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June 6, 2006

Filed Electronically
By Hand to Chambers

Honorable I. Leo Glasser
Senior U.S. District Court Judge
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: U.S. v. Byungki Koo
04 CR 87 S-3 (ILG)

Dear Judge Glasser:

Our law firm represents Byungki Koo. The following is submitted on behalf of Mr. Koo who will appear before you on June 13, 2006, for imposition of sentence. On July 6, 2005, Mr. Koo entered a plea of guilty pursuant to a cooperation agreement to a Superseding Information which charged one count of aiding and abetting in the deprivation of rights and privileges of another in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 242 and 2. The Information relates to Mr. Koo having attended meetings in the period around November 2003 during which he translated conversations involving defendants Nisim Yushuvayev, Wun Hee Kang and Hyan Goo Kang. The conversations concerned the involuntary and unlawful deportation of the two cooperating witnesses in this case. However, Mr. Koo's involvement did not extend

beyond those acts of translation and, in fact, it is undisputed that he specifically disavowed any participation in the planned deportations.

As fully discussed below, Mr. Koo cooperated with the government in its prosecution of the other defendants in this matter. Significantly, the discussions that culminated in his cooperation were initiated shortly after his indictment and culminated with his preparation for trial testimony. For this, Mr. Koo is the beneficiary of a letter from the government pursuant to the U.S.S.G. Section 5K1.1.

We urge the Court to depart downward from the applicable advisory sentencing guideline of 31, Criminal History Category I, and impose a lenient sentence. Such a downward departure is warranted based upon Mr. Koo's substantial assistance to the government. Moreover, in light of the facts presented with respect to Mr. Koo's conduct, a guideline level of 31, with its life crushing term of imprisonment, is grossly disproportionate to his criminal culpability. In addition, his conduct was such that the four level reduction afforded him for minimal participation does not adequately adjust for that minimal role and a greater departure is warranted. Finally, Mr. Koo's family circumstances, particularly his responsibility for his infirm mother and young children, justify a further departure for extraordinary family circumstances.

Mr. Koo's Cooperation

Although we expect that the government's 5K1.1 letter will detail Mr. Koo's substantial assistance in the prosecution of this matter, nevertheless we believe it is important to highlight his cooperation.

We begin with the central proposition that Mr. Koo accepts full responsibility for his conduct as there can be no greater acceptance of responsibility than pleading guilty to a very serious crime. However, the Court should not visit the multiple sins of the Kang family defendants, Hyan Goo Kang and Nisim Yushavayev upon Mr. Koo. Rather, the translation of conversations by Mr. Koo followed by his refusal to participate in the scheme, although criminally facilitating, amounts to minor participation and certainly does not rival the conduct of the other defendants. Significantly, the presentence report devotes thirty-eight paragraphs over fifteen pages to the description of the offense and the conduct of the other defendants while Mr. Koo is mentioned only in paragraph 21.

Mr. Koo surrendered and was arraigned on January 11, 2005. He retained our law firm on February 3, 2005. After preliminary discussions with the government, Mr. Koo attended his first proffer session on March 11, 2005. Thus, Mr. Koo began his cooperation exactly two months following his arrest and a mere five weeks after having retained counsel in whom he placed his confidence.

At the conclusion of the first proffer session during which Mr. Koo described the events leading up to the meetings in question and the meetings themselves, the assigned Assistant United States Attorney, Lee J. Freedman, described the meeting as a "very good start". The next meeting, on April 1, 2005, began with a similar comment as Mr. Freedman, who apparently consulted other witnesses and evidence in the interim, observed that Mr. Koo had been very forthcoming during the

first session. The second session was followed by a third on May 12, 2005. After the third meeting, Mr. Koo began to attend meeting without counsel and, in all, met with the government trial team on three more occasions. He reached the trial preparation stage when the remaining defendants entered guilty pleas. Thus, the time and energy Mr. Koo devoted to the government is noteworthy. He attended every session the government required, six in all, and otherwise did everything that was asked of him.

