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February 4, 2010

RE: Reference for Barton Hermer

To Whom It May Concern:

As Bart Hermer's Rabbi in New York City, it is my pleasure and honor to write a reference on his behalf.

I have known Mr. Hermer for close to 10 years. During his time in New York, he regularly attends our Shabbat services at Manhattan Jewish Experience nearly every Shabbat. Bart had also regularly attended weekly Torah classes taught by myself and other Rabbi's on our staff. He has always been a very passionate student with a burning desire to grow spiritually and to forge a relationship between G-d and his fellow man.

We have recently learned of the abduction of Bart's daughter. I feel compelled to speak up regarding this matter. He is a very special, kind and loving man. I know he has prayed for a long time to have a family.

Before getting married, Bart and his fiancé Simmone Cohen approached me regarding proper guidance on how to immigrate to the United States. I referred them to my father; an Immigration attorney in New York who agreed to help them.

It is our hope that your court will ensure her safe return to her home and to a life with her very special father.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Mark Wildes