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Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council  
800 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite D  
Stuart, Florida 34994

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as my personal letter of recommendation for Sylvia May Palma. I am a licensed attorney in the state of California, and have practiced criminal law for the past nineteen years. During the first ten years of my career, I worked as a Deputy District Attorney in both Los Angeles County and San Mateo County. I presently work as a criminal defense attorney, and represent indigent clients through the San Mateo County Private Defender Panel.

As a former prosecutor and now full-time criminal defense attorney, I have had the opportunity to work with a vast number of investigators, both private and those in law enforcement. Based upon my experience, both personally and career wise, I highly recommend that Sylvia Palma be recognized as a certified criminal defense investigator.

I first met Sylvia six years ago while working as a criminal defense attorney for the San Mateo County Private Defender Panel. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working with her on a number of different criminal cases. Having worked with many investigators, I can honestly say that Sylvia has distinguished herself as an unparalleled investigator, whose work ethic is of the highest integrity.

One case in particular, of which I worked extensively with Sylvia on, was People v. Watson, San Mateo Superior Court case number SC061058(A). Our client was charged with multiple violent felonies, including carjacking and assault. Due to the nature of the case and his criminal history, his sentence exposure was 51 years to life in state prison. I cannot commend Sylvia enough on the outstanding investigation she conducted in this case. Having worked with her on the case for some time, I personally observed and became aware of Sylvia's many talents and skills as an outstanding investigator.

First and foremost, Sylvia is extremely knowledgeable and has an acute attention to detail. As a result, she essentially exposed a multitude of details which were overlooked by the police who investigated the case. This attention to detail provided the very basis upon which our defense rested. Additionally, her work product and reports are consistently prompt and concise.

In this particular case, there were a variety of issues (ranging from identification issues to forensic evidence such as blood splatter and DNA). Despite the many issues, Sylvia exhibited a high degree of knowledge and intellect in "seeing the big picture" in the case while understanding how all the nuances of the case affected different aspects of the case.

Sylvia also exercises the highest level of ethical inquiry. In the case, there were a number of hostile witnesses, including those which were difficult to locate. By utilizing every resource available, coupled with ample "street smarts" Sylvia not only located witnesses, but was able to relate to them in such a way that they felt comfortable speaking to Sylvia. Her calm and cool demeanor is ever present, and she has a keen ability to relate to people from all walks of life. Such talents proved critical in many aspects, especially in securing the testimony and cooperation of material witnesses.

Her ability to investigate cases while exercising the highest degree of integrity is without question a true asset that Sylvia possesses. Notwithstanding her ability to gain the trust of otherwise hostile witnesses, her personality is such that it often assists in obtaining the trust of a client. Never wavering to pressure, her presence during the jury trial in the Watson case played a critical role in "client control" and in the ultimate outcome in the case.

After extensive investigation, the Watson case eventually went to jury trial. I am proud to say that the jury acquitted our client of each and every count. There is no question that Sylvia's work, ranging from her excellent investigative skills, as well as all other aspects above and beyond the typical scope of an investigator's responsibility, resulted in the successful outcome of the case.

Outside of my own personal experience with Sylvia as an investigator, I have also come to know of her reputation among the prosecution and defense bar in San Mateo County. As a member of the Private Defender Panel in San Mateo County, I work along with over one hundred attorneys and several dozen private investigators. Sylvia's work ethic and skills have earned her the reputation among many as a top notch investigator.

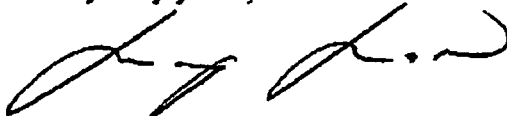
I have had informal conversations with court staff, attorneys and other investigators. Many have provided unsolicited comments about Sylvia. Those comments unanimously refer to her exemplary skills as an investigator, her zealous efforts to investigate any and every aspect of a case; her intellectual knowledge and ability to recognize legal issues, and her overall ability to work with people from all walks of life.

Sylvia has worked on all types of criminal cases, including the most violent felonies and murders. At all times, she exudes the highest degree of professionalism. She is routinely

regarded by many colleagues, both attorneys and fellow investigators, as one of the best in her field. All these factors aside, it is perhaps the success of many cases, both those I've personally handled, and those I am aware of through colleagues, that speak volumes of Sylvia's skills and talents as an investigator. I would have no hesitation in working with her on any type of case, and in fact, would most likely turn to her first as she has demonstrated exemplary skills and talent and has demonstrated time and time again that her work makes a critical difference in reaching the most successful resolution for all her clients.

Sylvia is an exceptional candidate for certification as a defense investigator. I am honored to work with her, and honored to submit this letter of recommendation on her behalf. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above. Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'May J. Mar', written in a cursive style.

May J. Mar  
Attorney at Law