is one of the last small businesses around our town that you can get a fair price and good service without all the extra hassle.

More importantly, this man is the kind of father every kid deserves and no kid deserves to have taken away. When you talk to Chad, his family is always the topic of the conversation. His son is his life and it's written all over his face when he goes on about the kid and wife during the talks we have had in the past. He prides himself on putting in the long hours, as many as it takes to keep his family without worries. I know this man has deep regrets for his actions and genuinely believe that he regrets ever doing it.

If anybody could watch Chad coach, or even see him with his kids you would know that this is a good man. He is of outstanding character as he has done everything in his power to help us over the years, no matter the time of night, weather conditions, etc. Chad Dixon a wonderful, family oriented friend I feel I can always count on. If there is anything I can do on his behalf, please advise what it is, so I can take the appropriate measures.

I beg this court to think of the many small businesses that he serves, think of his ball team, think of his employees, think of his kids and wife when sentencing him. If you talk to him for just a few minutes you will quickly see that this guy has suffered substantially since this whole mess has unfolded. I wish you had the chance to interact with him before you sentenced him. He made some mistakes but I beg that you consider a lesser sentence for this man, my friend Chad Dixon.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

Justin Riddle

President

TJR Equipment 

President

Carico Systems [REDACTED]

Main office contact [REDACTED]

Heather Shook

[REDACTED]  
Van Buren, IN 46991

The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Honorable Judge O'Grady:

My name is Heather Shook writing to you on behalf of Chad Dixon. I am an instructor for the Surgical Technology program at Brown Mackie College. I have known Chad for 15 years. Not only have I been in a relationship with his brother, Aaron Dixon for 5 years, but he is engaged to my cousin Ashlee Shook.

I am aware of the charges that Chad has plead guilty to. I was quite shocked with the charges, due to his family morals. The Dixon's were raised with values that your family always comes first. Chad has always been a family man, since I met him. I cannot state a time where I have drove by their home and there were not children playing in the yard or swimming in the pool. They not only have their children, but friends and family's as well. He has always coached a team that his son or nephew participated on. Whether we are attending a game or going to a local fair together, we are a very involved family.

It would be devastating to see Chad spend any time away from his family, due to the fact that this would be punishing his children, fiancé, close family, widowed mother, and his employees. This would affect our family deeply. Although I will give support to my cousin and their children, I would not be able to provide like Chad has done for the past 3 years, whether that be emotionally, physically, or financially. Not only do I worry about his three daughters, but how this would adversely affect Ethan, his only son, who is 12 years old, because Chad is very involved and influential. I firmly believe a father needs to be in his son's life. Ethan is at the adolescent level where he needs his father in his life. Chad is Ethan's coach for every sport he participates in and is constantly practicing with him.

I would not be able to imagine the effects this would have on our family. I truly believe this would cause more damage to our family than Chad, if he were to be sentenced to serve jail time. I am without a doubt at your mercy when it comes to his sentencing, but I am asking you to please not have him serve time away from his family. The events that would occur if Chad were to be sentenced are unimaginable and would tear our family apart.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinions and concerns.

Sincerely,



Heather Shook

The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

July 28<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Honorable Judge O'Grady,

My name is Brandon Shook, I have a bachelor's degree in business from Ball State University. For the past 8 years I have been part of the management team at Atlas Foundry Company Incorporated.

I have known Chad for over 20 years. Chad and I grew up in the same neighborhood and walked to school together for years. Not only is he my sister's fiancée and the father to my niece's, he is also a good friend.

I am aware of Chad's guilty plea, and to be quite honest, I am still in awe. I did not foresee my childhood friend to be a felon. I have always known Chad to do the right thing. I have never known him to be in any sort of trouble with the law.

