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| June 5, 2014 |

Re: *Letter of Recommendation for Phyllis Hansell*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of Phyllis Hansell’s nomination for the 2014 Women of Influence Award. I first met Phyllis when I sought her professional services 27 years ago to help me work through issues I was experiencing when our then 15-month-old son was diagnosed with autism.

My legal practice has been focused primarily in the family law area. Based on my personal experience with Phyllis as an extremely effective and compassionate counselor, I started referring many of my family law clients to her. Having practiced family law for 40 years, I am very familiar with how extremely stressful and life changing the breakup of a person’s marriage can be. Without exception, Phyllis provided excellent professional counseling services to all of the many clients I referred to her.

My own personal experience with Phyllis as an psychologist was a very positive one. I found her to possess the sophisticated skill set that I knew my clients needed to help them work through the many difficult issues confronting them during their divorces. Consistently, the clients I referred to her described Phyllis as professional, calm, accepting and empathic but most importantly able to help them achieve positive change and progress in their lives. She is a definitely a role model in her chosen profession.

I wanted to write this letter of recommendation for Phyllis for the Women of Influence Award based not only on my own personal experience with Phyllis but on behalf of many people in the community that I know had the same positive experience as I have had but for obvious reasons might not want to share their personal situations. I am personally aware of the positive impact she has had on the lives of many people in our community.

I am also aware of the countless hours of volunteer service and many contributions Phyllis has given to our community especially to organizations that benefit from her skills as a clinical therapist. As one of the original founders of The Homestead and as a parent of a child served by that organization, I am especially appreciative of the time and skills she has devoted to that board.

Phyllis possesses all of the criteria that make her a woman of influence in this community. She has been a role model in her chosen profession where she has had a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and she has for many years devoted her time, considerable professional skills and energy to civic organizations that have made our community a better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Shoff

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