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Santa Cruz County*

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Public Defender

2103 North Pacific Avenue
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To whom it may concern:

My name is Douglas Fox and I have been a criminal defense attorney in Santa Cruz since 1991. I am honored to write a recommendation for Christopher Dort. He deserves the strongest recommendation that words can offer. Allow me to briefly describe how I came to know him both professionally and personally.

I have known Chris since he came to work as a certified law clerk in the summer of 1997. He was assigned the standard work of a law clerk: research, memo writing etc. At the time I was about to begin a homicide jury trial and had received excellent written work from Chris on other cases I was handling. This case was unusual because there was a twenty five year delay in its prosecution. I asked Chris if he were able to "second chair" the defense with me. He agreed and together we sat at counsel table and defended the accused, a pathetic old man in a wheelchair who, in a moment of passionate revenge, shot and killed another.

Chris was intimately involved throughout the six week trial, from the selection of the jury to the preparation of demonstrative aids for closing argument. I shudder to think of the experience if I could not have relied on someone of Chris' caliber and abilities. With his aid in the defense, the prosecution was unable to achieve a first degree murder conviction. In this case, a second degree murder conviction was indeed a victory. Due to the drastic changes in California sentencing laws in 1978, I assigned to Chris the project of preparing a memorandum in aid of sentencing. Thanks to Chris' in depth research I was far more prepared than the prosecutor and the client reaped those benefits in a very tangible way.

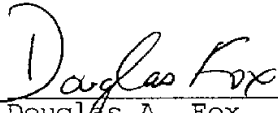
Last summer, Chris returned to Santa Cruz after finishing law school and the Bar exam. Rather than flit about Europe, Chris offered to second chair the new homicide trial that I had just begun. I gave him access to all the files, transcripts etc.; Chris was up to speed in no time. Once again, Chris' assistance was extremely valuable. Throughout the eight week trial, in the midst of intense media scrutiny, Chris maintained his composure and good spirits. The client was a desperate depressed young man but with Chris' presence he became more cheerful, more hopeful and I am grateful for Chris' involvement yet again.

Away from work, Chris and I became good friends despite the difference in age. He is an excellent athlete, whether the sport is basketball, tennis, football, softball, even rugby (at least until he got crunched one time too many.) He is the kind of person that puts others at their ease. While obviously more talented than most, he would never think to have a swelled head. He is truly an "all around good guy." He has taught me virtually all I know about computers; he was able to convey his knowledge to me, a former computer illiterate, in clear, simple and meaningful way. Moreover, in addition to his excellent written legal work and business skills, Chris possesses a certain charm and charisma that he carries effortlessly. He is truly a person without rancor, open to life and its possibilities. I look forward to watching him grow.

Of the many law clerks to have come around the office over the years, it is no exaggeration to state that Chris was the best. I have no reservations about offering Christopher Dort my highest recommendation. This hardworking and talented young man can handle anything that comes his way. I am confident that he will be an asset to your firm.

Please call if you have any questions regarding my sincere recommendation of Christopher Dort.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Fox
Attorney at Law