The Presentence Report

The presentence report contains several important observations concerning Mr. Koo and the facts of this matter. First of all, the report states at paragraph 130: "It appears that the defendant's involvement in the instant offense may be considered aberrant behavior". A truer statement never was uttered. As the report amply demonstrates, Mr. Koo worked very hard to achieve a high level of education, a solid employment history and a stable family life. Even when his career with the federal government was extinguished by his own doing, a significant punishment in and of itself, he persevered and found employment in the important field of assisting vulnerable senior citizens. Thus, Mr. Koo's foolish decision to aid his friend, Nisim Yushavayev, only can be characterized as aberrant, was mitigated by his hasty withdrawal from the plan and never shall be repeated.

Second, the report indicates, at paragraph 23 and 25, that _____ an employee of the Renaissance Bar, acted as a translator for Nisim Yushvayev when he attempted to abduct the first cooperating witness. In spite of the similarity in conduct,

_____ has not been prosecuted for her translation services, while Mr. Koo now stands convicted for translating for Mr. Yushavayev. The distinction between the status of Mr. Koo and _____ is relevant to the issues of disparity of treatment of similarly situated individuals and the disproportionate penalty imposed by the guideline level applicable to Mr. Koo's case when weighed against his culpable conduct. In determining the particular sentence to be imposed, the Court shall consider "[t]he need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct". 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(6). Although _____ is not a defendant and we do not pretend to know the circumstances surrounding her involvement in this matter, according to the presentence report, she provided translation services during a critical phase of the scheme. As a result, we request that the Court consider these factors in arriving at an appropriate sentence for Mr. Koo.

Third, as we are sure the Court is aware, the Sentencing Guidelines permit the Court to impose a sentence outside the range established by the applicable guidelines upon a finding of a factor not adequately considered by the Sentencing Commission. U.S.S.G. Section 5K2.0, 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b). In this case, the four point reduction for minimal participation is inadequate in light of the extremely high base offense level and the extremely low level of Mr. Koo's participation. As such, the Sentencing Commission did not adequately consider the mitigating factors presented in this case.

In U.S. v. Alba and Gonzalez, 933 F.2d 1117, 1121 (2nd Cir. 1991), the Court endorsed the District Court's downward departure after the four point minimal participation reduction had been factored into the offense level for defendant Gonzalez. "The sentencing court did not abuse its discretion when it downwardly departed based in part on the extremely limited nature of Gonzalez' involvement in the transaction". Id. (citations omitted).

Similarly, in U.S. v. Restrepo, 936 F.2d 661,667 (2d Cir. 1991), the Court affirmed Judge Sifton's departure beyond the four point minimal participation reduction. The Court noted:

We conclude that where, as here, an offense level has been extraordinarily magnified by a circumstance that bears little relation to the defendant's role in the offense, a downward departure may be warranted on the ground that minimal participation exists to a degree not contemplated by the guidelines. Id.

Here, the offense level has been magnified by the nature of the offense, and Mr. Koo's standing as a law enforcement official. However, those circumstances bear little relation to his actual role in the offense. As such, a greater departure is warranted. Accordingly, the Court should use a point total significantly lower than the Probation Department's level 31 as the starting point for any further departure that may be granted for Mr. Koo's cooperation, family circumstances or other considerations.

Other Sentencing Considerations

While we recognize that Mr. Koo's offense conduct and cooperation with the government are the primary considerations in determining his sentence, there are

other matters Your Honor may wish to consider, especially in light of the now non-mandatory effect of the sentencing guidelines.

