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December 8, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE TO 206-267-7099 AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Brandie Silva
KCBA Young Lawyers Division
200 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Outstanding Mentor Award Nomination

Dear Ms. Silva:

We enthusiastically nominate Peter Buck for the 2007 Outstanding Mentor Award. Pete is an example to each of the associates at Buck & Gordon of how to excel at the practice of law while preserving those aspects of our personal lives that make us who we are. His example stands out in a profession in which associates are asked to abandon their personal lives to fulfill their billable hours requirements. Even amongst the firms and attorneys that pay lip service to "quality of life" concerns of associates, there are very few practitioners that have been able to find the balance Pete has struck between a sophisticated legal practice and a rich personal life. His approach has shaped the way we practice law and will continue to guide us through our careers and lives. For that reason, we believe Pete is an ideal candidate for the Outstanding Mentor Award.

The first and most important lesson Pete instills is that of excellence. Pete has always held himself to a high standard. The clients' needs are first. Through this dedication to his clients and his practice, Pete has consistently been rated by his peers as one of the top environmental and land use litigators in the state. We have each had the opportunity to work with him. Under his tutelage, we have honed our legal skills and are given substantial roles in his projects from the outset of our careers, often taking on the role of "second chair" in major cases. Through this close work with him, we have adopted his drive to provide excellent service to our clients.

However, Pete also teaches us that this drive, if unchecked, can come with a significant cost to our personal lives. Since leaving his old firm to start his own practice in 1971, Pete has deliberately cultivated an institutional culture that values balance. His efforts continue as the firm has grown. Associates are asked to bill 1600 hours – not 1800, 2000 or more hours – leaving us with literally weeks of free time that, at other firms, would have been spent billing more time. Associates and staff are given gym memberships and are encouraged to stay active to maintain their physical health. The firm's culture of balance also fosters a sense of fun and play while at work, which helps promote emotional well-being.

Whether we are parents who are able to actively participate in our children's upbringing, outdoor enthusiasts who can leave for a weekend to climb a mountain, or a young associate who discusses case strategy with Pete while climbing a mountain, we all benefit from Pete's philosophy. Preserving these aspects of our lives outside of our profession makes us better people, which, in turn, makes us better lawyers. Even though our experience in this profession has been brief, we recognize how exceptional Pete's approach is. He has given each of us an opportunity to develop a challenging and sophisticated legal practice while maintaining a healthy balance between work and personal life.

For more than two decades, Pete has been a dedicated teacher, facilitator, and helpful friend to young lawyers as well as non-lawyers who cross his path. At Buck & Gordon, he actively seeks out opportunities to work with each associate and get to know us on a personal as well as professional level. Pete also reaches out to many others outside Buck & Gordon, helping young attorneys and law students find jobs, judging moot court competitions, and striving to help people of all walks of life with a variety of creative favors and philanthropic endeavors. Pete sets an example of ebullient coaching, generosity, and good humor.

As a testament to the effectiveness of his mentorship, we all share Pete's vision and passion for having the best of both worlds: a meaningful work life and a fulfilling life outside of work. All the while, we are entertained and inspired by Pete's unique brand of teaching and helping.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions.

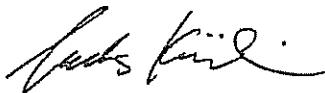
Very truly yours,



Amanda Carr



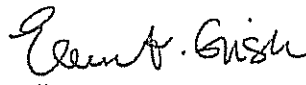
Duncan Greene



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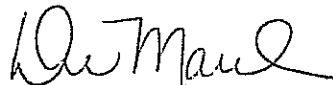
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Ellen Gish



Cristina Jorgenson



Denice Marchman



Marni Wright