

February 6, 1997

Re: Reference for Robert Arreola

Dear Judge xxxx:

I am pleased to recommend Robert Arreola as a candidate for a clerkship in your chambers.

Rob worked as a law clerk for me last summer at the Assassination Records Review Board. The Review Board is an independent Federal agency charged with the responsibility of declassifying Federal records related to the assassination of President Kennedy and collecting other records that will help illuminate issues surrounding the assassination.

During his summer at the Review Board, Rob was responsible for drafting one lengthy research memorandum on a complex issue presented by our agency's enabling statute and several other short research projects. His work on these projects consistently exceeded our expectations for first year law students. He proved that he could quickly grasp the nature of a new assignment, immediately locate and analyze the relevant statutory language, and neatly tailor his research and writing to fit the question at issue. Rob worked diligently to produce written products that were clear and thorough.

His principal memorandum was an excellent analysis of the effect of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act upon privately owned records in the custody of Government agencies. The specific question at issue was the legal title of the Zapruder film that depicts the assassination. The film is in the possession of the National Archives, but the legal title is in dispute.

Rob's memorandum became the foundation for our agency's position in our ongoing four-way negotiations among the Department of Justice, the National Archives, the Zapruder family, and the Review Board.

The assignment required Rob to digest relevant portions of our agency's enabling statute and legislative history, to evaluate Federal legislation in light of common law concepts of "possession" and "custody," and to apply his conclusions to the status of the Zapruder film. He not only completed his assignment in an efficient manner but added insightful legal analysis to our understanding of the relevant issues. Once he completed the memo, he played an integral role in transforming his research into our formal opinion letter.

I also was impressed with Rob's personal qualities. He is perceptive, very personable, and eager to take on responsible work assignments. He is self-confident in a way that permits him to focus on the intellectual challenges of the job and the issues rather than on defending his ego or defending his preliminary analysis. Based upon my own experience as a law clerk for a Federal judge, he has exactly the right type of personality and temperament to work well with both a judge and fellow

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clerks.

Although my experience with Rob was limited to one summer, he was an impressive intern and I would be delighted to work with him again.

If I can answer any questions or elaborate on any of my comments, please do not hesitate to call me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and
Associate Director for Research and Analysis