Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Nicholas Mross. I am an independent filmmaker, and I met Charlie in February of 2013. At the time, I was producing and directing a documentary about Bitcoin called "The Rise and Rise of Bitcoin". We reached out to Charlie to do an interview for the film, and he quickly became one of the main characters on our project. Over the 12 months that followed, I traveled to New York a handful of times, over which I got to know Charlie fairly well.

First and foremost, I want to say that I regard Charlie as a good, caring person. From the beginning of our working relationship, Charlie went out of his way to connect me to others in the Bitcoin community. If it had not been for Charlie's help, my documentary would have never achieved the success it has. I could always count on Charlie to respond quickly to my communications with him and follow through on his promises. He is the type of person who doesn't like to let others down, and his loyalty is, in my opinion, his strongest quality. I witnessed it numerous times on our many film shoots in how he treated those around him. Also, besides working with him in a professional capacity, I now consider him a friend and someone I am privileged to know.

I understand the charges that Charlie has plead guilty to, and I know he is remorseful. I ask that you please be lenient on your sentencing and give Charlie the lowest appropriate sentence permitted by law. I have great respect for Charlie, and I know that he has a bright future ahead of him.

Thank you,

Nicholas Mross



Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312 USA 7th December 2014

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

TIKVOT have known Charlie Shrem from his school days. A young boy who met a boy of his own age, who lost a leg in a terror attack and was in the need of acquiring a prosthetic leg in the USA. Charlie immediately took upon himself the task to raise money and involved the whole school and community in this project.

Since then, he has always helped us with every need for Israel's wounded soldiers and terror victims.

Tikvot is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization which rehabilitates Israel's victims of terror and wounded soldiers through sports. Tikvot means "Hope" in Hebrew and it has been proven that sports mastery can be critical to the emotional and physical rehabilitation of our Heroes, providing Hope and giving them the power to restore self-confidence and dignity and ultimately bringing back those long lost smiles.

Yours sincerely,

Rocky Muravitz Chairman

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re:

<u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Patrick Murck. I am the Executive Director of the Bitcoin Foundation, Inc. and prior to that I was General Counsel for the Bitcoin Foundation. As an attorney in private practice I represented a number of companies and individuals involved in bitcoin and digital currency. I have testified before the US Senate on the potential of bitcoin and am a frequent speaker at events and trainings to help financial services companies and government agencies better mitigate the potential risk of financial crimes while capturing the benefit of digital currency. I am writing to you today as an individual and not in my professional capacity as an officer of the Bitcoin Foundation.

I have known Charlie for the better part of three years as a friend, co-worker and colleague. While Charlie clearly made mistakes he has also done much good for spreading awareness about global inequity and the need for inclusive economic outcomes for systemically disenfranchised groups. Charlie is well known for energetically promoting a positive and productive dialog between oftentimes-fractious groups and is well regarded within the bitcoin community for this unerring positivity and the support he has provided to so many.

In my opinion the interests of the community will be best served by imposing the most lenient sentence the Court deems appropriate. In all my communications with Charlie he has demonstrated deep regret for the underlying transgressions and an understanding of the seriousness of his actions. Based on my interactions, I'm confident that he has learned from his mistakes and grown from this experience.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Warmest regards,

/s/Patrick Murck
Patrick Murck
as an individual

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff

My name is Stephen Pair. I am 43 years old and the co-founder and CEO of a company that employs more than 80 people. I am educated as a computer scientist from Georgia Tech and a husband of 15 years and father of two pre-teen boys. I am a natural born citizen of the United States and currently reside in the state of Georgia. I have never been accused or convicted of any crime, nor been the subject of any lawsuit, nor has any company in which I was a major shareholder, director or officer.

I am aware of the charges to which Charlie Shrem has pled guilty and their severity. I am writing this letter in support of the lowest sentence permitted under the law

I have known Charlie for just over three years through our common professional interests. I have interacted with Charlie many times over email and in person. We have participated as attendees and presenters in many of the same industry conferences. While I don't have first hand knowledge, I have heard about Charlie's charitable nature going back many years and it's consistent with my interactions with him. Our conversations would often focus on how the technology we are developing can and will affect the lives of millions of people in very positive ways. I believe that is what Charlie is most enthusiastic about

While I have only known Charlie for a short time, he has made a very strong impression upon me. He is the type of person that greets you with an embrace rather than a handshake and wants to catch up on everything that's happened in your life since you last spoke. I believe him to be a person that genuinely cares for and about the welfare of people. He always seems to see the best in people and never has anything bad to say about anyone. I have also never met anyone that held Charlie in anything but the highest regard.

For these reasons, I request that this court impose the lowest sentence permitted under the law.

Sincerely, Stephen Pair

cc: Charlie Shrem

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

> Re: United States v Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is David Perry. I am a Bitcoin journalist who has spent a lot of time and effort over the last few years coming to know both Bitcoin and Charlie. The two have a lot in common. They're both smart, trustworthy, exceptionally nerdy - and even when things they do end badly you can always guarantee they began with good intent.

I met Charlie back in the early days of Bitcoin. At first I was merely a BitInstant customer, but with time I came to know him as a friend. We've podcasted together, I've written stories about his work, he hangs out at my house after the Las Vegas Bitcoin conferences. When BitcoinStore shut down and I was out of a job, Charlie even found a new job for me at MasterCoin. I didn't even ask, he just found out I needed work and did it.

In all the time I've known Charlie, I've never seen him do a single malicious thing. I've never met someone so good-natured. It's a telling statement that our most negative interaction was the time my tiny dog nipped him on the nose because he cuddled it too much - which Charlie laughed at and went right back to petting the dog.

It is, of course, up to the court to determine whether Charlie's actions violated the letter of the law, but I feel comfortable guaranteeing that violating the law was absolutely not Charlie's intent.

In addition to his kind nature, I also know that Charlie is passionate about Bitcoin and knows that he is a big name within the space. Any tarnishing of Charlie's personal brand tarnishes Bitcoin alongside it, and Charlie would absolutely avoid doing so at all costs. He is a believer who does not wish to harm his movement and he would not sacrifice that for personal gain.

Charlie is a very special and unique individual. He sees things others cannot. He has an innate drive to build, create and improve. It is to the great benefit of society that he remain an active part of it and as such I would urge you to impose the most lenient sentence you consider appropriate.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David Perry

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States V, Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Robert Rezak and I have known Charlie for what I estimate to be close to 18 years. I am almost 22 years old and I attend Brooklyn College. I am majoring in business law and real estate and I have achieved senior status with only one more semester to complete. I have a warehouse where I am engaged in the business of online retail. I work very hard for many hours through the day because this business is the backbone of my family. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to tend to a business and attend college simultaneously. I met Charlie right when we moved in to our home on East 29th Street between Avenue R and Quentin road; just around the corner from where Charlie resides.

Charlie is a bit older than me. At the time, Charlie must have been between 8 and 10 years old. Considering At the time, although we were only a few years apart, it was still a major gap in our age group. Nowadays it isn't like that. There was a crew of about six boys that would hang out regularly in the area, all about Charlie's age. I remember it all too well. The other boys would try and ditch me but Charlie would always ensure that I could tag along. As a kid who was picked on and didn't have many friends, you have no idea how important it was to me... what Charlie did stuck with me until this day. From that moment on I knew Charlie would always be a friend I could rely on. Those are incredibly hard to come by.

