

December 22, 2008

Mr. Desmond Tobias, Attorney
1203 Dauphin Street
Mobile, AL 36604

Dear Desi:

Thank you and your law firm for your adept and compassionate handling of my pit bull dog case against my neighbors. Your commitment in persevering over the last two years made the difference in the successful outcome in the case. I appreciated your belief in and advocacy of the principles involved, in following the case through to the finish.

As just this week, I heard of a fatal mauling, by two pit bull dogs, of a sixty year-old man in Rubidoux, California, I am reminded of how dangerous and vicious this breed of animal can be. Apparently in the California incident, the victim, a grandfather, knew and often "played" with the dogs. Media reports such as this one continue to emotionally rattle me as I am reminded of the frightening potential of pit bull dogs. The radical and unpredictable dangers of this breed of dog, which is subject to impulsively turn against humans, remains a threat. Sadly, unsuspecting victims are subject to the imposed will of deluded pit bull owners who negligently seek to justify the notion of the animals being safe, controllable, and even meek.

It was clear throughout this process, but especially in your closing argument, that you championed for the victim in this case. Your attention to detail in preparing for the case and in investing the passion to insure that the jury and judge understood the dynamics of the incident from a reasoned and rationale perspective, simply could not be denied.

Although the trial seemed like yet another attack in many ways, your encouragement, patience, and guidance helped me through it. The entire ordeal truly went against our non-confrontational nature, and yet, in order to insure some semblance of future safety, we felt that the matter had to be pursued to the maximum, given the persistent state of denial of the unusual neighbors that we live alongside.

I hope that the outcome of the case sends a message to neighbors such as mine and to insurance companies such as State Farm, that ownership of pit bulls carries an enormous risk that is just not worth taking.

Please extend my thanks to your staff members, such as Michelle, who interacted professionally and empathically in providing the needed information to process the case. Your clients are fortunate to have such a staff. I appreciated your partner, Michael Windom's key role, in the selection of the jury. I will have no hesitation in recommending you and your firm to colleagues or friends with legal issues.

In appreciation,

J. E. Phillips