

July 10, 2000

Hon. Helen Edgrington, Chair
La. Attorney Disciplinary Board
c/o Unglesby & Koch
246 Napoleon St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Subject: **Mr. Larry Bankston**
Law License Review

Dear Mrs. Edgrington, members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our personal support for Mr. Bankston in his quest to lift the suspension of his Law license. Our family has known Larry for many years and have the utmost respect for him as a State Senator, attorney and as a person. He is a man in our opinion who has many fine qualities, and one who should be able to practice his chosen profession.

As friends and interested bystanders, we followed the trial closely; needless to say, we were dumbfounded at the result. There appeared to be so many mitigating circumstances, nebulous charges, innuendo from personal phone conversations that it did not seem possible that Larry would be convicted. It was a miscarriage of justice and one we hoped would be reversed on appeal. There appeared to be no proof that Larry enjoyed any real personal gain or misused the trust of his office. In our opinion, he was found guilty of being a politician who listened to all sides, and one who supported legalized gambling - not always a popular choice. We know the extremely harsh conviction has been devastating on Larry and his family. He has been severely punished. The least one can do is consider the great person we know, let him make a living in the legal profession. and give him the benefit of the doubt.

We have never written a letter of support on behalf of someone. Since Larry is special to his friends and family, we gladly support his effort to return to the practice of Law. We know Larry will serve his profession in an honest and trustful manner, upholding the high standard of ethics the public expects from practicing attorneys.

Sincerely,



Mitchell A. Wood RA EIT
Principal

cc: George Bayhi.
Larry S. Bankston



Simon Pham
Associate

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