Later down the line, Charlie had opened a website known as "Daily Checkout", if I recall correctly, a daily deal website. He was always computer and internet savvy but at such a young age he was able to start this relatively large company. This was quite the impressive feat if you ask me and it had a large effect on the type of business I am in today. At family gatherings we would both attend all I would hear from the adults is how impressed they were that he was so successful at such a young age. All I kept thinking to myself was if he could do it, so could I. That being said, he was a major inspiration and someone to look up to.

When I opened up my online retail business, I approached Charlie a few times to help me find the right merchandise for the right price. He generously took time out of his day to assist me and give me pointers. There were times he provided me with suppliers and others where he provided me with merchandise at his cost. In the beginning, Charlie made what should have been hardships for me, into a smooth transition to a successful and consistent business model.

At the end of the day Charlie is a good <u>KID</u>. Although his knowledge and experiences dictate otherwise, Charlie is a very young man who has made a grave mistake. Charlie was homebound for many months and I was there for him as much as possible. That in its own was as much of a punishment as Charlie ever needs or deserves to see. There is no question that concerning the bit coin market, Charlie brought himself up the ladder – legitimately. There is no question that Charlie was blinded by the abundance of his newfound glory and fame and the wealth that came with it. People make mistakes and I am sure that none of what Charlie has pleaded guilty to was done in a malicious manner. Judge Rakoff, I plead with you from the bottom of my heart, PLEASE do not use Charlie to set an example. PLEASE show the utmost leniency when deciding on this. In my honest opinion, Charlie has suffered enough between the embarrassment and shame, the financial losses and cost of lawyers, the loss of his title in the major business he brought up from the ground, the shame he imposed on his family, and to me, most importantly, the time he spent caged up in his room due to his house arrest. I know you weren't there to see him, but I was. It broke him. I'd bet everything that I own and everything that I am that Charlie wouldn't dare to cross paths with the law again.

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Sothern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: <u>United States V. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Jack Rishty, and I'm a 23 year old Brooklyn College student. I've known Charlie way before I ever got into college though. It's partially because of him that I'm in Brooklyn College right now, but more on that later. I moved onto Charlie's block about 10 years ago. was a bit nervous when we moved, since I was only a high school moving to a new area. What would I do about friends? Well, the first day we moved in, the Shrem's came to our door to welcome us to the neighborhood, and that's how I met Charlie. From that day on, we forged a wonderful friendship. Charlie was this extremely positive personality that you could always rely on. He introd uced me to his friends in the area, invited me places, and made me really feel welcomed. Coming out of Magen David High School, I was really worried about moving because 1 was so used to being bullied. I was bullied my whole life and never really knew what it was like to have a lot of friends until him. He introduced me to a crowd slightly older than I am, and now, we're all very close. I nev er knew what it was like to really feel welcomed until Charlie. He did something amazing for me. He didn't have to, but he wanted to. And I'm forever thankful for that.

Charlie was always there for me. He was working on many projects when I first met him, but he always h ad the time to help me whenever I needed it. "How do I connect this new tv?" He showed up with an HDMI cable and did it all for me. "I need to get my friend home but don't have my own car." "here, take mine!! Put the top down thougth, its really nice out!!". "I'm having trouble registering for school and my parents don't know how to register because my parents don't know anything about college". Sur-e enough, he explained to me how to register, and he told me all of the tips and tricks I needed to know about Brooklyn College. I write this letter to you from my office on campus, as I serve as the Vice President of Student Government. I got involved with some of the new friends Charlie introduced me to, and we won elections and took office year after year. If it wasn't for Charlie, I don't know where I'd be school wise now.

Charlie was always there for me in more ways than he knows. I have many friends today and Charlie played a huge part in making that happen. I'm so more knowledgeable about the world because Charlie taught me whenever I would ask. He gave me advice about how to travel, where to go. He guided me while applying for college. And even more important than all of this... Charlie makes life on 28th and Quentin an amazing experience. You can buy a house but you can't buy good neighbors. Charlie IS the best neighbor anyone could ever ask for, and I ask you to please be lenient with him. I understand that he has pled guilty, but Charlie is an incredible person that has affected the lives of everyone on my block. He's a h uge part of our community and the neighborhood would not be the same without him. This is just my story. He has had a positive effect on every single person on my block. We respect him. We care about him. We love him. We INEED him. Please don't take him away from us. Please ha ve mercy on him. He's young, smart, and has a lot to o ffer this

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world. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Rishty
Vice President
CLAS Student Government
CUNY Brooklyn College



December 1, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Dear Judge Rakoff;

My name is Alan Safahi and I am CEO of ZipZap, Inc. a CA based payment processor that was a partner with Charlie Shrem's company BitInstant, helping him process cash payment for Bitcoin purchases through MoneyGram and their affiliated retail networks.

I am an engineer with an MBA from University of Southern California. I have been an entrepreneur for about 30 years and been involved in the payment processing for the past 20 years. I have had several startups in my life including one that created the world's first prepaid MasterCard gift card.

I have known Charlie for more than 3 years and consider him to be a friend. During the past few years, I have watched Charlie grow up and mature tremendously both personally and professionally. I was always extremely impressed with how much Charlie cared for others and was always there to lend a hand to anyone that asked for his help, including yours truly.

Having been exposed to payment processing for two decades, I fully understand and respect the financial regulations and laws that impact money transfer.

The crimes Charlie is being sentenced for happened before I met Charlie. My Chief Compliance Officer and I worked closely with Charlie to help him understand the rules and the reasons for their existence. I believe Charlie was already fully compliant with all Anti-money laundering (AML) and Know your Customer (KYC) rules by the time his company shut down (several months before his arrest).

Unfortunately for him, he learned his lesson too late will now have to pay a price.

I humbly request that your honor take into account Charlie's exemplary behavior (personally and professionally as well as his generous, kind heart into account when sentencing him.

Sincerely;

Alan Safahi

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Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Robert Salame. I am a recent graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (Yeshiva University) and am currently employed as a Law Clerk at Tater, Krinsky & Drogin LLP. Upon admission to the bar, I will be an Associate. Fully aware of the charges to which Charlie Shrem ("Charlie") has pled guilty to, and the severity of the same, I write this letter in support of the lowest sentence permitted under the law.

By way of background, I have known Charlie since the beginning of elementary school and have had the opportunity to study alongside Charlie through the end of high school. While the charges against Charlie may indicate otherwise, person knowledge of Charlie's character allows to me attest to that fact that he is, among other things, giving (physically), charitable (monetarily) and thoughtful. As early as high school Charlie had begun giving back to the community by serving (along side myself) on our school's Tzedakah (or charity) commission (the "Commission"). To better illustrate the scope of Charlie's giving, it is important to note that all work done for the Commission was one hundred (100%) percent voluntary and without any reward or recognition. Furthermore, the Commission – instead of assigning tasks – required members volunteer for each event the Commission organized in order to be involved in the same. I literally cannot recall an event for which Charlie did not volunteer for and/or contribute to in some way.

Charlie's engagement in community related activity did not end with high school – instead his support for community institutions only strengthened. Since high school, Charlie and I have served together on the boards of various fundraisers for diverse causes. Unlike most board members, Charlie gave incredible thought and consideration to the most nuanced details of our goals and the people to which we sought to help. He was also the first person to lead the way in personally donating and thus setting the bar for the rest of those involved.

While the gravity of the situation cannot be ignored, Charlie's character cannot be ignored either. The traits and actions spoken to above – demonstrating a person devoted to giving (physically), engaging in charity (monetarily), and activity thinking about the needs of others – is incredibly rare but nothing more than nature to Charlie.

For the foregoing reasons, I ask that this Court impose the lowest sentence permitted under the law.

