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NYS Attorney General

212 416 8694

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STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
120 BROADWAY
New York, NY 10271

ELIOT SPITZER
Attorney General

(212) 416-8000

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Alan Brinkley
Provost and Allan Nevins Professor of American History
Columbia University
Office Of The Provost
205 Low Library
New York, NY 10027

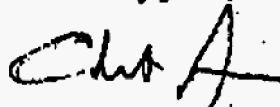
Dear Professor Brinkley:

I write with respect to the University's teaching and research assistants, who have been organizing for several years with Graduate Student Employees United of UAW Local 2110 (GSEU/UAW-Local 2110).

As you know, in July, the NLRB issued a decision throwing out GSEU's union election, thus discarding the ballots of over 1500 workers without ever counting them. The decision reversed a legal precedent set in 2000 when the NLRB issued a unanimous decision granting a similar group of graduate employees at New York University the right to organize. As Attorney General, I believe the current NLRB's decision that graduate assistants are not employees of their universities to be wrong as a matter of law. I am aware that last year, New York State Senator David Paterson proposed that the University agree to a card count. I am attaching a certification, which reflects that a majority of the university's teaching and research assistants have signed cards expressing their desire to be represented by GSEU/UAW-Local 2110.

I am, as you know, an enormous fan of Columbia University and applaud your leadership at this great University. I also have great respect for the UAW, Local 2110, and the wishes of a majority of the University's research and teaching assistants who wish to be represented by this union in collective bargaining. I offer my assistance in good faith and stand ready to assist the parties in any way. Please do not hesitate to call me directly about this issue.

Sincerely yours,


ELIOT SPITZER