First, Mr. Koo is primarily responsible his mother, Jun Hee Park, who is paraplegic and suffers from a variety of debilitating conditions. (See paragraph 85 of the presentence report). As the report points out, Mr. Koo's mother and father are long divorced and his father resides in Korea. As an only child, Mr. Koo assumed responsibility for his mother following the accident that rendered her paraplegic. Although she maintains a room separate from Mr. Koo's family residence, she spends most of her waking day at the Koo home. Mr. Koo physically assists his mother in moving around and performs many essential services for her such as, shopping, filling prescriptions, carrying bags, providing transportation and otherwise assisting her with the activities of daily living.

Mr. Koo also is responsible for his spouse, who, until his arrest was a stay at home mother, and his two young children, ages three and five. As discussed more fully below, the Koo family is close-knit, loving and supportive.

Because of Ms. Park's poor physical condition and the care requirements that only Mr. Koo can provide, coupled with his responsibility for his spouse and two small children, a further downward departure from the applicable guideline level is warranted. As the Court stated in U.S. v. Alba and Gonzalez, 933 F. 2d 1117 (2d Cir. 1991):

Family ties and responsibilities are not 'ordinarily relevant in determining whether a sentence should be outside the

guidelines', U.S.S.G. § 5H1.6; but if the circumstances related to those factors are extraordinary, a sentencing court is not precluded as a matter of law from considering them in making a downward departure. See United States v. Sharpsteen, 913 F.2d 59, 63 (2d Cir.1990).

Defendant Gonzalez, like Mr. Koo, was married, had two young children, ages four and eleven, and was responsible for a disabled parent. He, also like Mr. Koo, had a solid employment background and was aptly described as a man who works hard to provide for his family. The Court found that "[t]he record amply supports the conclusion that his family circumstances were extraordinary". Id. at 1122. A similar conclusion should be reached as to Mr. Koo.

Mr. Koo's work with senior citizens during the past four years not only is commendable but also provides meaningful insight into his character. His work, which began as a volunteer assisting seniors from the immigrant community in solving problems of everyday life, has evolved into a paying position with the Korean-American Senior Citizen Society of Greater New York (KASCS). At KASCS, Mr. Koo teaches computer and English as a second language classes and is the Society's Legal Program Coordinator. The Legal Program, operated in conjunction with Queens Legal Service Corp., is a referral program that enables indigent members of the community to obtain legal services relating to a wide variety of issues. However, even after accepting a paid position with KASCS, Mr. Koo continues his volunteer work at the Korean-American Senior Center of Flushing (KASCOF), another organization operating at a location different from KASCS. Such work requires knowledge, compassion, sensitivity

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and patience, qualities that Mr. Koo exhibits through his work. Furthermore, as discussed in the letters and newspaper articles submitted on his behalf and attached hereto as exhibits, Mr. Koo is successful in his work and is well thought of as a problem solver, teacher and friend. Those successes speak volumes about his contributions to the community.

Attached as Exhibit A is a letter from Rafaela Kim, the Chief Program Coordinator of KASCOF. Mr. Koo began volunteer work at the center through his mother who is a member. After approximately three years of providing translation services, helping members fill out forms and solving problems, Mr. Koo's volunteer role became more formal when the center recognized the services he performs. Ms. Kim writes: "I cannot emphasize how valuable his service is to our community...Mr. Koo's character can be summed up as someone who is willing to go the extra mile to help needy people. He is very patient with many disabled citizens and will help anyone if they need it".

Mr. Koo also has assisted the elderly residents of Union Plaza Nursing Home, beginning at a time prior to his arrest when his grandmother was confined to that facility. Soo Nie Kim's letter in Korean and its translation are attached as Exhibit B. Ms. Kim, 94 years old, writes of Mr. Koo's and his mother's daily visits to Mr. Koo's grandmother and how those visits lead to Mr. Koo helping the home's residents. Ms. Kim observes: "Mr. Koo's help ranges from translating our everyday mail, delivering Korean food to the nursing home, running errands, personally typing restaurant's menu

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in big, bold letters, and collecting our benefits that are entitled to us, to name a few when ever he has the time. He has only demonstrated his utmost care to us as if he were the grandson of all of us. He has also demonstrated, with action, that he has a kind heart towards older people in need”.