In the recent years of our friendship, I have known Chad to be ambitious, hardworking, devoted, loyal, passionate and dedicated not only towards his electrical business but more so towards his family. I used to think of Chad on the same level as any other childhood friend, until he started seeing my younger sister, Ashlee. Like any brother, I wasn't too fond of Chad dating my baby sister. That is, until 4 family holidays later when I realized the compassion and love he and Ashlee shared. She went from being complacent in college life to being full of life and happy all the time. If she wasn't with him, she was talking about him. I can't think of one time where she shared a negative story about their new life together. I knew how much he truly loved her the day she gave birth to their first daughter. Ashlee had to have an emergency C-section, which left Chad to be the biggest nervous wreck I have ever seen. From seeing the look in his eyes as they took her into surgery, to watching him wait frantically by the operating room, I realized just how much he cared. Chad carries this same passion towards all four of his children. Just the other weekend, we spent the whole day cutting down trees in his back yard. This seems like an ordinary weekend event had it been planned. The previous Wednesday my sister had found a deer tick on Gracie's head. Chad had determined that the tick had most likely come from one of the two trees in the back yard above her play area. He was so concerned with well-being that he had to make sure those trees came down before there was a chance she could have another one on her. Chad responds this way with all of his kids. He is always acting in their best

interest. The one baseball game I have ever known Chad to miss, he sent me to record his son because he didn't want to miss anything. Chad is a great father.

Although I am aware of Chad's guilty plea, I am also bewildered. I would never have thought Chad would ever in his life be declared a felon- not the brother, father, fiancé, son, uncle, friend I know. Having seen the financial, physical, and emotional toll this event has taken on not only my sister, but on Chad, I am more than convinced that he will never be anywhere near something like this ever again. I know from speaking with Ashlee and Chad both that he is very remorseful. I see the pain in his eyes when he asks me to be sure I look after my nieces and it breaks my heart to think that these little girls may have to be without their "Daddy" or "Dada."

Your Honor, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I would like to ask you to please consider a term of probation so that Chad Dixon does not have to be away from his family who depends on him daily. I can guarantee you that he will never put his family in this position ever again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon Shook". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brandon Shook



*Alice M. Butterworth, D.D.S.*

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY  
803 GARDNER DRIVE  
MARION, INDIANA 46952

TELEPHONE: (765) 664-0587

FAX: (765) 664-1407

August 7, 2013

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Mr. Chad Dixon

Dear Judge O'Grady,

Chad was my dental patient as a child and for many years since I have known him personally and of his work within this community. He is highly regarded for his involvement and generosity to local causes.

My first-hand experience is in our Pediatric Dental Clinic, a regional referral center for about 2800 (poor) Medicaid children. We operate on a tight budget. Chad helps us keep afloat by answering our many calls to fix anything--electrical, plumbing, roof leaks, equipment breakdowns, and rendering a small or no billing at all.

Example: Recently we called about an emergency electrical glitch. He responded right away, found and fixed an electric line that had been crushed when someone shut a storage room door on it. That could have burned down our building, or worse. How can we replace this kind of resource? We cannot!

It's not just pediatric dentistry he supports. Advice and physical animal assistance to the local Humane Shelter. A new roof for an elderly woman without funds. Athletic equipment for the kids' games. Transportation. Coaching time and effort. Chad has made lives better for hundreds--yes, I can say thousands considering our clinic--and especially children where poverty is common.

In our conversations he has expressed sorrow and regret for the mistakes made, and certainty that it will never happen again. The lesson has been learned.

Our hope is that you will return him without incarceration, so he can use the good character that he possesses to continue to contribute to the good of all.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Butterworth, DDS

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August 12, 2013

The Honorable Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge O'Grady,

My name is Randy Stone. I am Vice President of a community bank called Grant County State Bank. My entire 27 year banking career has been spent in Grant County, Indiana. As a community banker it is common for us to become familiar and even share in the lives of our customers. I do rely heavily on my ability to judge a person's character in order to establish mutually beneficial banking relationships.

