

November 30, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Brett Weber and I live in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I am a person who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997. I am now totally paralyzed, and just lost the use of my hands this year. I am writing to you, Mr. President, to bring to your attention an outstanding candidate for Federal Judge and to ask that you consider appointing my dear friend Ms. Christine Sanner Esq. to the newly available position of Federal Judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The position was previously held by Judge Thomas Golden. I found out about the position becoming vacant from a legal friend of mine. Ms. Christine Sanner does not know that I am writing to you. She is an Assistant US Attorney working out of Erie, Pennsylvania. I felt that I had to write to you, and to at least tell you that Ms. Sanner is a person of the highest character and integrity. Ms. Sanner has all the character and integrity that one would expect to find in a Federal Judge. I know you will consider what I am saying to you!

You have suggested in a speech I was recently reading about that the standard for a results-oriented judge is empathy: "a standard where 'legal process alone' is deemed insufficient to decide the so-called 'hard cases;' a standard where the 'critical ingredient is supplied by what is in the judge's heart.'" I can tell you Mr. President, Ms. Sanner has an abundance of heart! You have suggested too that judges should have "a keen understanding of how the law affects the daily lives of the American people [and] know that in a democracy, powerful interests must not be allowed to drown out the voices of ordinary citizens." Mr. President, Ms. Sanner has been this citizens legal champion and friend for over 13 years since my MS diagnosis. I would not be where I am without her.

I see the world through the eyes of a very sick disabled person Mr. President. I have had my picture on the NASDAQ building in New York City as one of the faces the National MS Society used in their campaign to bring greater public awareness to multiple sclerosis. I have worked in other ways too. Until recently because of my illness, I was teaching a creative art therapy class at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania. We call it our Broken Art Creativity Class! Obviously, I have used quite a bit of creativity in my Christmas card that I am sending you with this letter, in hopes that you will take notice and consider what I am telling you about Ms. Sanner.

I earned my PhD in Neuroscience from Temple University where I met Christine Sanner. You may certainly read my entire Christmas card, but I would ask that you read page four where I tell the story of meeting Ms. Sanner. My multiple sclerosis has forced me to change direction. Obviously, I am working as an artist, and not a scientist now. It looks like God may be asking me to change direction again. A person has to be very creative to be a visual artist without the use of his hands, Mr. President. However, I can type this letter to you easily using my Dragon NaturallySpeaking software. So, maybe God is asking me to become a writer now. I don't know!

Ms. Sanner graduated summa cum laude from Temple University. She has clerked with two federal judges, Judge Lewis Bechtel and Judge Morton Greenberg both of whom hold her in very high esteem. I had only ever seen Ms. Sanner perform in a trial setting while she was still a student in law school. I watched her perform in Moot Court at City Hall in Philadelphia where she won much acclaim for her closing argument. There was so much emotion and power in her closing argument, Mr. President.

Everyone was completely shocked that this was only a Law School student, and not a legal professional! Ms. Sanner holds an MFA in Theatre from Gannon University. She was a Shakespearean actress before she came to Law School where I had the good fortune of meeting her. I include my Christmas card letter this year with your letter in order that you might read about how I came to meet Ms. Sanner, and why I hold her in such high esteem.

My Christmas card letter is not the kind of letter I imagine sending to the President of the United States, but it is the kind of letter I have decided to send to all of my friends asking them to support me in asking you to appoint Ms. Christine Sanner as a Federal Judge of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Sanner has more character and integrity than anyone I have ever met outside of my own family. Our first conversation was me asking her who she thought the "BEST PERSON" in Shakespeare's plays was. She answered she felt that it was Cordelia from the play King Lear. Mr. President, my friend embodies Cordelia. She is the best person I know outside of my own mother, father, and sister!

Everything we do in life may never be of significance, but it is important that we NEVER stop trying. I hope this letter is significant to you! God bless you Mr. President. I hope you enjoy Sarah's music CD I am including with this year's Christmas card. She is an amazing artist who has cerebral palsy and cannot speak, but she writes **her own** music and beautiful lyrics to her songs. Nothing we attempt to do with all our heart is ever insignificant. I realize that I am very early for the holiday, but I wanted to get this letter out to you as soon as possible. Merry Christmas, Mr. President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett C. Weber, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett C. Weber, PhD

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