

Abbey Wilson  
1111 Bel Air Place  
Bel Air, CA 90077

August 19, 2013

Dear Judge Newman,

My name is Abbey Wilson. I have been the girlfriend of Joe Francis for the last 5 years. Prior to that time, I knew Mr. Francis socially and had an opportunity to see him on many occasions.

I knew Joe was going to trial for the charges brought against him, by the three young ladies that testified in your Court Room.

I also was aware of the circumstances leading up to the event, for which he now stands convicted. To suggest I was surprised at the result would be an understatement.

While I realize we all must respect the outcome of a jury trial, I can honestly say I could not disagree with the same more. I also think it is important I convey my thoughts concerning Mr. Francis because at this point, you have the most difficult job of sentencing him. Please remember that you are sentencing an innocent man.

Throughout the entire period of time I have known Mr. Francis, I have found him to be kind, compassionate and generous. He has always been kind to strangers and generous with his friends.

This is displayed by his willingness to invite what amounts to total strangers to his house, to continue socializing and have a good time.

I have often wondered why Joe would trust his house to people he did not know, but I have been advised on numerous occasions Joe feels people are essentially good people and he enjoys the opportunity to meet and socialize with new individuals.

It does not come as surprise to me he invited several groups of people to his home on the evening this occurred. This is truly who Joe Francis is. He does not discriminate between sex, race, color or creed.

For that matter, Joe does not discriminate as it concerns those with a different sexual orientation, such as gay's and/or lesbians. Joe has been a staunch advocate for the downtrodden and the under privileged the entire time I have known him. He has taught me to be a better and more tolerant person and respect and love everyone no matter what.

I have never known him to suggest anyone should be treated unfairly or harshly. As a matter of fact, I have known Joe to preach to others how it is necessary to open your mind to different thoughts and different philosophy's.

He is truly a genuine, sincere person. More importantly, he is a kind person. I have seen him do things for people when he has not even been asked to help. I have seen him give people things in their time of need to assist them so as to once again hopefully resurrect their lives and/or careers.

I have seen him give people second, third and fourth chances in hopes they can "finally pull it together" and make a success of their efforts.

I realize Joe has a public persona and I know some people get lost in their perception of a public persona as being the person. It truly is not the case. Joe also has been in the media for decades and because of that, people have formed an opinion of who they think he is. In most cases, it could not be ~~further from the truth.~~

Joe has matured and managed to find middle ground between youth and middle-age. He not only respects the rights of others, but he demands those around him also respect the rights of others to disagree and be different.

It is hard for me to believe Joe would ever purposefully detain anyone or prevent anyone from doing what they want to do. He has spent a lifetime being told by others that he can't do what he wanted to do, whether it be media projects or other endeavors.

He truly resents those that try to restrict the freedoms of others. If you suggested to me Joe would in some way restrict the freedom of the three young ladies who came to visit on that night, I would find the same situation to be laughable in its context. It would never happen.

I realize how I feel does not control how the jury voted. I do think it is important you have a perspective of Joe that is different than simply that of a person convicted of a crime. I also know Joe abhors violence. He has never been a violent individual and I have seen him in situations on numerous occasions where certainly violent outbreaks could have occurred. I have never seen Joe be violent nor has he ever been violent or ever aggressive to me in 5 years.

Unfortunately because of Joe's public persona, he does have somewhat of a target on his back. As such, people react to him as though they know who he is when in fact they do not. They see him far differently than who he is and far differently than the person I know.

I offer my opinions based upon years of experience, not only as his girlfriend but before that time as well. I am in the unique position of having seeing him at his best and at his worst. Even at his worst, I have never seen him be cruel or unkind.

I have seen him be frustrated to the point of not knowing what to do, and speak in a spontaneous fashion that in some cases causes him a great deal of damage. These are only words.

I am hopeful you will realize the person you are sentencing is truly a decent human being. He is clearly caught up in something in my opinion not of his character nor of his habit.

I am hopeful at the time you sentence Joe, you will take into consideration the many good deeds he has performed and all of those whom he has assisted.

Joe has made a significant difference in the lives of too many people to even mention. It has always been a difference for the better. He has given people chances when no one else would, simply because that is exactly what he values.

On a very personal note, I have battled an eating disorder for over 13 years. I hid this from Joe the first year we were together. Since knowing, Joe has gone above and beyond for me like no other person in my life. From the medical help that I needed, studying and learning about my disorder, to being a best friend and boyfriend for emotional support. This man saved my life as I know he would do the same for anyone.

I am hopeful you will show leniency to Joe. Certainly, I cannot say I am perfect. I ask only that you balance who Joe really is and the good he has accomplished against those charges for which he stands convicted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abbey Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Abbey Wilson