



LSU EYE CENTER

January 22, 1996

The Honorable Dennis J. Waldron
Criminal District Court
Section F
2700 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear Judge Waldron,

I am writing to you about Dr. Christopher Nabors for your consideration at the time of sentencing. I have known Chris since 1989 when he and my son, Donald Jr., started Medical School together at LSU. Chris was enrolled in a special, long and highly challenging academic program following graduation from dental school which would lead to M.D. and Ph.D. degrees and clinical residency training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This program at LSU is one of five in the country designed by the National Institutes of Health to produce the leaders in that field for the next generation. By comparison, in eighteen years as a Chairman and Professor of Ophthalmology, I have trained over 150 ophthalmologists and only one of these has reached the level of training involved in Dr. Nabors' program.

Over the years I came to know Chris personally as well as academically. He played basketball with my son on medical school and church league teams. He is a good athlete who plays hard to win but never demonstrated any animosity towards other players or officials. In fact, he always seemed calm, self contained, even stoic in the face of adverse calls or messed-up plays.

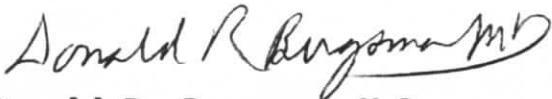
Chris became a friend of the family and was a member of my son's wedding party. Therefore, it was natural that I would talk to him and check on his progress over the years at the Medical Center. It came as a terrible shock when on the last day of his rotation on ophthalmology we heard of the tragic accident in which a lovely young woman lost her life and Chris escaped miraculously but overwhelmed with grief and indeed changed for life. I am sure that those who had direct contact with him during that immediate period will relate to you their observations of which I am aware.

RE: Dr. Christopher Nabors
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In time Chris resumed his patient care duties and studies at the Medical Center. I spoke with him on several occasions, at first just to express my sympathy over what had happened and to encourage him to carry on in the face of his emotional burden. Later I had a more extensive conversation with him. Clearly he is now a more somber person who carries deep and heartfelt regret for what happened but can not be changed. One can only hope that a tragic mistake that has already claimed one young life does not destroy the great clinical and scientific abilities of a young man who has studied and worked harder and achieved more than most and has much to offer the world.

Thank you for taking my observations and perspective into consideration when making your momentous decisions about Dr. Christopher Nabors. Both his future and that of the sick patients whom he can help in a unique way are at stake.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald R. Bergsma MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Donald R. Bergsma, M.D.
Professor of Ophthalmology
Director, Lions Eye Service
Director, Ophthalmology Residency
Program
DRB/jlj