Attached as Exhibits C, D and E are three articles from Korean language newspapers, together with English translations. The articles discuss Mr. Koo's enormous positive impact on the community through his employment at KASCS. Clearly, the decision of the print media to highlight his personal accomplishments is a testimonial to the need for both the services Mr. Koo renders and his individual involvement. Among the highlights of the articles are the following: “Mr. Koo volunteers his time to the Korean Community with love and passion for helping the needy”. Exhibit C, the Korean Times; “The President of KASCS (Oh, Hae Young) could not hold back his deep emotions and appreciation for Mr. Koo's effort in helping the senior citizens improve their quality of life by devoting his time and energy to teach English, computer and referring sensitive legal cases to non-profit legal agencies...”. Exhibit D, the New York Ilbo.

Further, Mr. Koo offers insight into his own motivation for his efforts when he was quoted in the New York Ilbo article, Exhibit D: “My primary focus is to improve the quality of life for the senior citizens of the community as a token of appreciation. I feel that these senior citizens have worked diligently to better their children's lives by

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sacrificing themselves – working day and night so that my generation can live better in America”.

Mr. Koo also assisted in organizing a KASCS sponsored presentation by an attorney from the New York Immigration Coalition. Held on May 26, 2006, the presentation focused on current immigration issues. See Exhibit E, the Korean Times. This is yet another example of the energy and commitment Mr. Koo devotes to his position and the community at large.

Attached as Exhibit F is a photograph of Mr. Koo and the first graduating students of his computer class. The photo is a simple but dramatic symbol of the number of people Mr. Koo is reaching and the quality of that reach. Each person in that photo and all of the members of succeeding classes as well as the members of Mr. Koo's English class and the individuals he assists through the legal referral program are bettered by having Mr. Koo in their midst.

Exhibit G is a letter from Hyunjong Koo, Mr. Koo's spouse. Hyunjong writes: "I met my wonderful husband in the summer of 1992, while he was attending the prestigious Yonsei University as an exchange student from Boston University. After dating almost seven years, we got married as soon as he passed the very difficult comprehensive examination from Korea University for his Master's Degree in International Politics. He graduated with distinction and was the first Korean-American to ever pass the exam". Mr. and Ms. Koo returned to Boston where Mr. Koo continued his studies, found employment and started a family. Ms. Koo explains in her letter: "He

worked 50-60 hours a week while he was writing his thesis and financially supported me. Soon after, I got pregnant with our first son. My husband then attended part-time law school while he continued to support our fledgling family. I have witnessed my husband go through my labor and study for his law school final exam in the hospital, where all the doctors once made innocently facetious remarks". Hyunjong also poignantly describes her husband's devotion to his mother and grandmother, both of whom were instrumental in his upbringing. She observes: "During this time, he took care of his ailing grandmother as well as his paraplegic mother, both mentally and financially by moving them with us in New York from Georgia. He drove for four days in a van with I.V. fluid since his grandmother was too ill to travel by plane. He frequented the nursing homes and hospitals, where his grandmother was terminally ill, and provided transportation for his mother at all times. While he was taking care of his grandmother and handicapped mother, he always made time for other elderlies to help them with various forms that are written in English".

Finally, Ms. Koo writes of her husband's relationship with their two young children: "His relationship with our two children could not be any better. He manages to take time off for them no matter what the conditions are. Our children love their father and cannot imagine a life without him. They are now four and two and enjoy being with him all the time". It is axiomatic that the family suffers when one of its principals is sentenced for criminal conduct. However, in this case, Ms. Koo and the children already have suffered the stress of an arrest and prosecution, the economic detriment

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of the loss of Mr. Koo's career and the fear of an uncertain future. We ask the Court to weigh these factors when imposing sentence.