Sincerely,

Robert Salame

To:

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Your Honor

My name is Guy Salomon and I'm writing you on Charlie Shrem's matter

I'm 46 years old, born and live in Israel. For the past 25 years I'm working with and for people with disabilities in Israel.

During the years, I worked and still working with US organization for wounded warriors.

I met Charlie 10 years ago when I came to the states with a terror victim to put him a prosthetic leg.

Charlie, who I just met, set the whole community to help this kid. Since then he keeps helping wounded warriors and disabled kids whenever he can. I know Charlie for his great compassion for people in need and for his full commitment to each and every project he volunteer for, during the past 10 years.

Although some of the volunteering work he did requires spending of his own money and resources, Charlie never hesitates.

I'm aware to the fact that Charlie pled guilty to a crime, but, despite Charlie's conviction, I still have a great respect for him for his social and volunteering work over the years.

As for someone who knows Charlie for almost a decade, I know he's in a great pain and regret for his actions.

I honestly believe that Charlie's good deeds of people with special needs are something to consider when he'll stand in front of you.

As a person who dedicate his life for disabled people I can only ask the court to plea for mercy and leniency for Charlie, since I think /Charlie's important social work will continue to improve lifes of many disabled heroes in our community

Sincerely,

Guy Salomon

Israel

Salomonguy4@gmail.com

בית הספר התיכון של הישיבה דפלטבוש על שם מר יואל ברברמן YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH JOEL BRAVERMAN HIGH SCHOOL AL AND SONNY GINDI CAMPUS 1609 AVENUE J • BROOKLYN, NY 11230 718- 377-1100 • FAX: (718) 258-0933

November 21, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Dear Judge Rakoff,

Charles Shrem is a 2008 graduate of our high school where I am Associate Principal and Director of Admissions; I have been with the Yeshivah for 31 years. I interviewed Charlie when he was in 8th grade and we continued to talk throughout his four years in with us.

Charlie was very involved in school service. He participated in many activities and had a leadership role in all our programs because of his Audio-Visual work, but his most deeply felt commitment was to helping others. The Yeshivah required every student to complete 40 hours of community service during high school; Charlie's hours far surpassed any other member of his class.

I have a vivid recollection of a phenomenal initiative that Charlie organized and implemented to help a young amputee. The boy was a victim of a terrorist attack in his home in which members of his family were killed. Although seriously wounded, he survived but he lost his leg. Charlie met him as part of our school's annual "Israel Chesed Mission" in which students spend their winter break volunteering and visiting hospitals and centers that support the poor, disabled and ill. Charlie heard the story and decided that he would return to New York with his own mission: to bring this brave young man to speak to his fellow students and people in his community and to raise all the money to purchase the new "leg".

Charlie knew that the more students were involved, the better the outcome. He organized a sports day competition at local fields, open to all students and teams, to play different games. He covered every aspect of the event, arranging the venue, tickets, refreshments, prizes etc. He had shirts printed and distributed to all participants. I went to the park and saw for myself what Charlie accomplished that day and was privileged to hear Charlie introduce his new friend to the Yeshivah.

Charlie has a warm and caring heart with a kindness towards others that was very much in evidence in high school. Even after he graduated, Charlie was always interested in our projects and what he could do to help. When his sister was dealing with her challenging health issue while in high school, Charlie was a constant support for her and his family, and reached out to our faculty and administration for assistance in whatever way possible.

I know Charlie is facing a serious penalty for what he did wrong and I know that he is very remorseful about what he did. His many positive qualities should give him the strength to make only good decisions. I believe that he can do for himself what he has done for others to have a meaningful and honest life in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill W. Sanders

Honorable Jed S. Radkoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Gabriel Sukenik. I was born and raised in New York, graduated from college with a bachelors degree from the University of Rochester, and currently I work with a Bitcoin startup company.

Charlie Shrem has been a terrific friend of mine for over 2 years, since we first met in New York City. In my time of knowing Charlie, he has shown to be a compassionate person who first and foremost wants to leave a positive impact on his community and the world at large. As a leader in the Bitcoin community, Charlie always has, and continues, to find the time to help anyone and everyone with any questions they might have. While he is still young, he is very driven, and that is quite clear to anyone who has worked or learned from Charlie.

I have even had the pleasure of meeting Charlie's immediate family, while attending a Shabbat dinner at their home in Brooklyn. Charlie clearly has a strong commitment to his family and his community, and it is a mutual commitment. Despite Charlie's conviction, Charlie's relationships and family will clearly still be there for him, and Charlie will be there for them as well, and his determination to do good by his family, community, and friends will ultimately persevere, no matter what.

I would ask and plead with the court that Charlie Shrem be given the lightest sentencing possible under the law. Charlie is still quite young, constantly learning, and constantly improving himself as well as others around him. It is my strong belief and conviction that Charlie has learned a great deal through this process, and much better understands and appreciates the rule of law regarding his actions.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and mercy.

Gabriel Sukenik

What December 4, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Melody Seruya; I am Charlie Shrem's aunt. His father and I are brother and sister. So, I've known Charlie since he was born. I live in New Jersey and I work as a secretary in the local Synagogue. I am married with five children. three of whom are married and with their own children.

Charlie is a giving person with a good heart. Charlie is a family orier ated person, always around to help. I am fully aware of the fact that Charlie pled guilty to a crime. I also know that Charlie does have a ton of remorse because I have seen him I many times since the ordeal and he has told me so.

My respect toward Charlie has not changed. His brightness and insight for his future is dynamically strong.

I beg of you, dear Judge Rakoff, to show Charlie some compassion aend give him the most lenient sentence permitted under the law.

Sincerely,

Melody Shrem Seruya

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

11/25/2014

United States District Court

Sothern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States vs. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Your Honor

My name is Alan Shrem and I am Charlie's father. I am 52 years old, a John Dewey High School graduate. I am happily married 26 years and have 4 children. I am currently employed by Fremada Corp which I am the VP Operations. We import jewelry from around the world and have been working here for 24 years.

As I am writing, I am finding it difficult to pinpoint how my son affected my life. There are so many things that make me a proud father.

There was a time when he was this little shy boy taking walks with me to the Synagogue, I filled his mind with cliché after cliché. Teaching him how to handle certain situations, as I learned from my father. I remember him saying to me- Dad, grandpa was such a great man and me being his namesake, how would I ever be as great as him. I told him that he was still young and things, when done with the right intentions, would fall right in to place. Be kind to others as you would want them to be kind to you.

I feel like t was yesterday when my wife and I went to watch him play in little league. There was a fly ball out to right field and the game was on the line. It seemed like a replay of EXACTLY what happened to me when I was his age. Me, I dropped the ball and 3 runs scored. I prayed so hard he would catch the ball. He did and he saved the game. Later that night I said to myself, my son would grow up to be better than me.

Another proud moment was when he approached my wife and I to let us know he was voted by the yeshiva he attended, to be awarded the Archon Award for that school year. This award is given to one student who had the most effect on his fellow students.

As he got older he took on many charitable events, from fashion shows to leagues in order to raise funds for the needy. He would always call me to ask me what I thought and he always used my advice when needed.

One night we told us about this organization in Israel that raises money for victims of terror. He met a young man who lost his leg to a bomb. My son took it upon himself to hold a fundraiser and raised enough money to purchase prosthesis so this gentleman can walk again. Till this day this brings tears to my eyes.

As a father you do your best to instill confidence, honesty and integrity in your children. I made sure he went to college and graduated. He majored in business and that lead him into his love of Bitcoin.

