

Dear Judge De Fonzo,

I would like to provide a personal reference for Mr. Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry .

Several years ago, I was in the midst of a personal crisis after sustaining a brain injury and Zahid helped me by showing up personally at my house to encourage me and talk to me. He referred people to me to help empty my home in an estate sale before I faced foreclosure. I owe him and his wife a large debt of gratitude for their trustworthiness, kindness and support at that time.

If you meet Mr. Chaudhry in person, you'll see that he uses a wheelchair. He still tirelessly gets around helping others. He has a bright, kind attitude, and shares resources with his neighbors and his community. He and his wife Ann, are some of the best people I know.

I wasn't surprised when I found out later that Mr. Chaudhry had served as a mental health specialist in the US national guard. As sometimes happens after a illness, I got insight into how to help others as Mr. Chaudhry helped me at that time. I regained my previous level of functioning and now work in an outpatient mental health setting here in New York with people with brain injury as well as veterans who have suffered physical and emotional trauma on the battlefield.

In this time of fear, and uncertainty when people's emotions are polarized, Mr. Chaudhry really sets an example on how to be an American. Not only do I welcome him as a fellow American by choice, I really think that he has the potential to serve others here, and to set an example, if he is given the chance to stay. I have watched him endure the rigors of US legal system for almost ten years now, with patience and good humor. It is almost difficult to believe the trials that he and Ann have met with equanimity and resolve. I question how things became so convoluted that he, after serving this country so much, would not be allowed to stay here as a naturalized American citizen.

Dear Judge, I hope you will have a look at the evidence placed before you and consider Mr Chaudhry's exemplary character when making your decision about his right to citizenship.

Sincerely,  
Heather Duke  
Biofeedback clinician, Stone Mountain Counseling Center  
New Paltz, NY