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2 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
3

4 DAVID T. MCDONALD, RONALD TARO  
5 SUYEMATSU, et al.

NO. 76321-6

6  
7 Petitioner-Electors,  
8

DECLARATION OF ANA MARIA  
CRAPSEY IN SUPPORT OF PETITION  
FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

9 v.

10  
11 SECRETARY OF STATE SAM REED, et  
12 al.,  
13

14  
15 Respondents.  
16  
17

18  
19 I, Ana Maria Crapsey, declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of  
20 Washington that the following is true and correct:  
21

22  
23 1. I am over the age of 18, am competent to be a witness herein, and make this  
24 declaration based on my own personal knowledge.  
25

26  
27 2. I am the mother of Nicholas Smith who registered to vote as a high school  
28 student when he turned 18 years old.  
29

30  
31 3. Nicholas completed an absentee ballot on or about October 26, 2004 before  
32 leaving the country. It was the first time he had voted by absentee ballot. I mailed the ballot  
33 for him on or about October 27, 2004.  
34

35  
36 4. On or about November 2, King County sent a letter to Nicholas asking him to  
37 update the signature he had on file at the King County Election's office. The letter indicated  
38 that the signature should be updated and mailed back to King County by November 16,  
39 2004. Attached hereto as exhibit A is a correct copy of the letter sent to Nicholas by King  
40 County. With his express permission, I am opening his mail during his absence, which is  
41 scheduled to extend into 2005.  
42  
43  
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1           5.       After receipt of the letter from King County in early November 2004, I  
2  
3 telephoned the King County Elections office. I explained to the elections worker that  
4  
5 Nicholas is in Brazil in a remote village, and that there is limited access to mail or  
6  
7 communications technology. Further, I explained to the elections worker that it would be  
8  
9 difficult to get the signature verification form to Nicholas and offered to supply tax returns  
10  
11 and other legal documents bearing his signature in order to verify that the absentee ballot  
12  
13 received by King County had Nicholas' valid signature. The elections worker declined to  
14  
15 view any other documents. Additionally, the elections worker told me not to come in as  
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17 they were too busy and informed me that there was no other method to get the verification  
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19 form to Nicholas besides the postal system. After insisting that the elections worker check  
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21 with her supervisor, I was informed that the supervisor had indicated King County could  
22  
23 check "other sources" for Nicholas' signature. When I asked what those "other sources"  
24  
25 might be, she said she didn't know. The elections worker also told me that they wouldn't be  
26  
27 able to let me know if his absentee ballot was eventually counted.

28           6.       On or about November 15, 2004, I again contacted King County election  
29  
30 officials to see if there were any other methods aside from the postal service to get the  
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32 signature verification letter to Nicholas, as Nicholas does have limited access to email. I  
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34 inquired as to whether it would be possible for me to email Nicholas the form, and then have  
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36 him email an electronic copy of the letter back to the King County Elections Office. During  
37  
38 this second conversation, the elections worker gave me different information than a week  
39  
40 and a half prior: This elections worker informed me that King County could email the  
41  
42 verification information directly to Nicholas, and then have him send an electronic copy of  
43  
44 the letter back to King County. I provided King County with an email address that Nicholas  
45  
46 has access to in Brazil.  
47

1           7.       King County emailed Nicholas the verification form, however it did so on  
2  
3 November 15, 2004, and Nicholas did not see the emailed verification form in time to send  
4  
5 it back to King County before the deadline passed. Nicholas' absentee ballot was not  
6  
7 counted by King County for the November 2, 2004 election.

8  
9           8. I believe that if the King County election officials had informed me in my first  
10  
11 conversation with them that it was possible to email Nicholas the verification forms, and the  
12  
13 forms had been sent earlier, Nicholas would have had an a greater opportunity to get the  
14  
15 forms in to King County, and his ballot may have been counted. I have communicated with  
16  
17 Nicholas and he wants his vote counted.

18           SIGNED and DATED at Seattle, Washington, this 7th day of December,  
19  
20 2004 by ANA MARIA CRAPSEY.  
21

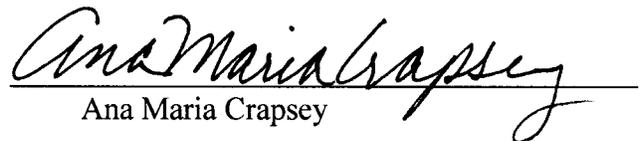
22  
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24   
25 Ana Maria Crapsey  
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Exhibit A

Exhibit A



**King County**

Department of Executive Services  
Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division

**Mail Ballot Section**

King County Administration Building  
500 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm. 553  
Seattle, WA 98104-2337  
206-296-8683

NICHOLAS SMITH  
1711 NE NAOMI PL  
SEATTLE, WA 98115

Dear NICHOLAS SMITH,

King County Elections is in the ongoing process of maintaining our voter registration files.

Part of the process is to compare the signature on your registration file against how you sign when you vote. In order to ensure your vote is counted, it is necessary to have your current signature.

Please sign and print your name in the spaces below and return this letter to us in the enclosed envelope by November 16, 2004. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT – Registered Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
REGISTRATION NUMBER

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF BIRTH