The qualities and activities described above, together with Mr. Koo's effort to make amends by cooperating with the government, strongly suggest that he is a person who has recognized the errors of his conduct and is not in need of a period of incarceration to drive the point home. Mr. Koo is making positive contributions to society and his family and can be expected to continue those contributions going forward. We respectfully ask the Court to permit him to do so.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the Court downwardly depart and impose a sentence that will not remove Mr. Koo from his family and the community. Such a sentence is appropriate in light of Mr. Koo's cooperation, minimal participation and family circumstances, satisfies the goals of the sentencing process and would permit Mr. Koo to continue his important work with disadvantaged people.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles D. Abercrombie

cc: Lee J. Freedman (By Hand)
Assistant United States Attorney
Colleen Cavanaugh (By Hand)
Assistant United States Attorney

EXHIBIT A



Korean-American Senior Center of Flushing

133-35 Roosevelt Avenue 2nd Floor, Flushing, NY 11354 • Tel: (718) 886-2873 • Fax: (718) 961-2849

To: **Honorable Judge I.Leo Glasser**

My name is Rafaela Kim and work at Community Senior Center of Flushing as the Chief Program Coordinator. I am a U.S. citizen and have been working here for few years now. Our center is a non-profit organization that primarily helps Asian immigrants, Korean and Chinese, which cannot sustain themselves by their own. We have diverse programs that helps these people exercise, eat at very low cost, receive advise with all their paper work, and to just gather among similar people for recreation.

Byungki Koo has been providing his invaluable services to our CSCOF for over six months now. He started to provide valuable information to our senior citizens through his mother, Jun Hee Park in the beginning, but he now devotes at least six hours of his undivided attention a week through his office at the center. His mother is a long time member of our center. He has been working at the center as an internal social worker for two months now. He does not get paid. Every service he provides is free and very generous. He mainly translates various official documents and explains to the senior citizens here in Korean, or in Chinese through an interpreter. Without his service, these people will end up spending a lot of money hiring a lawyer or translation services, in which most of these people are poor. I cannot emphasize how valuable his service is to our community. He has maintained very good relationship with our staff and with the members that he helps.

Mr. Koo's character can be summed up as someone who is willing to go the extra mile to help needy people. He is very patient with many disabled citizens and will help anyone if they need it. His background as a simultaneous interpreter, law school experience and expert knowledge of filling forms cannot be matched by others. Unfortunately, this kind of help is very rare in our community without money being involved. I do not know very much about what he was involved in but I hope that you can see the favorable side of this man's character as a person. He has only shown to us that he is an outstanding person of our small community and very valuable. This man is very educated and has a very nice character that pleases everyone. I have personally witnessed Mr. Koo help people in difficult situations with simple remedies that these people did not know because of the language barrier. He has surely made our members here go through their lives much easier. He is always available to help people even on the phone when he is at home. I sincerely wish that Mr. Byungki Koo receive a favorable judgment by you during his sentencing.

Thank you for reading this letter and hope that it helps Mr. Byungki Koo

From: Program Coordinator of CSCOF, Raphaella Choi

January 18, 2006

EXHIBIT B

To: Honorable I.Leo Glasser, Senior United States District Court Judge

From: Soon Nie Kim

Date: January 15, 2006

Dear Honorable Judge Glasser:

My name is Soon Nie Kim. I am 94 years old and would like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts regarding Mr. Koo, Byungki on behalf of the Korean residents in Union Plaza Nursing Home that have received Mr. Koo's thoughtful help. I am a United States citizen and have lived here for 25 years. I am permanently in the care of the professionals in this nursing home. I have been here for nine years now and have witnessed Mr. Koo and his mother help many residents with the type of care needed from an outside person for approximately three years.

