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Judge Paul DeFonzo
United States Immigration Court
1000 Second Avenue, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Judge DeFonzo:

My name is Daryl Rodrigues, I am a member of the Washington State Bar Association, Vice-Chair of the WSBA Council on Public Defense and immediate past president of the Washington Defender Association. I write to you as a citizen, an immigrant, a lawyer and as a member of the Olympia community on behalf of Muhammad Zahid Choudhry.

I have known Mr. Choudhry for a little more than 4 years, since I was appointed Chief Defender for Thurston County where I served from March 2013 to March 2017. When I came to the community myself I was intent on reaching out to find allies, people concerned with civil rights, social justice and community building. I needed community allies to help me improve the lot of people in my community touched by the criminal justice system. This is how I met Muhammad Zahid Choudhry and his wife Ann Choudhry.

Zahid and Ann were founders of a local group called Justice Not Jails. A group which for the past 4 years worked tirelessly to support my work in easing jail and prison reentry and in creating diversion programming and other alternatives to incarceration. Both Zahid and Ann have been stalwart members of this group and participants in this effort. As an example, in 2016 I hosted a clothing drive to collect, clean, sort and organize outfits for people too poor to afford appropriate court attire for their hearings and trials. Both assisted in organizing, promoting, and in the drive itself – afterwards Zahid, Ann and a group of other volunteers installed clothes rails and shelving in the public defender office to support

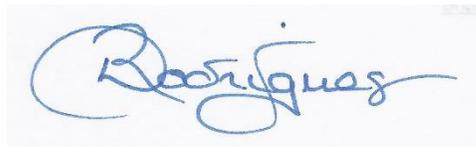
this effort.

Mr. Choudhry and his spouse are always side by side and it has been clear to me over the past several years that they love and support each other. I worry for her emotional wellbeing if she were to be forced to separate from him, similarly I suspect that his removal from the U.S. would be tantamount to also removing Ann as I have no doubt she will not elect to remain without him.

In each dealing, in every interaction I have found Muhammad Zahid Choudhry to be, faithful, sincere, compassionate, generous and peaceful. I have watched him donate countless hours to volunteering in my community and his efforts through Justice not Jails has helped many poor people in this community accused of crimes. I also observe that in every situation in which I encounter Zahid and Ann, whether the setting be a meeting a campaign event, a learning opportunity or a social event, they are known and warmly received – their sphere of warmth and helping spirit draws people to them and invites reciprocation.

Please accept his letter as evidence that I fully support both Muhammad Zahid Choudhry and his wife Ann, that I appreciate, value and benefit from their presence in my community and that I want Muhammad Zahid Choudhry to join me as a naturalized citizen of this great nation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daryl A. Rodrigues
WSBA No. 24127

“The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice”. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington, D.C. 1968.