In the past 10 years I have had such a business relationship with Chad Dixon. This relationship has been profitable for the bank and has allowed Chad and his family to fulfill their dream of home ownership. Over this 10 year span I have come to see Chad as a family man who shares stories about his family with us at the bank. I have grown to trust that he will do what he says he will do as it pertains to banking. I can also assure you that he always shows respect and consideration for others including other customers that may be in the bank at the time.

It would come as a shock to me if the actions which he has pled guilty to were in fact done with the knowledge that he could face these consequences. I do understand that ignorance of the law is no defense, and apparently so does Chad as he has already pled guilty of these charges. However, knowing Chad as I have grown to over the years I would ask that leniency in sentencing be considered. This family would be greatly harmed should he be incarcerated and since he has stopped this line of work it would appear there is little to gain from a harsh sentence.

Thank you for accepting this letter on Chad's behalf and I would welcome any questions you may have. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Randy Stone

The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

Dear Honorable Judge O'Grady:

I would like to start off by thanking you for taking the time to read my letter. My name is Chanda Boyd and I have worked as an RN for the last 8 1/2 years. I am writing this letter in regards to Chad Dixon, and I would like to inform you of who he is and what he means to my family.

I have known Chad for what seems like forever. We went to school together our whole childhood. For the last four years he has been in a relationship with my sister to whom he's now engaged. They have two wonderful baby girls together, ages 3 and 8 months. Chad also has two children, ages 12 and 8, from a previous marriage who have become part of our family. My sister and these kids need Chad around for many reasons. He takes care of his family.

I have three kids of my own and they absolutely love Chad. He is a very kind, fun, and loving man. He would and does do anything for everyone. He has done a lot for my family from fixing my electrical box so my house wouldn't catch fire to helping my son with baseball to giving my dad work to do when he really needed it (when he lost his job of thirty years).

I truly believe that Chad regrets the decisions he made and I believe that he would never put himself into the same situation. Chad knows he needs to be home with his family and would never do anything to lose the opportunity to be with them.

Again, thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chanda Boyd".

Chanda Boyd

My name is JUSTEN SULLIVAN I have worked with Chad Dixon for about 3 years, but I have known Chad for 13 or 14 years he has been a family friend for years.

I am aware of Chad pleading guilty to the charges against him. Chad ~~is~~ is a great father to his kids and he is great with all the kids in baseball in witch he coaches every year.

I personally have recently recieved my kids in a custody battle, I would be financially crushed along with his family, Chad has giving me a better chance as he has for many I know, to live a better life for themselves and there families.

I Justen Sullivan and many others ~~we~~ would be greatly ~~appreciative~~ appreciative if we could keep Chad home.

~~Handwritten scribble~~

Sincerely,  
Justen Sullivan

Honorable Judge O'Grady

I am writing you on the behalf of Chad Dixon, My name is Craig Jones and I am a friend and Employee of Chad's. Chad has always been a Good Friend and Person in general; he is always willing to help anyone that is in need. He is an excellent little league Coach and his work with some of the children has been life changing for them.

For Chad to be involved in anything illegal is just unthinkable to me. As long as I have known Chad I have never known him to be anything but a good friend and loving and caring father to his children. Chad's devotion to his friends and family goes above and beyond anything that is to be expected from anyone who stays as busy as him with his company Expert Electric. Chad has always been one of the first people I call if I have a problem or just need advice. If I have a problem or need advice Chad is always happy to help out. No matter what the problem.

Chad's incarceration would cause undue hardship on me and my family due to the fact that I would loose my job and my three sons look up to Chad as a role model (for which I am proud). Chad also has three other employees who would experience the same hardships as I if Chad goes away. These are the things I would ask you to consider in the sentencing of Chad.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Craig T. Jones

The Honorable Judge Liam O'Grady  
United States District Judge  
401 Court House Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 8th 2013

Dear Liam O'Grady:

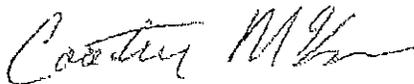
My name is Courtney Mckee. I have lived in Grant county my whole life. I have known Chads family my entire life. I used to work for Chads father and would help his older brother on some of his projects after Jims accident. Since 2006 I have worked solely for Chad at Exert Electric as a job foreman.