Aside from his mother's regular visits, Mr. Koo has not only escorted his handicapped mother so that she may help her mother's former friends that still reside in this nursing home, but he has shown to be a very thoughtful man when the problems were out of his mother's hands. His extensive knowledge in various field and dedication to help the English illiterates in the nursing home have greatly eased everyday life of many that are still here and those who are no long with us. I had the pleasure of meeting his grandmother before her demise at the nursing home, and her grandson faithfully visited her with his mother on a daily bases. It was at this time Mr. Koo and his mother started to casually help other residents that could not express themselves in English.

Mr. Koo's help ranges from translating our everyday mail, delivering Korean food to the nursing home, running errands, personally typing restaurant's menu in big, bold letters, and collecting our benefits that are entitled to us, to name a few when ever he has the time. He has only demonstrated his utmost care to us as if he were the grandson of all of us. He has also demonstrated, with action, that he has a kind heart towards older people in need. It is now my pleasure to write this recommendation letter on behalf of this caring young man that I am so indebted to. I sincerely hope, on behalf of the Korean residents in Union Plaza Nursing Home, that his imminent future be unhindered due to his conduct while he was a federal agent. I personally believe that Mr. Koo deserves a second chance, not only due to his good deeds, but because he seems to be a highly valuable member of our society.

Sincerely,

Soon Nie Kim



“WANT TO HELP KOREAN-AMERICANS WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS”

KOREAN AMERICAN SENIOR CITIZEN’S SOCIETY: LEGAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR, BYUNGKI JAMES KOO

“I want help the senior citizens in the community that can not afford an attorney with difficult legal issues.”

Mr. Koo acts as a liaison to Queens Legal Services Corp. and KASCS, which started on May 4, 2006. The legal referral service is free of charge for those who fall in the poverty category. Mr. Koo refers the Korean legal cases from KASCS to Queens Legal Services’ Director, Carl O. Callender. Mr. Koo stated that “there should be no injustice just because a person (senior citizens) can not communicate in English or does not have the financial resources to hire a good attorney. For these reasons, Mr. Koo stated that, “I will do my best to reach out to those who are in desperate need of legal intervention and have limited amount of financial resources.”

Mr. Koo runs the legal program at KASCS, in conjunction with Queens Legal Services Corp. and provides free legal services that comprises: elderly housing issues, attaining US citizenship, government entitlements (federal, state, city), domestic violence, fraud, and torts (civil matters) to name a few.

For example, a family of 4 would qualify for a complete free legal service if their combined income is approximately under \$20,000 per year. If a client does not meet this poverty line criterion, then it is reviewed on a case by case basis to see if they can still qualify for free legal service or for a nominal fee. Mr. Koo encourages the Korean community to utilize this service because it is there for them.

Mr. Koo graduated from Boston University and attended Massachusetts School of Law. Currently, he heads the legal program in KASCS as the program coordinator and also teaches computer class for anyone who is computer illiterate. Mr. Koo volunteers his time to the Korean community with love and passion for helping the needy. For further information, please contact: _____

**“AMELIORATING SENIOR CITIZENS
‘QUALITY OF LIFE’ AS A GOAL
TEACHING ENGLISH, COMPUTER AND EVEN
LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE**

Korean American Senior Citizen’s Society’s Byungki James Koo

The President of KASCS (Oh, Hae Young) could not hold back his deep emotions and appreciation for Mr. Koo’s effort in helping the senior citizens improve their quality of life by devoting his time and energy to teach English, computer and referring sensitive legal cases to non-profit legal agencies, for those who can not afford expensive classes or an attorney. Mr. Koo is a Korean-American who graduated from Boston University and has a Master’s Degree in Political Science and International Relations and is currently aspiring to become an attorney.

“My primary focus is to improve the quality of life for the senior citizens of the community as a token of appreciation. I feel that these senior citizens have worked diligently to better their children’s lives by sacrificing themselves--working day and night so that my generation can live better in America. The generation that I’m talking about is for a person 50 year’s old and older. We have basically reaped the fruit of their hard work and because they only worked, they are now culturally lagging behind in almost everything. They can’t even understand a simple letter in English.”

