

September 30, 2026

Dear Judge Alvarez,

My name is Dana Whitfield, and I teach fourth grade in Mesa, Arizona. I have known Marcus Lee for 11 years. We met coaching our daughters' softball team, and we have been friends ever since.

I know Marcus is in your court for driving under the influence, and I don't take that lightly. Driving after drinking put other people at risk. When he told me about it, he said he was sorry and he did not make excuses.

The clearest picture I have of Marcus is from the spring our team bus fell through. He borrowed his brother's van and made three trips across town so every girl got to the tournament on time. Then he stayed to help take down the field.

He works full time at a tire shop and has kept that job through all of this. Since his arrest he has started counseling, goes to AA meetings, and has stopped driving. I will keep giving him rides whenever he needs one, for as long as he needs them.

When you decide Marcus's sentence, I hope you will weigh the man who made those three trips. Thank you for reading this.

Respectfully,

Dana Whitfield
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