It seemed like yesterday that he explained to me what it was and how it could change the world. He asked me what I thought; I responded by letting him know to follow his dream and if that's what he wanted to do, so be it. He asked me many times, my opinion on how to handle things but unfortunately things moved very fast. All of a sudden my son was a movie star, Bitcoin Charlie.

When we heard he was arrested we couldn't believe our son would be capable of breaking the law. It's a parent's nightmare; I tried to figure out where I went wrong.

My son suffered dearly when under house arrest. Embarrassed, judged and tormented. His entire future was going down the drain. We as parents saw this every day. We know that he is full of remorse.

Your Honor, I do understand my son pleaded guilty to a crime which comes with a punishment. I beg of you to show leniency, in the upmost possible way, and to impose the lowest possibly sentence.

Sincerely

Alan Shrem

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u>
14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Emily Shrem, sister of Charlie Shrem and the 3rd child of Alan and Raquel Shrem. I am currently a sophomore in Brooklyn College studying to graduate with a degree in Business, as did my brother Charlie.

Since I was born, Charlie took me under his wing. Although he wish and hoped my mother had come home with a baby boy the day I was born, I think its safe to say I was the best "brother" Charlie could have asked for. He taught me everything I know today. Everything I had done and accomplished I can truly say was because of Charlie.

Growing up it was always me, my father, and Charlie against the world. We always went to sporting events together and always ended off our nights with a nice big steak that my brother and father would put up on the barbecue. And then one of the most devastating things my family ever endured happened. I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer when I was 15 years old. As a 15 year old I thought my life was over but Charlie taught me how it had only just begun. While I was sick in the hospital Charlie taught me how to write a speech and speak with confidence. Today this helps me tremendously as I am a known public speaker at public, school, and community wide events.

Charlie was one of the only people I let come and sit with me as I received my treatment. He was there for my diagnosis, my treatment, my recovery, and for the news I received confirming I was in remission. I will never forget the smile on my brother's face the day we received that phone call.

Charlie was and forever will be my role model. When I was in the 7th grade, Charlie spoke at his Archon Ceremony in the Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School. Charlie's speech made me want to do the same exact thing he was doing. And I did. In my senior year of high school, I received the same prestigious award. Charlie got me there. How you may ask? By

telling me that the only way to survive high school was to create strong bonds and relationships with the school, faculty, and administration. He showed me that I need to gain their trust and to show them the best Emily that I can be. And that's exactly how I survived high school.

Continuing to be my role model and the reason I do all that I do, Charlie inspired me to attend Brooklyn College. As I watched him graduate in Business, I said to myself that if I wanted to be as great and inspiring as him then I needed to do the same. And so I did and I am currently succeeding in my business studies with a 3.7 GPA.

Charlie inspired every job I have ever had. In the past year I had worked in sales and e-commerce. Both of these jobs inspired by Charlie's success. I was also a soccer coach for the high school team I graduated from. The only reason I was even on the soccer team was because Charlie made it seem like the coolest thing in the world, which it was. And I became a soccer goalie for the team just like he was. I even adopted the same number as him for my jersey, #48. Charlie chose #48 in honor of our homeland Israel who gained her independence in 1948. He showed the world how much he loved Israel with that number on his back. That number led me to go on my high schools Chessed Mission, where I gave hope to many cancer patients who were suffering in the Israeli hospitals and showed them that I was a survivor and they could be too. That mission I couldn't have done without Charlie's blessing and encouragement to go on that trip to Israel.

Charlie is one of the single most important people in my life. He has been with me though thick and thin, inspired me to be who I am today, and is truly the best big brother a girl like me can ask for.

Charlie had made mistakes in his life and he suffers from them greatly today. He lost his business, his motivation, his pride but one thing I will never let him lose is me. He could never lose me mainly because I can never lose him. I wouldn't know what I would do without him.

I understand Charlie has pled guilty to a crime. I ask of you, your honor, to please have mercy on my brother and impose the lowest sentence possible for his actions so he can come home and continue to be the brother I need him to be.

Sincerely,

Emily Shrem

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Jeanette Shrem. I am the paternal grandmother of Chiarlie. My grandson Charlie is a sweet sensitive young man. When my late husbanid took ill 12 years ago, Charlie was always there to help me out around the house and visit his grandfather in the nursing home weekly. I am the co-owner of Fitness Underground Ladies Apparel in Brooklyn. Please judge, have mercy on my grandson Charlie. Please have him serve the lowest sentence possible.

Thank you,

Jeanette Shrem

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Honorable Judge Rakoff,

My name is Joseph Shrem. I have known Charlie Shrem my whole life. His father is my first cousin. I really got to know Charlie on a more personal level when we worked together. In 2008, I was looking to open an internet business selling a variety of products at fifty percent off retail prices. Because of my lack of knowledge in technology, I was looking for a young, honest, hard working person to help me on this venture. One weekend I saw Charlie in synagogue. We spoke about it and he was very excited about the opportunity. As we began working together, I learned more about Charlie and the things he did for other people. His phone would constantly ring with people looking for help with their computer issues, advice, or charity work for the synagogue. He never turned anyone down and never asked for anything in return. As time went by, Charlie helped me launch two other businesses and he was in charge of all technology related situations. He had my full trust and I never doubted his judgement. He would constantly thank me for the first hand business experience he received by working together. He was very appreciative of the opportunities. Anyone that we did business with looked forward to dealing with Charlie.

I am aware that Charlie has been convicted of a crime, but from the bottom of my heart I still have great respect for Charlie. I do believe he's an honest, caring individual who has a love for life. I believe Charlie has a bright future ahead of him and I plead with the court to give him the lowest sentence under the law. Charlie has expressed extreme remorse for all that has happened. I hope the court will see him for who he

really is.

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Your Honor,

My name is Raquel Shrem I am Charlie's mother. I have four children with my husband Alan, Charlie being the oldest and only boy. I am a stay at home mom and I love it.

This is clearly the hardest letter of my life to write. I've been postponing it for weeks. I'm not going to carry on and say how wonderful, fantastic, and perfect Charlie is. That would be expected from a mom. But I am going to tell you how Charlie got me through the most difficult and scariest time in my life.

Three years ago, my daughter Emily, who was only fifteen at the time, was diagnosed with cancer. Hodgkin's lymphoma. Charlie at the time was twenty two years old, busy building his new business, had a healthy social life, and was a typical kid who was just never home or around. The minute he learned of the news, he helped me and my family get through this emotional time. Emily needed five months of chemotherapy, was very sick, and practically lived in Sloan Kettering. Charlie stepped up to the plate without asking and took full control. Judge, my husband and I were basket cases. If it wasn't for Charlie being there both physically and mentally for our two other daughters, my husband and myself, I don't know where I would be right now. With Gods help, Emily pulled through and is now in remission. Charlie's heart is tremendous and I love him deeply for that. He showed me that he is the anchor of our family.

Please Judge, have mercy on Charlie. He has tremendous regret and remorse. He is in great pain on a daily basis from all of this. He has been suffering since January's house arrest and I look forward to his freedom as I learn for him to be happy again.

I plead with you to impose the lowest possible sentence for my son Charlie Shrem.

Thank you,

Raquel Shrem

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is V Shrem. I am Charlie's younger sister and the youngest of the four kids in my family. I am seventeen years old and I attend Magen David Yeshivah High School. I just started my senior year in high school.

