

Ms. Anuli Okeke

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Character recommendation for Anuli Okeke

Dear Honorable Judge Block

I am Anuli Okeke, the defendant, and my sentencing is scheduled for February 26th, 2025, in your courtroom. I am writing this letter to provide you with information about myself and request a second opportunity to respectfully restructure my life.

I was born in Brooklyn, New York, and moved with my parents to Nigeria, their country of origin, at the age of eight. My life changed drastically due to significant financial loss and structural instability, including the lack of electricity, water, and basic amenities. My parents did their best to provide for us and always promised me the opportunity to return to America once I was old enough. I dreamed every day of that possibility, and as soon as I graduated from high school in 1992, I returned to America to attend college. I enrolled at York College CUNY, and I invited my younger siblings to join me when it was their turn to go to college. Life was challenging, as I had to work various jobs while attending school, including at Caldor department store and McDonald's, because I was determined to graduate and persevere. My sister Eyiuche aspired to become a medical doctor, so she couldn't work as much or contribute financially, which meant I had to take care of us. A few years later, my brother Nnadozie was able to join us and study Architecture. I finally graduated with a degree in Economics. Since I was already working as a bank teller at Chase, I continued my banking career and eventually became a Branch Manager.

Over the past few years, I have worked at various financial institutions, including Greenpoint Bank, Capital One Bank, Washington Mutual, JP Morgan Chase Bank, and Popular Bank. I have progressed through the ranks from teller to Branch Manager, building strong relationships with the communities I served.

I am a woman of strong Christian faith and regularly attend Times Square Church and St. Francis of Assisi in NYC. I also actively contribute to my Nigerian church community and represent the USA admin chapter through evangelism, bereavement visits, and outreach. Since my dad passed away in 2016, I bear the joint responsibility for my ailing mom, who visits annually during the summer for her medical care. I am an aunt to four nieces and a nephew, and I treat them as my children, as I was privileged to help raise them since birth.

I am deeply committed to my family, faith, friends, and community. I sincerely regret my role in what transpired and the sorrows and challenges my negligence has caused. I failed to meet the expectations of a bank officer, and as a result, I have lost my reputation and career. I respectfully request mercy and leniency in my case. Thank you for your professionalism and treating me with dignity throughout this process.

Respectfully,



Anuli Okeke