**PATRICK R. BOWERS**

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Kim Laizer

Mentor Teacher

Yosemite Institute

P.O. Box 487

Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Ms. Laizer:

I am writing to express my interest in a Field Educator position with the Yosemite Institute. Prior to my recent humanitarian mission to Ethiopia, I was an attorney with Clifford & Brown, a well-respected law firm in the Central Valley. I believe my unique experiences combined with my understanding of environmental stewardship and love of the outdoors makes me a particularly strong candidate to lead students to connect with nature.

I am confident my practice experience in environmental law has prepared me to teach students how to effectively take responsibility for their environments. In my position at Clifford & Brown, along with a team of lawyers, I have substantially assisted in conservation plan negotiations between development companies, ranching businesses, environmental organizations, and government agencies. Additionally, I counseled my farming clients in clean solar energy production on previously idle land and my energy clients in diversifying production with emerging wind technology. Furthermore, I have constructed comprehensive environmental policies for my natural resources clients to effectively balance necessary production and environmental responsibility. I believe my practical understanding of environmental stewardship would provide a strong platform to teach students how their communities and daily lives impact the natural systems on which they depend.

In addition, my substantive knowledge of environmental and conservation policy would provide a strong foundation in preparing youth to become active citizens on behalf of natural and human communities. During my internship with the House Ways and Means Committee, I came to a thorough understanding of federal policy as Representatives debated renewable energy tax credits and national park funding. Moreover, during my internship for the Massachusetts Senate Minority Leader, I studied Massachusetts’ environmental laws as Legislators discussed a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal. Through my federal and state government work, I learned how government at all levels affects environments. I am searching for a position in which I can pass on this knowledge to students so that they might effectively analyze government actions on behalf of their communities.

Furthermore, my enthusiasm for nature complements my professional experience and would provide a strong platform to encourage students to explore the natural world. During my last semester of law school, I studied in Israel. While in Israel, I enjoyed snorkeling along Red Sea corals and scuba diving with dolphins. I hiked in the Negev, Jordanian, and Sinai deserts. From Israel, I traveled to Turkey and Europe. Shortly after returning to the U.S., I traveled to Sweden to experience its rural beauty from my friend’s farm. Last year I traveled to Indonesia where I admired the country’s natural majesty from Javanese jungles to Balinese beaches. Additionally, I recently traveled to Ireland, overwhelmed by remarkable views from the Ring of Kerry to the Cliffs of Moher. From Ireland I visited my friend in Sweden to experience the western archipelago. This summer I returned from Ethiopia where I hiked through the untouched Bale mountain jungles and played soccer with kids.

I am seeking to broaden my experience into outdoor teaching where my environmental law experience, my active enthusiasm for nature, as well as my Socratic legal education would coalesce to form interactive and engaging programs. I regularly visit Yosemite and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you for an interview to discuss how my qualifications could meet your needs. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. Bowers