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April 25, 2014

SO ORDERED:
Date: 5/29/14 *Richard M. Berman*
Richard M. Berman, U.S.D.J.

Honorable Richard M. Berman, U.S.D.J.
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007

**RE: UNITED STATES V. RUDY KURNIAWAN
1:12-CR-376 (RMB)**

Dear Judge Berman:

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and for allowing me to express to you my sincere feelings concerning my conduct which has led to me standing before you in this matter.

I make no excuses for what I did. What I did was wrong, not only legally, but also morally and socially. I have brought extreme shame and embarrassment to my family. In my culture my conduct has put a stain upon our family's reputation that time and punishment will never wash away. In this Internet age, my name will be linked forever not with great things or great deeds but rather with a crime which soiled the one thing I truly loved and was good at.

Through my family's generosity I was able to experience and participate in a world known only to very few others. I also was graced by God with a talent to taste, describe, and remember the nuances of the wines I was fortunate enough to enjoy. In fine wine I found my passion, a passion that became all consuming and which ultimately led me here today.

Wine became my life and I lost myself in it. Finding rare wines became an obsession and I relentlessly pursued obtaining them where ever I could find them. What originally started out as buying a few bottles of wine at a local store over the course of years turned into buying millions of dollars worth of wine. I would never buy one or two bottles, I would buy everything. I honestly don't know the full extent of what I bought but it was thousands and thousands of bottles.

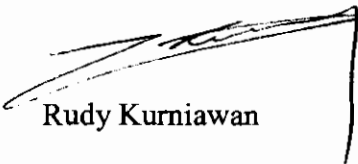
This obsession attracted attention and I admit that I enjoyed it. I met a lot of interesting people who were very successful and intelligent. We shared a common interest in wine and my

wines provided me with access to people and experiences I otherwise would not have enjoyed. I thought these people were my friends and I wanted to be accepted in their world. I now realize that all this was false and pretentious and that my priorities were completely out of order. The things I did to maintain this illusion were so foolish. The end was inevitable.

I've come to realize during the past two years that I have been in prison that the things I thought were so important really weren't important at all. Two years away from my family has taught me life lessons of what truly matters in a man's life. My mother, who is ill, struggles alone every day when I should be there to help her. I have not seen my two remaining brothers in years. They only wanted the best for me and gave me every opportunity to truly succeed in this country. Through my actions all I have to show for their generosity is a criminal record, severe debt, potential judgements in the millions of dollars, and an eventual deportation from the country I have come to love. Additionally, when I am deported my mother will have to decide whether she wants to live in this country alone or travel with me back to Indonesia.

Judge Berman, it is important for me to tell you that I understand what I did was wrong and that I am genuinely sorry for everything that I have done. I never meant for things to turn out as they did. I never meant to hurt or embarrass anyone. I am not evil or violent. I am truly sorry for the shame and pain I have brought on my family and the embarrassment I have brought on the people I wanted to be my friends. I am willing to make restitution to the people I took advantage of. I have been a model prisoner during my two years in prison. Please allow me to return to my mother. She is 66 years old and in poor health. She needs me.

Respectfully submitted,



Rudy Kurniawan