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GOVERNOR

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November 17, 2009

Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities

%William C. Brennan, Jr., Esquire
6305 Ivy Lane, Suite 700
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-6303

Re: Honorable Robert C. Nalley

I am privileged to write on behalf of the Honorable Robert C. Nalley. He is, beyond a doubt, an excellent judge and a credit to the Maryland bench. I have been appearing before Judge Nalley for many years as both a District Court and Circuit Judge. Rarely has he ruled in my clients' favor. But never has he been unfair, injudicious or unreasonable. He has always been gentlemanly with me and all of the attorneys with whom I have been associated. No one can justifiably criticize his knowledge of the law and legal procedure. And, he applies both even-handedly. I never have any trepidation about appearing before him. While he may be a "heavy" sentencing judge, he is not an unduly harsh sentencing judge.

Judge Nalley's contributions to the court system in Charles County over his many years on the bench are immeasurable. Particularly noteworthy is his establishment and administration of the Juvenile Drug Court. Without Judge Nalley, our juvenile drug court would have been stillborn. Today, it can treat up to 25 youths and is a model for other counties. Judge Nalley works long and hard hours to make the court system in Charles County function as well as it does. Additionally, he is active in many community organizations and projects, engaging in an exceptional amount of community service.

Judge Nalley made a mistake – a stupid, silly mistake. Because of who he is, his misbehavior made news. From immediately after his minor errant but deplorable act, Judge Nalley acknowledged the wrongfulness of what he did and was ashamed of himself. However, his one-time lapse in good judgment should not result in the deprivation of his services to Charles County and the State of Maryland. He has suffered much shame, embarrassment and humiliation as a result of his misbehavior. He has borne those as a gentleman and with dignity. And he has never made light of what he did. His remorseful conscience has already severely punished him. The result of all of this is that Charles

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County now has an experienced jurist who understands life and the errors made by those around us. If the Commission believes that further punishment is warranted, I believe a reprimand would be sufficient for the community and for Judge Nalley.

Should the Commission wish further information from me, I would be honored to appear and provide oral testimony on behalf of Judge Nalley.

Very truly yours,

William F. Renahan
Supervising Attorney
For Charles County
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