



NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

October 6, 1987

Honorable Morris E. Lasker  
U.S District Court  
Southern District of New York  
U. S. Court House  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Lasker,

It may seem an impossible task in light of all that has happened to Ivan Boesky to write him a character recommendation, but frankly I do not find it difficult. I write this letter of my own free will and not out of any feeling of obligation. I owe Mr. Boesky nothing. I am not an investor and therefore never personally played a part in his investment operations.

I know Ivan Boesky as a former Trustee of the New York Shakespeare Festival. I am the President of this organization, which is chartered by the State Education Department as a not-for-profit cultural institution. He was a hard working Board Member and I appreciated his attendance at meetings, where his business acumen proved useful. During the period of his service on the Board I got to know him, having visited his home in Bedford, New York. My wife Gail and I got to know his wife, Seema, and his sons. We liked the family and enjoyed their company and their guests.

During his tenure as Trustee, Mr. Boesky made two contributions: the first, \$138,000, covered the cost of producing an album of THE HUMAN COMEDY, one of our musical productions. The other, \$100,000, was given for a Shakespeare program on Broadway for the city schools system. In both instances, Mr. Boesky responded to my call for help without hesitation. I appreciate that, because it was not a common experience.

As for Ivan Boesky's character, I can only give my impressions. He is not an unfeeling person. He is a man with a great deal of curiosity about many things, the theater in particular. He is generous, a good listener and easily moved to laughter. As Marc Antony found Caesar, I found Boesky faithful and just in his dealings with me. He kept his word and followed through on his promises.

If my opinion has any value at this critical time, it is that Boesky has paid a stiff price for his actions. Shunned by former friends, prohibited from engaging in the theater of operations where he was once the kingpin, having to face his wife and children with a bleak future for them and for him, I think he has gotten his punishment. While some may argue that incarcerating this man would serve as a deterrent to other malefactors, to me, this is the creation of a token and does not serve the true interests of justice. He has cooperated, he has shown remorse, he has returned the largest part of his ill-gotten gains, he has learned his lesson. I hope and trust that mercy will be shown to Ivan Boesky and his unfortunate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. ...". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font with a large initial "J".