September 9, 2012

To: Law School Admissions

Michael Moak has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of his application for admission to law school; I am delighted to do so. I have known Michael for three years and in the time that I have known him I have been extremely impressed with his intelligence, his desire and commitment to learn and his maturity. Michael was a student of mine in Contemporary Social Theory, an upper division course in the Sociology Department at San Diego State University where I have taught for twenty years and continue to teach. We maintained contact throughout his career at San Diego State and have kept in touch since his graduation.

The evaluation process for Contemporary Social Theory is very comprehensive and I think provides a good indication of Michael’s intellectual ability and potential for doing well in law school. The process consists of three exams, two papers and small group assignments. Michael received As on all three exams and on both papers. He did exceptionally well on the essay questions of the exams which required comparing and contrasting social theories. The papers required the analysis and evaluation of selected contemporary theorists. Both of Michael’s papers were excellent, thoughtfully argued and demonstrated both analytical and evaluative skills. His contributions in the small group assignment and class discussions were constructive and articulate. I believe that Michael is in the top 1% academically of students that I have taught in upper division courses at San Diego State, approximately one thousand.

I got to know Michael better during office hours. He came frequently to discuss the theories and issues that were raised in the class. In these visits to the office, it was easy to see that he wanted to learn and was committed to learning. Our subsequent interactions have helped me come to know Michael a little more as a person. My conclusion is that he is mature, highly motivated, and committed to specific goals. And I believe he would be successful in law school, in the profession, and he would be a wonderful representative of the school. I highly recommend him without qualification. If I can be of further assistance I can be reached by email at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office phone 594-5906.

Sincerely,

P. Tom Semm

Professor, Department of Sociology

San Diego State University