

**Case No. 1:06-cr-00049-RMU-1**

**Exhibit 1**

**Letter from Mitchell Wade to the Hon. Judge Urbina**

September 25, 2008

The Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina  
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6006 Annex  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Judge Urbina:

I realize that I have made some serious mistakes in my life that have resulted in my being before you today. I have broken the law and caused significant harm to my wife and children, to my friends and former colleagues and to my country. Today, I wish to express my full and unconditional remorse and acceptance of responsibility for my conduct.

Before I became involved in the conduct that has led to my criminal convictions, I served my country honorably as a civilian in the Department of Defense and as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy. During my stint in the U.S. Navy, I served during the first Gulf War. In 1993, I founded a government contracting firm which put many decent and honorable men and women to work. My company provided defense contracting services to the U.S. military and intelligence agencies and I took pride in serving my country to the best of my ability.

However, I all too quickly lost sight of the concepts of integrity and fair play and began to cut corners to ensure that my company was selected for various government contracts. I now realize that it was my pride, ego, and desire for power that led me down this terrible path. Over the last two years, I have taken drastic steps to recognize these character flaws and to confront their root causes. Unfortunately, it has been a difficult period in my life. I lost the love and respect of my wife, who filed for divorce, and the ability to wake up every morning in the same house with my children, who have also been negatively impacted by my actions. I have also suffered the pain of being ridiculed in the press and ostracized by many whom I once worked alongside for the common purpose of advancing our nation's interests. I hope and pray that the consequences that I have suffered as a result of this ordeal -- loss of family, loss of respect from community, loss of reputation, loss of vocation, loss of livelihood, and loss of rights -- will serve as an example to others who contemplate similar action.

In June 2005, my sense of guilt and remorse about my conduct led me to come forward voluntarily to offer my cooperation to the government and since that time I have cooperated completely with the government's efforts to identify and prosecute ongoing corruption. Over the last three years, I have paid substantial fines and taxes, tried to be a good father to my kids, and given myself to supporting the Washington, D.C. and Maryland communities by establishing and supporting charitable organizations. I have reflected upon my mistakes and the personal and professional losses that have occurred as a result of my actions. I feel ashamed that I have disgraced myself, my family and many of my former colleagues at MZM. This is a burden I will carry with me the rest of my life. In fashioning my sentence, I ask your Honor to consider that I

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am a man changed by this experience; one who has learned a valuable lesson about what is important in life. I fervently hope for the opportunity to prove to this court, and to my family, that I can again be a responsible and productive person in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell J. Wade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mitchell J. Wade