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Ms. Berz

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DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

I am writing you because we never really get the chance to speak, and I feel that only makes us create our own bias about each other. So here is some things about me you might not know. I was born May 22nd, 2001, on the south side of Chicago IL. I am the oldest of seven siblings, to a young, single, African American mother; whom I love so dearly. I was always in the middle of a custody battle, not being able to build a solid relationship with my mother, and my father was in jail the first 10 yrs of my life, then whatever he has been up to this day. One of my greatest friends died in my arm at the age of seven years old, as the result of a drive by shooting. That was my first traumatic experience. Here in Madison, I realized where I stand as an African American man in society. Growing up, I never thought that it would be me targeted, watched and persecuted the most. Simply because there are people who feel I don't belong in the world pursuing my happiness, goals and future. I attended a Black Student Union my sophomore year at West High School.

That Black Student Union helped me understand my history and where I stand as a African American man. The Black Student Union helped me become more disciplined, confident and aware of my environments. I became very outspoken, and by my senior year, I was voted vice president of the Black Student Union at West High School. I was a varsity football player at West High School. A threat, and a leader on the field. I worked in the common council department here in this very building I am now a "resident". In the common-council department "Karen" was my supervisor. My job was to summarize meetings we went to that had city officials and Aldermen present. I also acted as a voice for the youth, as I realized I was always the only young person in every meeting, so I wrote a proposal that insisted that since the city has it in its plan to be inclusive, to have youth at the table where change is being discussed. I became a voice for all youth. The Black Student Union I was apart of took me on trips around the world to visit HBCU's, my favorites were Morgan State, right outside of Washington D.C. and Tennessee.

State University. I loved the culture and the opportunities they give their students. I applied for those two Historical Black College universities. The Male victim in this case was a college Councilor and helped me apply for Scholarships and those two colleges. I just needed to make sure I finished high school on time, and I did while I sat in jail. This whole due process has been helping me learn more about myself, humble myself to understand that nothing is guaranteed in life, understand that I have to take advantage of all the time I have to not only give myself the best chance of winning this case, but to win in life. My baby brother just called me Superman, and I almost cried because he thinks of me as a hero and the world thinks of me as a villain. I've learned that the purpose of life is to challenge your mentality, your heart, and your will to do for others unconditionally. That it's your decisions in the moments you feel the most pressure, the most hurt and the most uncertainty, that show who you are. I will continue to grow my knowledge, remain humble and gain more wisdom from any

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mistakes I witness and commit. Hopefully
you read this ms. B, and understand how much
of a major role you play in my life.

Thank You!

— Kharci Sanford