

LOHAN ANDERSON

03 January 2006

Mr. David Reifman
Chairman, Blue Ribbon Panel

RE: William G. Conopeotis
ConopCo Realty & Development Inc.
Project: Calamos Investments Headquarters, Naperville, IL

Dear Mr. Reifman:

I was introduced to Bill Conopeotis in 1995 when our firm had been engaged to design the renovation of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum. The project was multi-phased and included the design of a new wing, "The Sky Pavilion." The project also included the renovation of the existing 1930 building and converted the exhibit space on the lowest level to office and other program space. Bill was with the John Buck Company at the time and was assigned to be the Project Manager for the Adler of this complex and highly visible project.

I was impressed from the outset with Bill's organizational qualities, his absolute dedication to getting the project on schedule and on budget, and his steadfast devotion to the mission of his client.

In 2002, we were hired by Calamos Investments to design their new headquarters in Naperville, which was completed in the summer of 2005. Bill's responsibilities included organizing the design team, establishing the project schedule, establishing and tracking the project budgets, hiring the General Contractor, and managing the permitting and construction process. Bill chaired weekly meetings in which all parties reported on their respective responsibilities; and Bill made sure that drawings, specifications, and all other related documents were prepared and delivered on time.

Bill's fine qualities as a Project Manager are well known throughout Chicago. His qualities as an individual also deserve note. Bill is passionate about his work. He understands that through mutual respect, dedication to the big picture, and finishing a project with energy and focus on the details are the essential qualities necessary for a successful project. Bill's energy and dedication to these qualities make him a pleasure to work with, and a forceful and highly effective Project Manager.

I hope that the Panel recognizes these important qualities in Bill's work by awarding him the "Project Manager of the Year."

Mr. David Reifman
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Basil W.C. Souder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "B" and a stylized "W.C.".

Basil W.C. Souder, AIA
Associate Principal