I can write to you about Chad until I am blue in the face. I don't really know enough about Chads case to comment but what I do know is this guy feeds my family. He pays my mortgage, and my electric bill. I have a 17 year old son that struggles with maturity issues. I have a wife who works as an x-ray technician. We cut it close on bills the way that it is. We were planning to purchase a new home. We have been saving for the last 6 years every penny we can spare. And then this situation hits us in the face. I don't want to find another job but Chad was more than honest with all of us when he explained his situation. I started looking 6 months ago. This area has been hit hard with factories closing left and right. The only places that are hiring are paying 10.00 dollars an hour and I just can not make ends meet with that wage. If chad goes to jail I don't know what me and Lori will do. We will be down and out for sure.

I will tell you that all of us was surprised when chad told us about this last year. The guys at the shop talked about it for weeks. It was definitely a scwing cirde for a while. Nobody could believe it. It didn't suit him. It didn't sound like him. We see him at work and with his kids. We see him and his son in the news paper for sports and see tons of kids out at his house all the time doing drills and practices in the side yard. This is the Chad that we know. The guy is on the go all the time. I know he is good to me and the other guys that work with him. During the slow months after he gets to his break even point he will give some jobs away at cost to keep us working. I have watched him 3 years ago wire an old ladies house for just the material costs and runs free service calls for the elderly. We all tell him that he is nuts. He covered my mortgage for a few months because I got buried in medical bills. He bailed me out until I got on my feet. Me and my family really need this guy here working.

I also have seen him change over the last year. He looks bad. He is not himself. We have had conversations in the truck between jobs and when the subject comes up you can see it in his face. I have heard him say it a hundred times in the last 12 months that he was so stupid for ever getting wrapped up in this. I think his ambitious nature got the best of him I think. I do ask that you let this guy come back to work. For me and the other guys if nothing else. Thanks for you time Judge.

Sincerely



Courtney Mckee

html

## McClatchy Washington Bureau

[Print This Article](#)

Posted on Fri, Aug. 16, 2013

### Seeing threats, feds target instructors of polygraph-beating methods

By Marisa Taylor and Cleve R. Wootson Jr. | McClatchy Washington Bureau

last updated: August 16, 2013 05:11:30 PM

WASHINGTON -- ]

Federal agents have launched a criminal investigation of instructors who claim they can teach job applicants how to pass lie detector tests as part of the Obama administration's unprecedented crackdown on security violators and leakers.

The criminal inquiry, which hasn't been acknowledged publicly, is aimed at discouraging criminals and spies from infiltrating the U.S. government by using the polygraph-beating techniques, which are said to include controlled breathing, muscle tensing, tongue biting and mental arithmetic.

So far, authorities have targeted at least two instructors, one of whom has pleaded guilty to federal charges, several people familiar with the investigation told McClatchy. Investigators confiscated business records from the two men, which included the names of as many as 5,000 people who'd sought polygraph-beating advice. U.S. agencies have determined that at least 20 of them applied for government and federal contracting jobs, and at least half of that group was hired, including by the National Security Agency.

By attempting to prosecute the instructors, federal officials are adopting a controversial legal stance that sharing such information should be treated as a crime and isn't protected under the First Amendment in some circumstances.

"Nothing like this has been done before," John Schwartz, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection official, said of the legal approach in a June speech to a professional polygraphers' conference in Charlotte, N.C., that a McClatchy reporter attended. "Most certainly our nation's security will be enhanced."

"There are a lot of bad people out there. . . . This will help us remove some of those pests from society," he added.

The undercover stings are being cited as the latest examples of the Obama administration's emphasis on rooting out "insider threats," a catchall phrase meant to describe employees who might become spies, leak to the news media, commit crimes or become corrupted in some way.