My brother Charlie has always been a role model for me for him being the oldest child in the family. He did great things in his high school life, which is what I look up to the most. When Charlie applied to high school in eighth grade, he didn't get accepted at first, he was pending. He then went to Yeshivah of Flatbush High School and achieved an Archon award in his senior year and made a speech. He inspired me that if you want something you, put your mind to it, and achieve it. He has taught me things that I wouldn't have learned from anyone else.

Charlie was there for my family through all the bad times. For when my sister Emily was diagnosed with cancer and went through chemotherapy and when my grandpa Charlie passed away. Now its our turn to be there for him.

So please Judge, have mercy on my only brother Charlie. I watch my brother suffer from what he has done. He regrets his actions and has been suffering since the house arrest in January. I hope you impose the lowest sentence possible for my brother Charlie.

Sincerely,



Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Courts Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Aaron Silvers and I am writing on behalf of my friend Charlie Shrem. I have known Charlie for over 20 year. During this period I have grown up and attended school and have observed his character and can say he is a kind and helpful person.

During our time in high school at Yeshiva of Flatbush Charlie had led a few extracurricular activities in which he helped the school and the less fortunate. He was part of a Tzedaka Commission (Charity) in which he would organize school wide fund raisers, help organize food drives, and help find causes and distribution for the funds raised. Supplemental to the in school collection he also raised money organizing a fashion show where he donated his time to find a facility, participants, donors, and advertising. In addition to the charitable work he has also used his skill to help the school through the AV Squad. He helped with the technical parts of many school assembly including events such as Holocaust and Israeli Veterans Day memorial programs. He has also helped with the technical parts of school plays and any other general assemblies.

Outside of school he has always been kind and hard working. I admire his hard working and entering an industry that was undefined. He had a passion for an idea that was new and on the cutting edge and the laws around it were still being established and set up. Though he has admitted guilt his passion can still be used towards other and positive concepts moving forward. On top of his work ethic and passion he is kind and generous he always is willing to help and answer any questions or favors people may have that are in the scope of his ability. When I went to Florence to study abroad with Charlie he was willing to make a trip to the market when we were all tired and pick us up food to help research which location we would visit next. The little kindnesses and helpful actions I believe reveal a lot about Charlie's good character.

As mentioned above I believe Charlie is a great person and hasn't been malicious through the time I have known him. I believe you should take into consideration his life as a whole and not let this isolated incident impact his life moving forward. People are innately flawed and from time to time make mistakes and as seen through this case he has accepted the consequences and went through the proper channels of the legal system. I hope you can show compassion with his sentencing and let him move on and live his life and his positive contributions to society. Don't let his over ambition and ignorance to the structure of a system be detrimental to his life moving forward. I appreciate you taking your time to listen to me and reiterate for leniency in your sentencing. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Aaron Silvers

Your Honor,

In regard to Charlie Shrem, I first want to say that he is the best, positive thing, that had ever came into my sisters life. At this point, although not married, I consider him family. He has helped my family and I out in numerous ways and is always there when family needs him the most. One occasion worth mentioning would be when my grandmother was hospitalized. When my family and I had arrived at the hospital to visit her, there were flowers and a card sent from Charlie already. That wasn't the only time that had happened either. He is always putting other before himself, and makes sure that my sister is taken care of no matter what situation may arise. There are many great things to say about Charlie that others just can't see from their perspective. I ask that you take all of this into consideration when sentencing. He is our family, and we love him dearly.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely, Skyler J Slavinsky and Kelsey Grammer



Diane Sterner

Owner/Certified Instructor 717-741-1872

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007-1312

United States vs. Charlie Shrem

December 2, 2014 York, Pa 17402

Dear your honor,

I am writing this letter regarding Charlie Shrem. My name is Diane Sterner and I am the mother of Courtney Warner who is Charlie's girlfriend. I am also a proud small business owner of 25 years for fitness for women and kids. I personally met Charlie in July of 2013, but I felt I knew Charlie since he first met my daughter. He would talk to me on the phone with sincerity and respect, and made me feel very confident and comfortable that my daughter was with him. I will never forget the day Courtney called me so excited that she finally met a guy she has been looking for her whole life. So as a mother, I just listen and pray she is right. Well, this time she was right, all I ever prayed for was for her to meet someone (like we all do for our kids) to be able to feel what unconditional love feels like. God has answered my prayers and put Charlie into not just my daughter's life but also mine. He has shown integrity, kindness, love, admiration and respect to not just Courtney but to my self. I know Charlie would not do anything intentional to hurt himself or anyone else. He is a very smart young man with a lot of determination and just wants to make a life for himself. This past year and it hurt me so bad to witness what he went through, I just hope now he will be able to move on with his life and be able to continue to grow into a fine young man with a future with Courtney. I am very proud and honored to have Charlie be a part of my daughter's life and the rest of my family and friends.

Charlie has a lot to offer this wonderful world and I am proud I'm going to be a part of it to see what amazing things he will accomplish.

Sincerely,

Diane Sterner

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Sothern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States vs. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr.243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

Our names are Ralph and Sophie Tawil. We are very close friends of the Shrem family and have practically watched each and everyone of their children grow up from birth until the present day.

We both graduated from high school and went to one year of college and are now self employed (Ralph). I (Sophie) am a stay at home mom with a part time job in a needlepoint store close to my home. We have four wonderful sons ages 23, 21, 18 and 3.

We have known Charlie since he was a very young boy and have shared with him as well as his family numerous family trips and holiday gatherings over a period of 25+years.

As the parents of four boys, we have always looked up to Charlie because of the responsible young man he was becoming right before our eyes. At that time our boys were giving us a great deal of trouble like most teens do but Charlie was different. Charlie was someone every parent wanted their son to be like, Charlie was the boy we all wanted our boys to be friends with, he was the boy with all the right morals and the right values and the boy who had not for one moment made his parents worry. He always did the right thing, studied hard, was involved in all of the major school events and always stayed out of trouble. We all knew Charlie was different, we all knew he would be something great.

As the years passed, he became a very positive influence in my two older boys lives, and with much of his wit he managed to guide them to get involved in all the positive things that were happening around them. We truly believe he kept them out of trouble, that was Charlie, always looking to do good, fun and productive things.

We understand Charlie has committed a crime. Word of the situation left us speechless. Our Charlie? Impossible, it can't be. The respect and admiration we and our family has had for Charlie through all the years we've known him, simply made it unbearable to hear the news, and it just didn't fit the person we've grown to love so much.

Charlie has been deeply consumed by the pain and suffering he has caused his

family, his colleagues, his friends but most important, his parents, our dearest and closest friends. The suffering they have endured over the past 9 or 10 months has been unbearable and Charlie, living under their roof for quite some time could clearly see the pain that he has caused them. He is clearly remorseful and in much of his own pain for letting his loving parents and wonderful sisters down, the parents and sisters that were so proud of all of his achievements and of the man he had become.

We believe Charlie is still that man. That man with the right values and the right morals that we all came to love from such a young age. People make mistakes, Charlie made a mistake, Charlie is guilty of his mistake but we know in our hearts and from all the years we've had the pleasure of knowing him that he deserves a second chance. He deserves leniency with his conviction and mercy for what he has done. We all know how truly sorry he is. We ask, we beg, we plea that the court will give him the most lenient sentence it considers to be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Sophie and Ralph Tawil.

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff
United States District Court
Sothern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States vs. Charlie Shrem
14 Cr.243 (JSR)

November 21st 2014

Dear Judge Rakoff

My name is Florence Tebele. Charlie is my nephew. I've know Charlie all my life. Charlie is named after my father; the only Charlie Shrem in our large family, which I know Charlie, carries with much respect.

