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January 3, 2005

Judge Richard Knepper
Sixth District Court of Appeals
1 Constitution Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43624

RE: Recent Mediation

Dear Judge Knepper:

On behalf of our client, I wish to personally thank you for the extraordinary efforts you put forward to help us resolve this complicated medical negligence case. Mediation is truly an art which requires an individual with the experience and strength to ensure both parties take the necessary steps to achieve a reasonable resolution. Through the mediation process, you exemplified all of these characteristics in what was a particularly unusual mediation.

Every case has its own unique nuances, and your ability to understand the facts and insurance issues kept this process moving forward. I have had the privilege of working with several mediators during my career, and you are starting your career as a mediator already amongst the best. I feel that a judge is critical in the mediation process because of the trust and strength you convey to both Plaintiffs and Defendants when providing advice.

I wish to personally thank you for working with us that day and volunteering to assist us with some of the details that were still left to be handled at the conclusion. I look forward to working with you again in the future as a mediator, and will obviously recommend you whenever I have the chance. Your loss to the legal community as a judge with your upcoming retirement from the bench will be a gain for us all as it pertains to mediation and resolution of claims.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,


James M. Kelley, III

JMK/tmm