The federal government previously treated such instructors only as nuisances, partly because the polygraph-beating techniques are unproven. Instructors have openly advertised and discussed their techniques online, in books and on national television. As many as 30 people or businesses across the country claim in Web advertisements that they can teach someone how to beat a polygraph test, according to U.S. government estimates.

In the last year, authorities have launched stings targeting Doug Williams, a former Oklahoma City police polygrapher, and Chad Dixon, an Indiana man who's said to have been inspired by Williams' book on the techniques, people who are familiar with the investigation told McClatchy. Dixon has pleaded guilty to federal charges of obstructing an agency proceeding and wire fraud. Prosecutors have indicated that they plan to ask a federal judge to sentence Dixon to two years in prison. Williams declined to comment other than to say he's done nothing wrong.

While legal experts agree that authorities could pursue the prosecution, some accused the government of overreaching in the name of national security.

The federal government polygraphs about 70,000 people a year for security clearances and jobs, but most courts won't allow polygraph results to be submitted as evidence, citing the machines' unreliability. Scientists question whether polygraphers can identify liars by interpreting measurements of blood pressure, sweat activity and respiration. Researchers say the polygraph-beating techniques can't be detected with certainty, either.

Citing the scientific skepticism, one attorney compared the prosecution of polygraph instructors to indicting someone for practicing voodoo.

"If someone stabs a voodoo doll in the heart with a pin and the victim they intended to kill drops dead of a heart attack, are they guilty of murder?" asked Gene Iredale, a California attorney who often represents federal defendants. "What if the person who dropped dead believed in voodoo?"

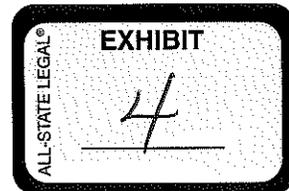
"These are the types of questions that are generally debated in law school, not inside a courtroom. The real question should be: Does the federal government want to use its resources to pursue this kind of case? I would argue it does not."

In his speech in June, Customs official Schwartz acknowledged that teaching the techniques \_ known in polygraph circles as "countermeasures" \_ isn't always illegal and might be protected under the First Amendment in some situations.

"I'm teaching about countermeasures right now. The polygraph schools are supposed to be teaching about countermeasures," he said. "So teaching about countermeasures in and of itself certainly is not only not illegal, it's protected. You have a right to free speech in this country."

But instructors may be prosecuted if they know that the people they're teaching plan to lie about crimes during federal polygraphs, he said.

In that scenario, prosecutors may pursue charges of false statements, wire fraud, obstructing an agency proceeding and "misprision of felony," which is defined as having knowledge of serious criminal conduct and attempting to conceal it.



attitudes, McClatchy reported in June. Broad definitions of insider threats also give agencies latitude to pursue and penalize a range of conduct other than leaking classified information, McClatchy found.

Customs, which polygraphs about 10,000 applicants a year, has documented more than 200 polygraph confessions of wrongdoing since Congress mandated that the agency's applicants undergo testing more than two years ago. Many of the applicants who confessed said they either were directly involved in drug or immigrant smuggling or were closely associated with traffickers.

Ten Customs applicants were accused of trying to use countermeasures to pass their polygraphs. All were denied jobs as part of Customs' crackdown on the methods, dubbed "Operation Lie Busters."

"Others involved in the conspiracy were successful infiltrators in other agencies," Customs said in a memo about the investigation.

Documents in Dixon's case are filed under seal in federal court, and prosecutors didn't return calls seeking comment.

Several people familiar with the investigation said Dixon and Williams had agreed to meet with undercover agents and teach them how to pass polygraph tests for a fee. The agents then posed as people connected to a drug trafficker and as a correctional officer who'd smuggled drugs into a jail and had received a sexual favor from an underage girl.

Dixon wouldn't say how much he was paid, but people familiar with countermeasures training said others generally charged \$1,000 for a one-on-one session.