Mr. Koo laments at the fact that these senior citizens were deprived of even normal life due to working so hard for a living that they virtually have no experience in any type of cultural life. “These senior citizens can’t even fix a problem where all it takes is a simple explanation letter, let alone have any confidence in their English ability. To us, many of the problems can be solved through common sense that we’ve acquired just growing up here, but these senior citizens lack even the most rudimentary information.” That is why Mr.

Koo has devised a novel approach in teaching English. His English class puts heavy emphasis on everyday speech that is practical. For example, the class even simulates a 911 call, and teaches senior citizens how to understand their completely Americanized grandchildren—to bridge the wide gap between these two disparate generations.

Not only does Mr. Koo teach English and American culture, but he also teaches computer. His computer class puts strong emphasis on browsing useful sites on the internet to further incorporate these people to the American culture. “One student transfers three times on the bus to get to my computer class. This person truly enjoys learning computer. This is part of the reason why I give my best because my students give their best.” Mr. Koo’s English and computer class has really grown over the past few months and has hundreds of people on the waiting list to attend his two classes.

This phenomenon signifies that these first generation Korean-Americans really do want to incorporate themselves better into the American society and Mr. Koo gives them the lending hand. Mr. Koo states that his spirit in helping these people stem from his paraplegic mother who also volunteers her time to help the senior citizens of the community.

“As long as I have the time and energy, I will continue to help these first generation Korean-Americans to better themselves. I will do my best to improve the cultural lag that these people have been dealing with for so long because they are Americans, too.” Mr. Koo wishes that these first generation Korean-Americans can advance to a point where they are at least on an equal par with the Koreans in their mother country. We need more people like Mr. Koo in our Korean community to help the needy and to extricate these people that are literally shunned from any type of cultural life due to their sacrifices. For further questions, please call:

Korean American Senior Citizen's Society and Queens Legal Services Corp. has jointly started a free legal service for the Asian community. To the left is KASCS' Legal Program Coordinator: Byungki James Koo who heads the program.

“We Provide Answers to Legal Problems”

KASCS' Free Legal Service starts Immigration Issues

KASCS acts as the legal helper of people with no or low income that are faced with serious legal problems. Amid the popular free legal service that started on May 4, 2006 between KASCS and Queens Legal Services Corp., KASCS has also included immigration law service in conjunction with New York Immigration Coalition. Between these two free services, KASCS receives over 30 calls a day to make appointments.

On May 26, 2006, KASCS will invite New York Immigration Coalition's immigration attorney, Julie Dinnerstein to discuss popular immigration issues such as: how to obtain US citizenship, change of immigration status, obtaining “Green Cards,” and President George W. Bush's public announcement regarding possible change of immigration law.

KASCS' Legal Service Coordinator, Byungki James Koo stated that, “every new information regarding immigration law will be discussed and interpreted to the Korean community for better understanding at KASCS in conjunction with New York Immigration Coalition. It will be an opportunity to really understand what President Bush is talking about regarding the new immigration law and the upcoming event will discuss all this. And I wish that the Korean community will utilize this opportunity and attend these discussions.”

Due to an unusually high demand for these services, Director Carl O. Callender of Queens Legal Services Corp. will visit KASCS and listen to the legal cases himself to lessen the strains faced by KASCS due to large number of people wanting the service. Mr. Callender will visit KASCS on June 1, 2006 at 9:00AM to 12:00PM and every Thursday for the month of June.

KASCS has successfully referred 10 cases to Queens Legal Services Corp. For further information please call KASCS' Legal Program Coordinator, Byungki James Koo at:

Koo at:

**To: Honorable I.Leo Glasser
Senior United States District Court Judge
Eastern District of New York**
From: Koo, Hyunjong (spouse of Byungki Koo)
Date: January 01, 2006

Dear Honorable Judge Glasser:

I would like to take this opportunity to express to you about my husband and how we overcame many obstacles before and during our marriage to give you an idea of what kind of person Byungki Koo is. First of all, I am a recent immigrant to United States although I grew up here during my childhood due to my father's occupation as a Korean Diplomat, stationed in Washington D.C. and in New York. I left U.S. in 1984 from California and attended high school and college in Korea. After graduation, I became a Producer at an educational channel and left the job after our marriage in U.S.