Charlie is a very hard worker in school. He was top of his class, so well liked and popular with friends and most of the faculty. He was always the go to guy to ask for a helping hand.

The past year brought us all together as a family to support and reassure Charlie of his standing in our family and how good of a person he is and always was.

I pray for the most lenient sentence the court considers to be appropriate. He is a very special man with a very bright future.

Spending the Jewish holidays with Charlie, seeing his sincere regret and remorse, seeing my brother Alan and my sister in-law Kelly juggling their family through tough time. Trying to put smiles on their faces, for three other children, three girls and Charlie. And all the while hurting something awful inside.

I truly feel that with Charlie's confidence, intelligence, strong family values, and with God's help, he surely will grow in all aspects of his life.

I am certain that he will prove to his family and friends that he is ready to move on with his head high and walk tall with God's help.

Sincerely

Florence Tebele

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Your Honor,

I am Charlie Shrem's First Cousin, Jack
Tebele. My Mother and his Father are siblings. I have known Charlie
since he was a young child. I am close to Charlie and his family.
Since he was young he was a very kind and warm person, we enjoyed good
moments together during many family events. His love for all people
and the way he connects with people are one of Charlie's best
qualities.

In the past ten years our Grandfather Charlie Shrem , had a stroke and passed on less than 2 years ago. He was a huge person in both our lives. Being his grandchild gave Charlie a huge sense of pride, as our grandfather was a man of charity to our Brooklyn Jewish Community. His sense of humor and knowledge of many new innovations is also carried on by Charlie. During our Grandfather's illness Charlie was instrumental in caring for him both physically and spiritually. Some moments he was unable to communicate to us but when we were with him he knew we were there. He carries on a great name and he will continue to live up to it in terms of his kindness and love for all people.

Charlie ever since he was young he had a great gift with technology. He loved the way people were connecting and innovating at amazing speeds. He would advise me at times when I was inept at figuring out. He has unfortunately used his great gift for the crime he has pleaded guilty. This past year has been a year for reflection for Charlie, he in my mind a changed person. He is able to see his life in a new light. He has a great future in front of him, to build a family and business for himself. He has profound respect for our country. As I had mentioned earlier he wants to make his Grandfather proud that even though this incident has happened he still has a lot more to prove to himself and his family.

As Charlie's cousin and friend I would like to plead for leniency in Charlie's upcoming sentence. I hope I have

explained what I have in this letter a small part of a bigger story of Charlie, that he receives the lowest possible sentence under US law. The way this crime has happened does not show Charlie's true self. He is a part of me and my wife and 2 sons I plead with the court to show mercy.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter and hope you can understand Charlie's life has much good to give to the world, himself and his family.

Jack Tebele 2305 Avenue T Brooklyn, NY 11229

From The Desk of Joseph Torgueman

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District Of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, N.Y. 10007

Re: United States vs. Charlie Shrem 14Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff.

My name is Joseph Torgueman and I am the President of Congregation Shaare Shalom in Brooklyn. I have been acting president for 17 years. I met Charlie Shrem at the Shul when he was praying in our Youth program over 15 years ago. He became the youth director after a few years and I noticed his compassion for the children that attended. He would treat the kids like his own family and made sure that they were happy all the time. I remember one occasion where he personally went and waited on line at a store for over three hours just to get the exact toy for one of our kids. That shows me how much he cared about our kids. I also remember one summer where he personally went out collecting money from everyone so he can pay for prosthesis for someone who lost their leg. Who would do that? In my opinion Charlie has a heart bigger than any young kid that I know. I am not just saying that, it's the truth.

I understand that Charlie was convicted of a crime and if I may your honor plead with you to be merciful in your decision. I know that Charlie would be a great asset to our Synagogue and the kids need him. I also understand that Charlie has shown sincere regret of the pain he caused to his family.

Your Honor, Please allow me to plead with you again in your decision for Charlie. I believe its time for him to do the right things from now on and show you and everyone his true heart. I know his heart is good.

Sincerely,

Joseph Torgueman, President Shaare Shalom Congregation

Just hegue

Honorable Jed . Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1212

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff, My name is Roger Ver. I am a 35 year old, self made, multi-millionaire, international investor that currently employs dozens of people around the world, and pays millions of dollars in US taxes. I first met Charlie in early 2012 when he was starting his company Bitinstant. It was clear immediately that Charlie was an idealistic, passionate young man, with a drive for business. That's why I proudly chose to become the very first investor in his company. I knew from my first conversation with him, that he is a honest person, who is trying his best to help make the world a better place. I've spent hours on the phone with him, attended various conferences and business meetings around the globe with him, and never once have I witnessed him treat someone unfairly. In fact, he has always gone out of his way to be kind to others, whether it is a friend, his own family, or a stranger on the street. Charlie is a wonderful human being, and the world is a better place because he exists. I've personally spoken with Charlie many times, both before, and after he signed his plea agreement. I'm sure that he has learned his lesson and understands the seriousness of his offense. Because Charlie has already learned his lesson, is unlikely to ever commit a crime ever again, and is such a benefit to those around him, and the economy in general, I respectfully request that the court impose the minimum sentence allowed by law.

With the best intentions, Roger Ver 858 Frigate Bay 15-203 St. Kitts

Digitally signed by
Roger Ver
DN: cn=Roger Ver, o, ou,

email=roger@rogerver.c om, c=<n

Date: 2014,12.03 15:52:20 Z

Juliana Vincenti

Tuesday, November 18th, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff:

I would like to introduce myself as the neighbor of Charlie Shrem for the past 20 years. My husband, Sal and I have been residing in our home for the past 26 years with our two daughters Elisa and Margo ages 22 and 19 and have had the wonderful pleasure of being neighbors who have raised our children alongside the Shrem family. I cannot begin to say what a blessing it has been to share triumphs and trials as we grow our families together in the privacy of our own homes yet being in a community who cares for one another.

Your Honor, 20 years ago we watched Charlie Shrem enter into his parents new home purchase as a toddler along with his baby sister Jeanette and we were so grateful that we had a family such as theirs to be living right next door. As a mother, I believe in a mother's instinct when she encounters children of all ages. Charlie was beyond his years even at the age of 5 when we first met him. As one would say, an "old soul". He was and is truly respectful to his immediate family, his neighbors and the community at large. Charlie was not someone that you would look at and say he is headed to the wrong side of the tracks. He has promise and integrity written all over him. We would watch Charlie go to synagogue every week with his dad, uncles, grandparents and as a young boy into young adult, he became very active in serving his community. We enjoyed many nights on our exterior porches sitting together, eating homemade goods, and talking about life.

page 3

Your Honor, I am sure as a man who has served this country well to bring justice, you will see and judge rightly that Charlie Shrem has served his time with complete honor and respect. I ask humbly that you would have great mercy and leniency on his sentencing.

Lastly, Your Honor, as his neighbor and a mother figure in the community I would trust Charlie 100% again with the Epiphany he has gained from this life experience. I believe Charlie Shrem will be a man that will bring honor to himself, his family, his country and most of all His G-d.

Sincerely,

Juliana Vincenti

Salvatore Vincenti

Monday, December 8th, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

> Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Honarable Judge Rakoff:

My name is Salvatore Vincenti, i live next door to the Shrem family and I have seen Charlie Shrem together with his sisters grow into young adults over the last 20 years.

May i say that it has been and is a pleasure to live next to the Shrem family. A well respected family that is known in the community for their support and involvement in their synagogue.