Dixon, 34, also declined to provide specifics on his guilty plea but he said he'd become an instructor because he couldn't find work as an electrical contractor. During the investigation, his house went into foreclosure.

"My wife and I are terrified," he said. "I stumbled into this. I'm a Little League coach in Indiana. I don't have any law enforcement background."

Prosecutors plan to ask for prison time even though Dixon has agreed to cooperate, has no criminal record and has four young children. The maximum sentence for the two charges is 25 years in prison.

"The emotional and financial burden has been staggering," Dixon said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I somehow imagine I was committing a crime."

Williams, 67, has openly advertised his teachings for three decades, even discussing them in detail on "60 Minutes" and other national news programs. A self-professed "crusader" who's railed against the use of polygraph testing, he testified in congressional hearings that led to the 1988 banning of polygraph testing by most private employers.

Some opponents of polygraph testing, including a Wisconsin police chief, said they were concerned that the federal government also might be secretly investigating them, not for helping criminals to lie but for being critical of the government's polygraph programs. In his speech to the American Association of Police Polygraphists, Schwartz said he thought that those who "protest the loudest and the longest" against polygraph testing "are the ones that I believe we need to focus our attention on."

McClatchy contacted Schwartz about his speech, but he refused to comment.

Some federal officials questioned whether people who taught countermeasures should be prosecuted.

Although polygraphers, who are known as examiners, are trained to identify people who are using the techniques with special equipment, "there's absolutely nothing that's codified about countermeasures," said one federal security official with polygraph expertise, who asked not to be named for fear of being retaliated against. "It's the most ambiguous thing that people can debate. If you have a guy who's nervous about his test, the easiest way out of it for the examiner is to say it's countermeasures, when it's not."

The security official described Williams as a "gadfly" who's known for teaching ineffective methods. Polygraphers assert that one of Williams' signature techniques produces erratic respiration patterns on a polygraph test. Demonstrating their disdain for his methods, many polygraphers call the pattern the "Bart Simpson."

"Prosecutors are trying to make an example of him," the official said. "It serves to elevate polygraph to something it hasn't been before, that teaching countermeasures is akin to teaching bomb making, and that there's something inherently disloyal about disseminating this type of information."

Federal authorities, meanwhile, have concluded that some of the applicants who sought advice on countermeasures and were hired didn't use the training after all. The list of people who sought out Dixon and Williams mostly comprises people who bought books or videos but didn't hire the men for one-on-one training.

Charles Honts, a psychology professor at Boise State University, said laboratory studies he'd conducted showed that countermeasures could be taught in one-on-one sessions to about 25 percent of the people who were tested. Polygraphers have no reliable way to detect someone who's using the techniques, he said. In fact, he concluded that a significant number of people are wrongfully accused.

Honts, a former government polygraph researcher, attributed the criminal investigation to "a growing institutional paranoia in the federal government because they can't control all their secrets."

Russell Ehlers, a police chief in Wisconsin, said he wouldn't be surprised if federal authorities had scrutinized him. Schwartz cited an unnamed police chief in the Midwest who was "advertising on the Internet that he would like to teach people to pass the polygraph" as an example of someone who should be investigated. In the last several months, Ehlers said, he's noticed what appears to be Internet visitors from the Justice Department checking out his website that advises applicants on how to get a job at a police department.

In his off-duty hours, Ehlers sold a video that discussed countermeasures, but he said he'd recently stopped selling it as a precaution after hearing about the criminal investigation. He said he'd intended it to help "good" police officer candidates pass the test because he thought that innocent people were routinely accused of lying during polygraph tests.

"The criminalization of the imparting of information sets a pernicious precedent," he said. "It is fundamentally wrong, and bad public policy, for the government to resort to entrapment to silence speech that it does not approve of."

*Tish Wells contributed to this article.*

Wootson, who works for The Charlotte Observer, reported from Charlotte, N.C.