I met my wonderful husband in the summer of 1992, while he was attending the prestigious Yonsei University as an exchange student from Boston University. After dating almost seven years, we got married as soon as he passed the very difficult comprehensive examination from Korea University for his Master's Degree in International Politics. He graduated with distinction and was the first Korean-American to ever pass the exam. He decided to write his thesis in Boston University, where he graduated from, and attended law school soon after at a different school.

During our relationship, as college students, our parents strongly opposed further development due to cultural and ideological differences in our parents' mind. My father, at the time, was serving his country as a Congressman and my husband's father as a Professor at a University in Seoul, Korea. Despite the differences in politics from both of our parents, we overcame all the obstacles together and got married with a heartwarming approval. Until today, I sincerely thank my husband for sacrificing his whole youth to be with me in a country that he barely knows. He gave up plans to attend graduate school in the U.S. and came to Korea to be with me until I finished my education. He soon became proficient in Korean and won the approval of our parents, as well as his. He has always demonstrated to me that he can overcome difficult situations and turn adversity into triumph, as his records at Korea University can attest.

While we lived a humble life in Boston, after our marriage, my husband got a job as an interpreter/translator for Massachusetts Port Authority, where he worked closely with various law enforcement agencies. He worked 50 to 60 hours a week while he was writing his thesis and financially supported me. Soon after, I got pregnant with our first son. My husband then attended part-time law school while he continued to support our fledgling

family. I have witnessed my husband go through my labor and study for his law school final exam in the hospital, where all the doctors once made innocently facetious remarks. Again, he has only demonstrated the highest qualities of a man, husband, and a father.

Moreover, he then got a job with U.S. INS and upon my request, despite his objection, moved to New York where he started his federal career. INS would only hire him to be stationed in New York City. He strongly opposed being in New York and constantly made efforts to move back to Boston so that he can finish his law school. He was miserable because he had neither acquaintances nor family here and, to make matters worse, I visited my parents in Korea for months at a time. In retrospect, my husband again demonstrated that he would sacrifice his preference over mine for the greater good for the family.

Lastly, my husband applied to the Federal Air Marshal Service out of patriotism as well as better financial future soon after the terrorist attack. Again, he worked many long hours and traveled abroad frequently, despite the inherent risk and danger. During this time, he took care of his ailing grandmother as well as his paraplegic mother, both mentally and financially by moving them with us in New York from Georgia. He drove for four days in a van with I.V. fluid since his grandmother was too ill to travel by plane. He frequented the nursing homes and hospitals, where his grandmother was terminally ill, and provided transportation for his mother at all times. While he was taking care of his grandmother and handicapped mother, he always made time for other elderlies to help them with various forms that are written in English. Although, his grandmother is no longer with us, he continues his lending hand to other helpless people in the community, while putting his family at rest with his hard work. His relationship with our two children could not be any better. He manages to take time off for them no matter what the conditions are. Our children love their father and cannot imagine a life without him. They are now four and two and enjoy being with him all the time.

Over many years of being with this great man, it is my true belief that Byungki Koo, my forever husband and a life long partner, filial son, a responsible father and an outstanding member of the society deserve a second chance at life. I am convinced that my husband is remorseful of his actions and that he is taking full responsibility for his conduct. It is also my belief that my husband made the wrong choices as a loyal friend of one of the defendants in the case. Furthermore, I would like to utilize this opportunity to convey to you that Byungki Koo can only receive the highest recommendation from me regarding his true character. It is my sincere hope, as well as his supportive family, that you express leniency due to his good past history.

Sincerely,



Hyunjong Koo