Since a young man Charlie has always been the type of kid that stood out above others. I have watched him work and study hard while at the same time taking time out for his family and community. I have enjoyed many nights sitting on the front porch listening to his goals and endeavors. My wife and I would always tell him that some day he would be on the cover of Forbes. We always felt that this kid was determined and destined for success. We felt that he would be successful not only because of his drive and motivation but mostly because of his respect for people, his integrity in his work, his dedication to his community and most of all his love for God, and family.

As a businessman, sometimes the desire to succeed can causes an individual to loose focus of the day to day operation. Setbacks in business cause you to refocus and become more discerning in choosing the individuals to do business with. I be-

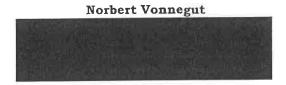
page 2

lieve that Charlie Shrem has learned much from this setback and will make him wiser and more astute. This is a young man with a bright future ahead of him and many more goals to fulfill. I believe that he is an asset to our society and to our community. He is a young man who has learned from his mistake and is ready to forge ahead to restore his integrity in the eyes of the court, the business world, his family, his community and his God.

Your Honor, I humbly request that you would consider the future of this young man and the possibilities of his contribution to our society when reflecting on a just sentence. This is a young man that i believe honored the restrictions of his conditions while under house arrest. A young man who has contemplated his mistake and his ready to rise from it with new determination to be a positive influence to society and not a liability. This is a young man which made a mistake, has paid for it and now wants to give back by restoring that which has been fractured. I believe that he will be an example to many young adults aspiring to succeed while at the same time maintaining integrity and honesty in every aspect of business.

As a father I ask humbly that you would have great mercy and leniency on his sentencing.

May God continue to give you wisdom in all of your decisions.



Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Re:

United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

December 2, 2014

Dear Judge Rakoff:

I am a novelist and a financial columnist. I have known Charlie Shrem since March of 2013, when we first met to discuss a non-fiction book about Bitcoin.

Through long conversations in the basement of his parents' home, I came to learn a great deal about Charlie in a short period of time. While our relationship began as a professional alliance, I now consider him a friend.

I know Charlie has pled guilty to a crime. But I humbly ask that you impose the most lenient sentence you consider appropriate, in part because I believe Charlie is a good person at his core and in part because I believe he will ultimately make positive contributions to society.

During our time together I observed (or learned through his recollections) three things, which I hope are helpful as you consider his sentence:

1. Charlie is forever striving to improve as a person. Perhaps it's his upbringing. I'm more likely to think it's his DNA, because he likes and gravitates toward challenges. When Charlie was born, for example, he had a severely crossed eye. It was corrected through surgery, but the doctor said, "He'll never be a pilot," which became a running joke in his family. That's the reason he took flying lessons. He was, as I recall, only a few hours short of getting his license prior to

his arrest. It was a victory for him. And I personally find his can-do persona, which surfaces through natural optimism, inspiring.

- 2. Charlie has close friends, who are accomplished in law, business, and a wide range of technological disciplines. They trust him, and they support him, as you are no doubt aware given his many consulting jobs during the court proceedings. I mention this because Charlie is surrounding himself with a network of good, law-abiding people, who will help him stay out of trouble going forward.
- 3. Charlie really loves technology and sees it as a tool to make positive contributions to society. When we discussed Bitcoin, for example, Charlie focused on how it will improve the lives of, say, working cabbies who might otherwise pay 10+ percent in wire-transfer fees to send dollars to their homes overseas. With Bitcoin, they can transfer money for free. He never talked about getting rich and, in fact, shied away from discussions of personal wealth.

I highlight these conversations to illustrate that Charlie has a good moral compass. And while he clearly stumbled along the way, I believe that he a) is motivated by doing the right thing (rather than personal greed) b) acknowledges and sincerely regrets the seriousness of the crime to which he has pled guilty, and c) will be far more attentive to the law going forward and encourage others, through his actions and force of personality, to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Northert Vonasgut

Sincerely,

Norbert Vonnegut

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

United States vs. Charlie Shrem

Dec. 1st, 2014 New York, NY

Dear Your honor,

I am writing in regards to Charlie Shrem. My name is Courtney Marie Warner. I am 34 years old. I have grown to know Charlie Shrem for close to 2 years now. I have previously worked as a cocktail waitress at EVR bar/lounge, and I also am an actor. I currently have a feature film out called The Will, that I have filmed on location in Denmark. In April, Bitcoin was becoming more mainstream, at least in my eyes. EVR was starting to accept it, and I was one of the first to do the first transactions for Bitcoin. The press was everywhere. Anyway, there would be pictures and articles of Charlie and I in the press for this crazy phenomenon, and low and behold who knew that innovation, would create such a beautiful love story between Charlie and I. Little did I know that Mr. Shrem would become the love of my life. I know Charlie as a hardworking, decent, honest man. I know there isn't anyone that he would not give the shirt off of his back if he had to. I have attended many bitcoin conferences with Charlie, and all I know is there is not one person, no matter what city or state we were in that someone did not look up to him. There are so many that respect him, and to this day still do. When he would speak at these conferences, I would welt with tears in my eyes, because I was so proud to see how happy, and excited he was about this. It's not coming from a greedy or mischevious place, it literally is him wanting to help people come together to make a change in a good way. I know when I first met Charlie before we started dating, he truly believed in this new virtual idea. You could see it through his eyes and his soul, he lives and breathes bitcoin, and now made me start to live that life too. I am proud to be part of this community. I'm not really sure in great detail what exactly transpired but I do know, Charlie may get in over his head sometimes, and it's not to be malicious, it comes from a good place, his heart. He is so humble, he is not selfish. I mean even my mom loves him like her own son. Charlie has been nothing but respectful and good to me. I am fortunate to meet such a great person, he helped me get out of some debt that I had and then I graciously paid him back. I didn't ask him to help he just did, because that was something that came natural to him, to want to help. He changes my life so much for the better and makes me a better person everyday. I have had past relationships and no one compares to him. He is my everything. Please take into consideration, that Bitcoin is the wild west, and there are so many unknown factors of this new idea, anyone could blindly get caught up in something, and they don't know what could be happening. I ask you oh so kindly this is a 25 year old boy, that has his whole life ahead of him, please be as lenient as possible, and let us continue this beautiful journey together. I can't imagine my life without him. Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully

Courtney Warner



Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

> Re: <u>United States v. Charlie Shrem</u> 14 Cr. 243(JSR)

Dear Your Honor,

I first met Charlie in November of 2012 when I joined the Bitinstant company. I worked with Charlie at Bitinstant where I eventually oversaw all of operations and development as CIO. My background is that of an engineer, and I was the second hired employee of Bitinstant. I stayed with Bitinstant until July 15th, 2013 when I resigned.

Addition Background (which I use when giving expert testimony):

My work experience includes a range of roles with a focus on engineering, management, and quality assurance. I have led teams of up to 25 individuals at tech startups, development agencies, and open source projects. One of those open source projects being Bitcoin itself - where I worked on the core protocol and implementation.

I am the CEO of Coin Apex, board member for Coin.co Systems, LLC, BlockWork, Inc., and Coin Validation, LLC. I am an investor in nine technology companies, six of which are focused on Bitcoin.

I have worked on software technology professionally for approximately ten years in New York. I've been programming since the age of 8 and have a working and intimate knowledge of nine programming languages. I attended the Rochester Institute of technology and studied software engineering in 2004-2005. I have an associates of science degree in business administration from Nassau Community College.

I have spoken at several universities, the council on foreign relations, and on major TV networks. I regularly consult for attorneys, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and investors. I have met with and advised members of the US Congress, the Senate, the UN, state and federal agencies, and many of their staffers on Bitcoin.

