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OF COUNSEL

December 5, 1989

525-8609

Mr. Rod Ohira
Honolulu Star-Bulletin
605 Kapiolani Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

VIA TELECOPIER

Re: Pam Mehl

Dear Mr. Ohira:

Thank you for expressing an interest in assisting Pam Mehl. As we discussed, her husband, Ray Mehl, disappeared on October 14, 1989 while scuba diving off Kahe Beach Park on the Waianae coast. His body, missing the head and right arm, was found in water 15 to 20 feet deep the next day. However, while divers from the Honolulu Fire Department were attempting to retrieve the body, a large shark appeared and devoured nearly all of it. All that remains is a very small piece of tissue from his large intestine.

Pam Mehl initially learned of her husband's death from his scuba diving partners. Her many telephone calls to the Honolulu Police Department and the Honolulu Medical Examiner's office were not returned. In short, she was given the run around and was unable to find out any of the details surrounding her husband's demise.

More importantly, Pam Mehl is now a widow with three young children to support. She does not work and is in dire financial need. Her husband had no insurance policy and there is no liability claim associated with his death. She is unable even to collect social security benefits because she is unable to obtain a Death Certificate.

Our law firm is representing her without charge. We have been able to assemble and convey to her the available information regarding the circumstances of her husband's death. We are presently assisting her in attempting to get a Death Certificate.

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The Medical Examiner's office refuses to issue a Death Certificate because they say they cannot positively identify him as being the person who died off Kahe Beach Park. They promised to send the small piece of tissue to a lab in Connecticut for DNA analysis. They said that if the lab is able to identify the DNA, they will request blood samples from Ray Mehl's mother and father and then, perhaps, they will be able to positively identify him and will issue a Death Certificate. The DNA analysis is expected to take four to six weeks.

The Medical Examiner's office originally promised to send the tissue on November 6, 1989, more than three weeks after Ray Mehl's death. When I called Dr. Posey at the Medical Examiner's office on December 1, 1989, to obtain a progress report, he told me that the tissue had just been sent to the lab that week. He apologized for the error and said that he thought it had already been sent, but found out it had not. The Medical Examiner's office had earlier actually misplaced the piece of frozen tissue and they were unable to find it. Dr. Posey said that he is not confident that the lab will be able to find blood cells in the segment of bowel sufficient to permit the necessary DNA testing.

If the Medical Examiner's office will not issue a Death Certificate, Pam Mehl's only alternative is to file a Petition with the First Circuit Court for Judicial Finding and Declaration of Death. That procedure requires publication of a Notice in the newspaper and sending notice via certified mail to relatives. It is a time consuming and costly procedure. Our firm is willing to provide legal services to Pam Mehl free of charge. However, even the out-of-pocket expenses in pursuing such a Petition would be approximately \$300.00.

Ms. Mehl and her three children had purchased airline tickets and were planning to move to Honolulu on October 17, 1989, just three days after Ray Mehl's death. They planned to live in Kaneohe because they felt that the wet weather would be most like their home in Redmond, Washington. The family has recently moved instead to Montana where they can live with Pam's mother.

Pam Mehl has had less than pleasant experiences with Hawaii so far. George Balazs, a federal biologist and a local shark expert, has researched extensively the subject of Ray Mehl's death. He has never met nor spoken to Pam Mehl. However, he was concerned about her plight and the shabby

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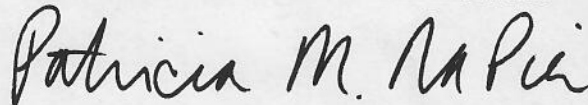
treatment she has received from the governmental agencies in Hawaii. He drafted the attached memo which he is circulating to about 50 friends in the community asking for small contributions to the Mehl family. We have not told Ms. Mehl about this fundraising effort.

If you could run a short article in the Star-Bulletin about Ms. Mehl's plight and could solicit contributions to the family, it would be tremendously appreciated.

Thank you for your concern. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

RUSH MOORE CRAVEN & STRICKLIN



Patricia M. Napier

PMN/nm

Enclosure

cc: Mr. George Balazs