



Wellesley College

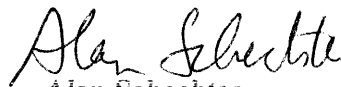
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To Whom It May Concern:

Mrs. Francine Straus has been employed by me at various times in the past seven years as a research assistant. During that time, she has conducted a number of complicated computer searches of databases to uncover information for my research on several federal regulatory matters. Mrs. Straus knows a great deal about the internet and the ways in which technology can be harnessed to conduct policy-related research.

Mrs. Straus is particularly interested in health care issues, including health care fraud, so she was an excellent person to help me with research on the role of the federal government in supporting research on smoking and health. We found that many grants which were written to investigate smoking and health issues were actually focusing on peripheral matters. We also found what appeared to be questionable billing practices on certain grants. It is my opinion that Mrs. Straus' work has helped the federal government to identify health care fraud and has encouraged greater attention to this issue.


Alan Schechter
Professor

*Since this research was not done under Wellesley College auspices, my institutional affiliation is included for identification purposes only.