Since Bitinstant:

I resigned from Bitinstant when I was given a private grant for research on voting



systems in the summer of 2013. After finishing that research project, my partner and I created an incubator at 1 Penn Plaza here in New York.

The intention of this incubator was to hire some very smart engineers (most of which were former Bitinstant employees) to build technology that addressed the many problems Bitcoin was facing at the time. Bitinstant was a direct inspiration for our first project, Coin Validation.

Coin Validation was a tool to provide better and easier use of regulatory compliance tools for companies in the Bitcoin ecosystem. In many ways, we sought to correct the lack of regulatory compliance knowledge at companies similar to Bitinstant - having learned from what occurred there in 2013.

We have built a handful of products since then, but CoinValidation was our first project.

Charlie Shrem

I worked very closely with Charlie at Bitinstant. He is charismatic, visionary, and an inspiring entrepreneur. For better or worse I had no knowledge of any wrongdoing or illicit activities at Bitinstant, and I found it incredibly distressing when I found out in the winter of 2013.

I certainly did not grasp the importance of regulatory compliance initially, but now I realize why the policies exist. There is a great deal of illicit activity which I would not want passing through my business - and the policies exist to help prevent that activity from going unnoticed.

The ethos in technology startups has been inspired by the likes of Facebook, Google, etc. Where the byline is to "move fast, and break things." I have found and frequently speak at events to explain that in financial technology, that approach does not apply. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyqUslBibOA)

Unfortunately, the Bitcoin industry includes many bad actors and people willing to engage in illicit activities. I don't want to make excuses for Charlie because there were several young people who chose not to engage in that side of the industry. Still, I feel that Charlie was young and impressionable at the time. There was a great deal of pressure on us.

I don't think that his actions are a true reflection of his character or moral fiber. My recent interaction with Charlie, when he humbly asked me to write this letter, has indicated that he has taken responsibility for his actions. It was a stark and sobering contrast to the way I was accustomed to interacting with Charlie.



My previous interactions with him have been that he moves and thinks very quickly. In my most recent and sobering correspondence he was measured, showed pause, reflection, and took responsibility. Although, still ever the optimist and focused on overcoming the challenges he faces.

Final remarks:

In my own life, I have faced the legal consequences of being rebellious. At the age of 20, I chose to change the ways by which I approach decisions. In the past 8 years, I have learned the importance of making the right decisions, taking personal responsibility, and making amends for my past.

I very strongly have the sense from my correspondence with Charlie that similarly, he has a new resolve. I expect him to achieve great heights a day at a time by making the right decisions. I'm writing this letter in support of Your Honor giving Charlie the opportunity to reach those heights of achievement without legal impediment.

Sincerely,

Alex Waters

CEO, CoinApex.com 25 Broadway, Floor 10 New York, NY 10004 (516) 331-1331

בית הספר התיכון של הישיבה דפלטבוש על שם מר יואל ברברמן YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH JOEL BRAVERMAN HIGH SCHOOL AL AND SONNY GINDI CAMPUS 1609 AVENUE J • BROOKLYN, NY 11230 718-377-1100 • FAX: (718) 258-0933

November 21, 2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007-1312

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Rachel Winkler. I have been teaching at the Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School for 35 years. I have known Charlie Shrem since he was a freshman in my Hebrew class. We also worked closely on special programs and projects at the school.

From the day that Charlie walked into our building, he wanted to get involved in activities at the school. Charlie's talents in all things audio-visual were apparent immediately. He soon became the student in charge of "AV" working hard to make sure that all assemblies, videos and programs were perfect. Charlie would stay in school after hours and on Sundays and work on projects at home during his free time.

Charlie has a heart of gold, he is selfless and is always willing to help others. When his younger sister Emily was diagnosed with cancer in her junior year of high school, Charlie called to tell me when he felt the school "needed to do more" or when we should visit or not visit her. Emily's ultimate cure came though great efforts on the part of so many, especially Charlie. During Emily's illness, the family experienced much stress and hardships and Charlie worked tirelessly keeping up their spirits, and being a great support to all.

Charlie has close ties to his community and through the years he has participated in many programs to help those in need. I understand that Charlie has pled guilty to the crime. Charlie is riddled with guilt and remorse and it seems very genuine. Charlie's major assets are loving-kindness and mercy. These principles guide him through his days. Charlie has made a serious error, and given the total picture which I have seen over these many years, it would be a blessing for his family and the community if Charlie could remain involved, active and at home.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Cachel Whalle

Rachel Winkler

11/20/2014

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff
United States District Court
Sothern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States vs. Charlie Shrem 14 Cr.243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff

My name is Bruce Wortman and I am writing to you in reference to Charlie Shrem. Charlie is my nephew; my wife and his father are siblings. As my nephew, I have known Charlie for almost all of his life. I have watched him grow from a cute young boy into a warm, responsible, helpful and caring young man.

In January I upon his arrest, I was dismayed to learn of Charlie's involvement in criminal activities. I have always known Charlie to be a straight forward person, who was eager to help people in need. While under house arrest he let it be known to all his family and friends that if he could be of any help to anyone he had the time and it would be his pleasure. It's that kind of spirit and attitude that makes him an asset to the community at large.

I would respectfully ask of the court for leniency in sentencing and could say that in the time I have recently spent with Charlie he has shown great remorse for his actions.

Thank you

Bruce Wortman

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

We are the maternal grandparents of Charlie Shrem. My husband is metired and I am a homemaker. We are both high school graduates. Charlie is a kind and caring grandson who has passion in his work. All through the years he has done a lot of charity in his Yeshivah and his Synagogue. One thing that stands out the most is when he raised money for an Israeli boy that lost his leg due to terrorism in Israel.

Unfortunately, my husband Victor is currently going through chemouherapy in Sloan Keterng. Charlie regularly visits there while my husband is being treated, which brings much comfort, inspiration, and love.

Please Judge, have mercy on our grandson, Charlie, as he is so speciful to us and does not deserve to serve any jail time.

Thank you, Emily and Victor Zalta

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street

New York NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff

My name is Julia Zalta, I am Charlie Shrem's aunt. Charlie has always been a caring and loving boy. When he was in high school he went to Isreal with school, he came back inspired to do good deeds. He met a boy there who lost his leg in a terrorist attack. He flew the boy to America and organized a fundraiser to help get this boy a new leg. I was very impressed with what he did.

Charlie has pleaded guilty. He knows what he did is wrong, he has expressed to me that he feels terrible about what he has done and how he has hurt his family.

I ask you to please give him a lenient sentence. He is a good boy who made a mistake. I hope you will give him the lowest appropriate sentence.

Thank You

Honorable Jed S. Rakoff
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: United States v. Charlie Shrem

14 Cr. 243 (JSR)

Dear Judge Rakoff,

My name is Max Zalta and Charlie is my nephew who I know all my life. He has always been a good boy who not only conducted himself the right way but reached out and would always help different causes, whether visiting the sick and needy on an Israel mission or being involved in local organizations. He was very instrumental in helping our local synagogue and was an original president of the youth program there as well. Everyone always has good things to say about Charlie.

I understand that Charlie made a mistake and it seems to me that he learned a lesson and shows great remorse for his actions. He will likely get stronger from this not only because he realizes what he did was wrong but also because that is the type of person he is; Charlie did not become such a fine young man unless he had solid character traits.

Please consider this letter and kindly do the best within your abilities to impose the lightest possible sentence.

Sincerely,

Max Zalta