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August 27, 1998

Jeffrey Wilkof, Court Mediator
Stark County Common Pleas Court
Stark County Courthouse
Canton, OH 44702

Re: Bernard J. Johnson v. Dreston Professional Builders, et al.
Stark County Common Pleas Court
Case No: 1997 CV 01653

Dear Jeff:

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally commend you for the job that you did during the recent mediation in the above-captioned lawsuit. This was a very emotional and contentious lawsuit arising out of a business relationship, with accusations of misappropriating money. When I suggested that this case might be amenable to mediation, I was frankly very pessimistic that the case could be settled due to the emotions involved as well as the dollars. However, before embarking upon a very expensive trial with the accompanying anxiety and emotion, I felt that it was at least worth an effort to settle the case, even if that was highly questionable.

In all of the mediations in which I have participated, this may have been the best job of mediating that I have ever experienced. You were able to take a very complicated set of circumstances and quickly get to the nub of the problem. Your persistent efforts, skill and judgment resulted in a settlement of the case under circumstances which I would have thought were virtually impossible.

My clients were opposed to the mediation when it was suggested, but they walked out of the courthouse thoroughly satisfied that their case had been resolved, even though it meant that they had to pay the plaintiff some money. I am quite certain that they will express to you their feelings upon filling out the mediation questionnaire which will be sent to you in the next few days.

Jeffrey Wilkof, Court Mediator
August 27, 1998
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In conclusion, I would just like you and the Common Pleas Judges to know that this mediation program is certainly working, and a major reason for that is the work that is being done by both you and Joe Calabretta.

Thank you for a job well done.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RFD', written in a cursive style.

Ralph F. Dublikar

RFD/sjh

cc: Hon. John Haas
Hon. Sara Lioi
Hon. Richard Reinbold
Hon. Lee Sinclair
Hon. John Boggins