

1           MR. URICK: No further questions. Thank you,  
2 Your Honor.  
3           THE COURT: Thank you.  
4           You may step down. Let me advise you -- one  
5 moment.  
6           Ms. Gutierrez, are you going to need him again?  
7           MS. GUTIERREZ: No, Judge, he's released.  
8           THE COURT: May he be released from the summons?  
9           MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes.  
10          MR. URICK: Nothing further.  
11          THE COURT: Released from the summons?  
12          Sir, you may step down. You are a sequestered  
13 witness. What that means is you may not discuss your  
14 testimony with anyone who is yet to be a witness. However,  
15 since you've been released from the summons, you may remain  
16 in the courtroom, if you would like, or you're free to go  
17 at this time.  
18          THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
19          (Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the witness was  
20 excused.)  
21          THE COURT: Your next witness, Ms. Gutierrez.  
22          MS. GUTIERREZ: My next witness would be  
23 Ms. Bettye Stuckey.  
24          Ms. Stuckey, if you'll go up and take the stand.  
25          THE COURT: Walk all the way up here,

1 Ms. Stuckey, and I need you to turn and face the clerk of  
2 the Court, raise your right hand, and listen to what he has  
3 to say.

4 Whereupon,

5 BETTYE M. STUCKEY

6 was called as a witness at 3:25 p.m., and after having been  
7 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

8 THE CLERK: You may be seated.

9 Please keep your voice up, state your name and  
10 your address for the record.

11 THE WITNESS: Bettye Stuckey, 2301 British (phon.  
12 sp.) Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

15 Q Ms. Stuckey, what is your profession?

16 A I'm a guidance counselor at Woodlawn High School.

17 Q And last year, the school year that began in  
18 September of 1998 and ended in May or June of 1999, were  
19 you a guidance counselor at Woodlawn?

20 A Yes, I was.

21 Q And quickly, could you tell us what are your  
22 duties as a guidance counselor?

23 A As a guidance counselor, I was responsible for  
24 certain letters of the alphabet, A and B, and the entire  
25 Magnet Program counseling for that year.

1 Q Okay. And could you tell us briefly what the  
2 Magnet Program is?

3 A All right. The Magnet Program puts a special  
4 focus on preengineering and student-conducted research, and  
5 students have a very rigorous academic program that they go  
6 through for the four years.

7 Q Okay. And as a guidance counselor, you were then  
8 the guidance counselor for all the students of the Magnet  
9 Program?

10 A Yes.

11 Q In that capacity, Ms. Stuckey, did you come into  
12 contact and come to know one Adnan Syed?

13 A Yes..

14 Q And when did you first meet him?

15 A I met Adnan in his junior year. I met him before  
16 the senior year.

17 Q Okay. And was he in the Magnet Program?

18 A He was in the Magnet Program at that time.

19 Q And what kind of student was he?

20 A Adnan was one of those bright, enthusiastic, I  
21 would say, delightful young men.

22 Q Okay. And how much contact did you have with him  
23 in his junior year?

24 A I had limited contact in junior year but a lot of  
25 contact in senior year.

1 Q And why was -- what was the reason for that?

2 A I was not his counselor but I was the coordinator

3 for the AP, Advanced Placement Program, and that's -- and

4 the PSAT, so I got to meet him through those particular

5 testing situations.

6 Q Was he assigned to Advanced Placement credit

7 courses?

8 A He was in Advanced Placement courses.

9 Q Okay. And how often would you have contact with

10 him during his senior year?

11 A Frequent contact. Adnan -- may I go on?

12 Q Yes, please.

13 A Adnan would come in -- he was assisting one of

14 our gentlemen in the guidance area who works with the

15 programming, and Adnan would come and sit with me at times

16 and talk when he didn't have a lot of responsibilities.

17 And I learned a lot -- just about him as a person at that

18 time, which enabled me to write his recommendation from

19 knowing about him later on.

20 Q Was writing recommendations an ordinary part of

21 your duties as a guidance counselor?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And what were those recommendations when you so

24 wrote them based on?

25 A They were based on personal contact with the

1 student, personal interview with the student, talking with  
2 them, comments from the teachers or coaches, whomever they  
3 were involved with at the school.

4 Q Directing your attention to January of 1999, was  
5 that a busy time for seniors in regard to college?

6 A Very much so.

7 Q Why is that?

8 A Because we have to finalize all of the  
9 preparations, transcripts, recommendations, things of that  
10 nature. We want to get everything in.

11 Q Were there deadlines for students' applications  
12 for college?

13 A There were deadlines, and sometimes the deadline  
14 may have been met but a recommendation was needed to  
15 accompany that at a later date.

16 Q Okay. And, Ms. Stuckey, during that time, was  
17 Adnan Syed in your view, in your experience with him, a  
18 college-bound senior?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And did he require -- did you have occasion to  
21 become involved with his applications for school?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And let me direct your attention to January 13th,  
24 1999, do you recall that date?

25 A I do not exactly recall that date because there

1 are so many days in January that were so busy.

