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To Whom It May Concern,

Samantha Stewart has asked me to write a letter of recommendation regarding her application for the Kacher-Bloom Scholarship. I am glad to do so.

I first got to know Samantha in the fall of 2017 in my Media, Law & Ethics course. The classes are demanding. Before each one, students read key U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving First Amendment law. I then randomly call on students and expect them to be able to explain the facts of each case, how the High Court ruled and its reasoning. Many students become flustered either because of a lack of preparation or a lack of self-assurance. Not Samantha. She was always prepared. When the class had discussions that were more wide-ranging, Samantha invariably made thoughtful points. This is a young woman with a burning desire to learn.

My grading system is challenging—80 percent of a student's final grade is based on their work on the midterm and final exams. On each one, I pose hypothetical questions involving libel, privacy and other areas they might encounter as journalists. The students are to answer each question by making a well-reasoned argument citing case law, the key being the strength of their argument. Samantha's work was superb. She earned an A- in the class, which put her in the top 10 percent. She accomplished this in her first semester at UC. She also made the dean's list.

Samantha is more than a superb student. She works two part-time jobs. She published a feature story and three photography albums in *The News Record*, UC's outstanding student newspaper. From my conversations with her, I can tell you she already has developed a deep affection for this great university and wants to see it grow and mature. She speaks passionately about the need for racial diversity at all levels, and I can tell you that faculty members in the Journalism Department listen to our students—we just hired our first African-American tenure-track professor.

Samantha's strengths would seem ideal for this scholarship. She is smart, ambitious and determined to make something of herself. She is serious about her studies and her career. Absolutely dependable. Mature. And, most important, she has a first-rate mind and the intellectual rigor to make the most of it.

I was an investigative reporter for 25 years before leaving the newsroom for academia. For what it's worth, I was awarded the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. I always wanted to teach because of the idea of helping bright young people. Samantha is one of those people. She was a joy in the classroom. She never missed a class. She was enthusiastic and asked good questions. She worked like a mule. I would love a classroom full of students like Samantha Stewart.

I know how much Samantha wants the Kacher-Bloom Scholarship. I know she is a worthy recipient and will put it to good use. I hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

Craig Flournoy, Ph.D.