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Letter from Catherine E. Malarkey to Ann Hopkins, July 4, 1990

Catherine E. Malarkey

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Malarney

July 4, 1990

Ms. Ann Hopkins
2134 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

I have been in your cheering section for years, but I did not know how to reach you. After I read Deborah Jacobs' article in the DAILY NEWS, I wrote to her and she provided me with your address.

I admire your courage and applaud your victory against Price Waterhouse. Despite the false appraisals Price Waterhouse tried to produce, the records proved you made a significant contribution to the firm. As you say, you will make a contribution when you return. I know from my own experience that it will take someone with your exceptional determination and professionalism to face the difficult task of working with the "friends" and associates who were too weak or lacked the integrity to speak the truth during the course of your long litigation.

Ms. Jacobs' article in the NEW YORK TIMES this past weekend mentions that Price Waterhouse is appealing. I was sorry to hear that you will have to contend with more litigation. They never quit, do they? Instead of gracefully accepting defeat, they will continue to squander money to defend the indefensible.

You are quite right that "It's not fun being on the leading edge." I, too have felt like a lone ranger in my battle, and following the progress of your case has been a source of encouragement and hope to me.

Since 1980, I have been involved in litigation against Texaco. My situation is one of retaliation arising from my stint as Employment Supervisor, as well as age discrimination, and retaliation for filing the suit. As Employment Supervisor, I repeatedly told my manager that Texaco was in violation of fair employment laws. Within days of writing a memorandum in 1976 stating my opinions, I was transferred out of the Employment Office because I was a "troublemaker." Although to that point my career was on a straight upward curve, since then all chances of promotions have been blocked and my salary curtailed. I filed EEOC charges in 1980 and my case is still dragging through the courts.

I know too well the pain of false appraisals and all the underhanded tactics that are used to discredit us. At first Texaco accused me of incompetence. Later they tried to promote the idea that I was a "tragic figure not in touch with reality." Still later, they changed their tune and said I was competent but that I was "too aggressive."

My case has been complicated by the fact that, after nearly 10 years of litigation, I was forced to find new legal representation last year. Texaco has tried to overwhelm us with one motion after another. My pre-trial order was completed last month. Texaco immediately fired off another ream of paper by way of another motion to the court. It goes on and on. All I want is my day in court and a chance to present all the facts.

In 1985 I received a diagnosis of breast cancer. Perhaps it shows my naivete, but it never slowed them up. The harassment continued unabated. I have taken the unusual road of continuing to work there, but the harassment took such a toll on my health that I have been unable to work for more than a year. Still, I am too stubborn to quit. This horrendous situation has been the real cancer in my life. Texaco claims the trial will take more than 3 months because they intend to produce 97 witnesses. At least one person on their witness list has long been dead, and I believe there are others who are deceased as well. I have to believe that truth will finally prevail.

If you can offer me any advice or support from your raging battle and victory, I would be most grateful.

Congratulations again on your victory and the very best of good wishes. You have paid dearly for the right to triumphantly march back into the Price Waterhouse offices to claim your partnership.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Malarkey

6 Pebble Beach Drive
Purchase, NY 10577
(914) 946-7315

P.S. Could you possibly furnish me with Elizabeth Hishon's address? I would like to write to her as well.

Also, can you tell me what, if any, positive or negative impact the publicity has had on your case?