2 Q Okay. And did you have an occasion to print out  
3 a recommendation for Adnan Syed and sign it on that day?

4 MS. MURPHY: Objection.

5 THE COURT: If you recall.

6 THE WITNESS: I recall printing out a  
7 recommendation for him in January, in the second week of  
8 January. I don't know if that was exactly the 13th but I  
9 do remember printing that out for him.

10 MS. GUTIERREZ: May I approach the witness,  
11 Your Honor?

12 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

13 BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

14 Q I'm going to show you what's been previously  
15 marked as Defendant's Exhibit 21, Ms. Stuckey. Could you  
16 take a look at that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And is that your signature --

19 A This is my signature.

20 Q -- that appears on the second page?

21 A This is my signature.

22 Q Is there a date that you dated underneath your  
23 signature?

24 A That's my date.

25 Q And what date is there?

1           A     It's 1/13/99.

2           Q     And on the front page of Defendant's Exhibit 21

3     is a title --

4           A     It's a recommendation for Adnan Syed.

5           Q     And in order for Adnan Syed to get this, did he

6     come to see you on the 13th?

7           A     He came to see me on the 13th.  If he has this in

8     his hand and I dated it on the date that he came to see me.

9           Q     Okay.  And do you recall actually seeing him that

10    day?

11          A     Yes.  I remember that we did have a meeting, as I

12    said, about the second week of -- because I kept a log and

13    we did have a meeting and we talked about supporting his

14    recommendation -- supporting his application, rather, for

15    the University of Maryland with a recommendation at that

16    time.

17          Q     And were you aware on the date that you did this

18    recommendation that he was actively pursuing college --

19          A     Yes, I was.

20          Q     At more than one institution?

21          A     Yes, I was.

22          Q     Okay.  And did you draft this recommendation from

23    your own personal knowledge?

24          A     Yes, I did.

25          Q     And did you yourself draft the words?

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     And did you know the things that are contained in  
3     this recommendation about Adnan Syed?

4           A     I knew the things from school, from talking  
5     personally with the sponsors of the activities. I was  
6     talking personally with teachers. And also, some of the  
7     things that I knew about his relationship with the students  
8     and teachers, I knew that from observations and --

9           Q     From observing him --

10          A     Yes.

11          MS. GUTIERREZ: I would move Defendant's  
12     Exhibit 21 into evidence.

13          THE COURT: Any objection?

14          MS. MURPHY: Yes, Your Honor.

15          THE COURT: May I see the document?

16          (Pause)

17          Overruled. Let it be admitted.

18                             (Whereupon, the document referred  
19                             to as Defendant's Exhibit No. 21,  
20                             previously marked for  
21                             identification, was received into  
22                             evidence.)

23          MS. GUTIERREZ: May I have that published by  
24     asking her to read it --

25          THE COURT: That'll be fine.



1 BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

2 Q Could you read that recommendation for us, Ms.  
3 Stuckey?

4 THE COURT: Ms. Stuckey, I need you to read every  
5 item on the page since it's being published to the jury.  
6 Normally, the jurors would have it in their hands. So that  
7 means you've got to read every little thing, including any  
8 dates, numbers, whatever, that appears on that page and on  
9 the next page as well.

10 THE WITNESS: Woodlawn High School, 1801 Woodlawn  
11 Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.  
12 Recommendation for Adnan Syed. As a student  
13 in our challenging Magnet Program for  
14 Preengineering and Student-Conducted  
15 Research, Adnan Syed has had many rich  
16 educational experiences, not only in the  
17 classroom but also in the community, serving  
18 as a tutor for elementary school students  
19 and working on research projects with  
20 mentors in mathematical and scientific  
21 fields. Whatever his assignment, Adnan  
22 strives for excellence at all times. His  
23 teachers remark that he's a bright,  
24 conscientious, and hard-working student who  
25 approaches his studies with sobriety. He

1 accepts criticism well and works to improve  
2 any area under consideration. His classroom  
3 contributions, verbal and written, reveal an  
4 analytical mind and a highly perceptive  
5 young man. Although his course work is  
6 paramount to him, Adnan has found time to  
7 participate in a number of activities at  
8 school and in the community that require  
9 time and dedication and reflect his special  
10 interests. An avid member of our MESA team,  
11 he participated in building a solar vehicle  
12 that won sixth place in national competition  
13 in Topeka, Kansas, last spring.  
14 Furthermore, he works diligently on projects  
15 sponsored by the National Honor Society,  
16 such as food and clothes drives, and on  
17 various committees for the Multicultural  
18 Club. In the community, he is an effective  
19 youth coordinator for Islamic functions at  
20 his mosque. He also volunteers at the local  
21 Woodlawn Fire Department where he has EMT  
22 mentors from whom he is learning new and  
23 useful skills. Adnan enjoys an excellent  
24 rapport with his peers and teachers who  
25 represent a diversified cultural background.

1                   His warm, friendly manner, linked with his  
2                   general interest in the welfare of others,  
3                   have been definite assets in establishing  
4                   his interpersonal relationships. This is a  
5                   fine young man whose academic record, fine  
6                   character, and strong commitment to his  
7                   educational goals make him an excellent  
8                   candidate for admission to the University of  
9                   Maryland College Park.

