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CERTIFIED SPECIALIST-CRIMINAL LAW  
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\*\* Also admitted to the  
District of Columbia Bar

May 16, 2022

**Re: *Letter of Recommendation***

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Kimberly Mehlman-Orozco. I highly recommend her as a qualified expert in the field of human trafficking. To explain my thoughts it is important to give a little bit of my own background.

I have been a criminal trial lawyer for forty-five (45) years. I have been a California Certified Criminal Law Specialist for thirty-seven (37) years. I served as president of my local bar association in Solano County and served on the California State Bar Legal Specialization Committee for three (3) years. For twenty-one (21) years, I was an adjunct professor at John F. Kennedy Law School. I taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence and Criminal Trial advocacy. I have handled over three hundred (300) jury trials. I have literally dealt with hundreds of experts, some of whom were considered leaders in their fields.

I can honestly say that Dr. Mehlman-Orozco is head and shoulders above most experts. I first encountered her when I represented a woman who was tried as an accomplice to a human trafficker. Her expertise had an incredibly powerful impact on the Court and jurors. She so impressed me that I asked her to work as an expert on behalf of my client, a victim of human trafficking, who was being prosecuted for various identity theft crimes (California Penal Code sections 530.5(a), 530.5(c)(2), 530.5(c)(3), 484I(c), 470(a) and 470(b)). With Dr. Mehlman-Orozco's assistance, I was able to present an affirmative defense of coercion based on my client's status as a victim of sex and labor trafficking (California Penal Code section 236.23).

Many experts are passionate about their subject, but Dr. Mehlman-Orozco translates her passion into thorough, well-researched reports and simple direct testimony. This is a skill that many experts lack. She is a compelling witness and a collaborative, highly valuable member of a trial team.

Letter of Recommendation  
May 16, 2022  
Page - 2 -

I believe that her report in my most recent case was crucial in swaying the district attorney to make a pre-trial offer with favorable terms for my client.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Russo', is written over the typed name below.

DANIEL J. RUSSO  
Attorney at Law

DJR/jlc