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Dear Judge Lasker,

I am writing you on behalf of my friend Ivan Boesky in the hope that a few words about him from someone who has known him well for twenty years may lead to some mitigation of the severity of his sentence.

I first met Ivan and his lovely wife Seema rather casually as friends of my young niece. It was only when my niece died tragically before her thirtieth birthday, and Ivan spoke at her funeral, that I was able to take his measure as a person. He spoke with such warmth, sincerity--yes, and wisdom, that it was obvious he was a man to be respected and admired.

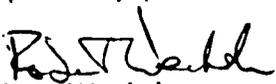
Over the years my wife and I became good friends of the Boesky's, often exchanging visits in one another's homes. I had occasion to observe the depth and breadth of Ivan's charitable activities, his love of and active interest in the arts, and, most particularly, his warm relationship with his wife and children--and I was (and am) proud to call him my friend. Not incidentally, my last visit to the Boesky home before their time of troubles began, was at a meeting of their friends called by them to raise funds to insure that Shoah, the brilliant film about the holocaust, received the widest possible dissemination.

I knew Ivan as an enormously competitive man, an incredibly intense man, constantly striving for ever greater success in the hyperactive wall street environment he inhabited--and it was this dimension of his character which led him to make the grievous mistakes which he did. Some elements in the media have portrayed him as a monstrous personification of greed. This is cruelly unfair, and these attacks have already imposed on him a harsh extra-judicial punishment. Ivan is a multifaceted, complex person, obviously capable of doing wrong, but much more than equally oriented to doing good.

I hope that the very real and dominant good facet of Ivan's character--as well as the pain he has already suffered--will be considered when it is time to decide his punishment.

His fall has elements of real tragedy, and this past year has tempered his character. I truly believe that his priorities are now much better ordered, and that he views life from a new and vastly more profound perspective.

Respectfully yours,

  
Robert Wechsler