10                  And signed, "Sincerely, Bettye M. Stuckey,  
11   Chairperson, Guidance and Counseling Office, 410-887-1311,"  
12   And because I wrote these with our secretary, I always  
13   dated them. After our secretary would write them, I date  
14   them on the date that I gave it to the student, 01/13/99.

15                  BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

16                  Q    Ms. Stuckey, thank you. I'll take that back.

17                  Ms. Stuckey, as a guidance counselor at Woodlawn,  
18   are you aware of the various racial classifications  
19   students are --

20                  A    I believe I am.

21                  Q    And is that by a lettered or numbered system?

22                  A    It's by number.

23                  Q    And the numbers, they go through 1 to -- what  
24   number?

25                  A    Up until six.

1 Q Up until six.  
2 A Six.  
3 Q And do you know what number corresponds to what  
4 category?  
5 A I believe I do.  
6 Q Okay. And what is Category 1?  
7 A Category 1 is American Indian.  
8 Q And Category 2?  
9 A Asian.  
10 Q And Category 3?  
11 A African American.  
12 Q And Category 4?  
13 A White.  
14 Q And Category 5?  
15 A Hispanic.  
16 Q And Category 6?  
17 A Multicultural.  
18 Q Now, were you aware of what racial category was  
19 assigned to Adnan Syed?  
20 A Two.  
21 Q Two. And that category again is?  
22 A Asian.  
23 Q And did you know a student by the name of Hey Men  
24 Lee?  
25 A I did not really know Hey Men Lee, I knew of her.

1 Lee?

2 A I did not really know Hey Men Lee, I knew of her.

3 Q Okay. Did you know her physically, what she

4 looked like?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And what racial category was assigned to her?

7 A Two, also.

8 Q Asia?

9 A Asian.

10 Q The same racial category assigned to Adnan?

11 A Yes.

12 MS GUTIERREZ: I have no further questions of

13 this witness.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Any witness -- any questions of the witness?

16 MS. MURPHY: Court's indulgence, please.

17 THE COURT: Um-hum.

18 MS. MURPHY: Just briefly, Your Honor, thank you.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MS. MURPHY:

21 Q Good afternoon, Ms. Stuckey.

22 A Good afternoon.

23 Q You've testified and read your recommendation, in

24 part, regarding the Defendant's study habits and his

25 performance in school, and you've also mentioned his

1 dedication to sports and other activities. Did you become  
2 aware after January of 1999 that some of his teachers were  
3 becoming concerned about his performance?

4 A After the January -- after January.

5 Q That his grades began to fall?

6 A After January.

7 Q And you're aware that his English teacher,  
8 Ms. Effron (phon. sp.), actually had to call his home  
9 because of her concern?

10 A I'm aware of that, yes.

11 Q And this was all after January of 1999?

12 A After January 13th, right, yes.

13 Q Were you also aware that his attendance in track  
14 decreased at that time as well?

15 A I'm not aware of that.

16 Q And that he -- this was discussed with the  
17 Defendant by Ms. Butler?

18 A I'm not aware of that.

19 Q So in spite of your recommendation, you are aware  
20 that these things happened after January?

21 A After I wrote the recommendation perhaps. I'm  
22 not aware of some of the things that you mentioned but I am  
23 aware of some of them, but this was after the  
24 recommendation.

25 MS. MURPHY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

1 MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes.

2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

4 Q Yes, did you become aware that subsequent to your  
5 recommendation -- and that recommendation was to the  
6 University of Maryland College Park, is that right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q That you subsequently wrote a similar  
9 recommendation for the Honors Program at UMBC?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 Q Okay. And did you become aware that subsequent  
12 to each of those recommendations that Adnan Syed got  
13 accepted at College Park?

14 A That was -- yes, and that's --

15 THE COURT: You have to answer. When you nod --

16 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

17 THE COURT: -- that does not record anything.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 BY MS. GUTIERREZ:

20 Q Did you become aware that he got accepted?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And that he got accepted at the Honors Program at  
23 UMBC?

24 A Yes.

25 I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to nod.

1           A     Yes.  
2                 I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to nod.  
3                 Yes.  
4           Q     That's all right.  
5                 And are you aware that after a senior is accepted  
6 at college that they really don't have to work as hard as  
7 before?  
8                 MS. MURPHY: Objection.  
9                 THE COURT: Sustained.  
10                MS. GUTIERREZ: Nothing further.  
11                THE COURT: Thank you very much, Ms. Gutierrez.  
12                Anything further, Ms. Murphy?  
13                MS. MURPHY: Nothing, Your Honor.  
14                THE COURT: At this time, can I release  
15 Ms. Stuckey from the summons?  
16                MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes, Judge.  
17                THE COURT: Ms. Stuckey, you are a sequestered  
18 witness. You may not discuss your testimony with anyone  
19 who is yet to be a witness. However, because you have been  
20 released from the summons, you are welcome to remain in the  
21 courtroom. At this time you're free to go.  
22                THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
23                (Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the witness was  
24 excused.)  
25                THE COURT: Your next witness, Ms. Gutierrez.