

05/28/2009

The Honorable Mary A. McLaughlin
United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Courthouse
601 Market Street, Room #13614
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1723

Dear Judge McLaughlin,

My name is Steve Shushkovsky. I am a Principal System Architect at the ESSI Corp., a software consulting company, currently assigned to a project at the Philadelphia Department of Human Services. I first met Andrew Mogilyansky in the early 80s when his father, our long-time family friend, brought him to visit us at our home in Moscow. As a boy he struck me as a very bright mind; and as a professional software engineer I was very impressed by his wide knowledge of math and computers and his passionate interest in sciences in general.

I got to know Andrew more closely and became friends with him after my family immigrated to the United States in 1990 and we settled in Philadelphia where he lived with his father. Soon thereafter he went to study math in Columbia University. He was commuting between college in New York and home in Philadelphia on a weekly basis, and we have seen each other rather frequently.

Andrew was an outstanding student and at the same time was eager to teach and share his knowledge with others. It was from him that I learned and fell in love with the object-oriented programming approach to software design - a paradigm shift from the mainstream technology at the time. Andrew would spend hours at a time explaining the concepts and design patterns, walking through code and demonstrating the works of the graphical application he was developing as the college course work.

Andrew helped me to select and buy my first PC, which was no small deal at the time when PCs were not a commodity as they are now. He even got on the phone with the vendor to negotiate the price and place the order (for which I was especially thankful because my English was not up to the task). I know first-hand how much time and energy Andrew spent helping many others in our community.

Besides being a good friend and a very caring and open person, Andrew is also an ardent patriot of this country. I always remember and try to use his advice to first check out and preferably buy from local vendors and stores, and his bent on "Buy American!" influenced my decision to buy Chevy Blazer as my first new car.

Your Honor, I am writing this to help you to better understand what a wonderful person Andrew is and weigh it into making a critical judgment that will affect his entire life. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Shushkovsky". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Shushkovsky
9111 Mather St
Philadelphia, PA 19115
267-679-4990