

Larry Wright

Judge Reggie B. Walton, United States District Judge
for the District of Columbia
c/o Kathleen E. Voelker, Attorney at Law
1776 K Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

Date: December 26, 2008

Dear Honorable Judge Walton,

I have known Felipe and Laura Sixto and their family for the past twelve (12) years. I have been and currently am a business owner in the Florida Keys for the past twelve (12) years. I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce and am a member of the First Baptist Church of Big Pine and have been for some time. I watched Felipe and Laura grow and mature into young adults and parents with the guidance of their parents who have high values, a high standard of morals, and a close relationship with family and friends.

Since I have known Felipe he always had a job, went to school (high school and then college), maintained his relationship with Laura, first as his girlfriend, then his wife, and maintained close family ties,

Felipe has worked and helped me in my business in the many years that I have known him without want or care for compensation, but just to help in a time of need when we did not have anyone available. Felipe was always there. In the scuba diving industry, Felipe had very important responsibilities that dealt with the lives of divers and snorkelers. Felipe always prepared himself to be ready to respond to his duties on the vessel. Felipe was generous with his time, courteous with the passengers, personable and caring for their safety and the success of the excursions.

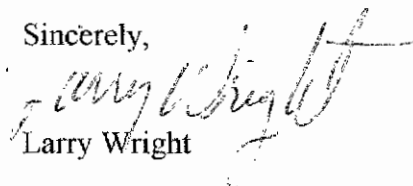
Felipe also worked in the shop for us. He handled many financial transactions, cash, credit card, etc. I fully trust Felipe with anything, financial or otherwise. I do not know much about what he is charged with, but I do know that there must be some very unusual circumstances for him to be in this situation. It goes totally against his very nature. I was flabbergasted to hear he was in such trouble and still can not reconcile that with Felipe as a person. He is not a conniving, deceiving person, so I totally believe that there is much more that I do not know that put him in this situation. I do not say this lightly.

Felipe throughout the years enrolled in many diving certification courses through our dive shop. Felipe took all of the PADI recreational dive courses up through dive master, and in addition, went on to take several courses in the technical diving realm. The PADI Divemaster course requires extremely high levels of leadership, supervision, water skills, and interaction with students and instructors, which are based on the highest standards in the dive industry. He passed with some of the highest grades in all areas tested. I consider him to be one of the best students that I have ever trained. I have over 3,000 certifications and have been an instructor for 14 years. I would recommend Felipe at the highest level for in water skills, interaction with people, caring, technical knowledge, and overall ability. In addition, the technical diving courses he took requires extreme attention to detail, a much higher and detailed academic knowledge, practice of a higher level of water skills, communication under and above water, planning dives, planning for possible unforeseen problems underwater. Felipe mastered all of the requirements which show his dedication, perseverance, communication abilities, and concern for himself and others.

Felipe has always been extremely caring, a good husband, father, and provider. In the past several years, Laura has become ill and Felipe has had to assume the role of sole provider for his family. I have known Laura and Felipe prior to Laura's illness and Felipe has never waivered in his loyalty, love, and devotion to his family. Laura has had bouts of being extremely ill and Felipe has assumed all of the roles necessary to maintain his household, including taking care of his son, his wife, providing for their daily needs, and providing an income so they can survive. At the times of Laura's illness, she would not be able to support herself and their son on her own. Felipe is critical to this family unit now and in the future.

In closing, I would like to say that I, Larry Wright, completely trust and believe in Felipe Sixto as not only a friend, but a person of extremely high morals, character and standards. I have and would again put my life on the line with Felipe as my dive partner and life support back up in extreme situations where the metal meets the meat, where there is no room for hesitation, miscalculation, inability to perform, or misjudgment. Please know that for all I have written here, there is much more. If your Honor is not a scuba diver, I would like to make one more extremely important point. When diving in technical and extreme situations and when instructing students in these same situations, you get to know more about them, sometimes, than they know about themselves. Someone's integrity and who they really are shows very clearly in a life and death situation, such as deep underwater. I have personally been in a situation where someone has lost their life and personally know how individuals can react. Some run for their own life, others, the true "partner" stays and does everything they can, including putting their own life on the line. Felipe is of the later category, in all ways. I hope that your honor can see through these words that my friend Felipe Sixto is a very special person in the lives of the people who surround him.

Sincerely,



Larry Wright