

December 31, 2007

Dear friends and family,

This season, we are celebrating the holidays by hosting parties and doing some family travel. We pretty much passed on the mall, the boutique, the mail-order. Even Amazon.com barely got a nod. We enjoyed the day after Thanksgiving by honoring “Buy Nothing” day. We have more than enough “stuff”, and a stuffed storage space besides. But you can’t have too much love, or too many friends. We organized our neighborhood block meeting. Thanksgiving dinner and a 48-hours-til-New-Years party filled our home with friends, laughter and leftovers. We spent three days on Catalina Island over Christmas and enjoyed rest, exercise, and nearly perfect weather. With our daughter no longer living with us, shared time together is the finest holiday gift.

Mary continues to represent federal employees in whistleblowing, discrimination and harassment cases. An audio file of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit oral argument in *Adams et al v. Norton* (the U.S.G.S. RIF case) is on her website. The rising pace of environmental disasters makes this twelve year struggle in defense of the jobs of earth scientists more relevant than ever. In another case, the Court of Appeals ruled that airport screeners *do* have constitutional rights (freedom of association) and sent the case back for trial. *Superlawyer* listed Mary as one of the top 5% of employment lawyers in Northern California. She was elected as Chair of the AAJ Section Leaders Council in July.

Nora is halfway through her second year at University of Arizona. She’s working part time as well as carrying a full course load. She’s with us for winter break right now; we’re helping her put together an independent major proposal that will support her interest in helping and understanding children with developmental disabilities, as well as continuing interest in American Sign Language. She is thoroughly enjoying all of her classes and becoming increasingly cynical about the way the world works. Despite all of the world’s flaws, her parents have raised her well.

Bob has thus far withstood the downturn in the financial industry. A layoff whizzed by his head, singeing an ear. This spring, he presented a paper on electronic document management in Wuhan, China. Mary joined him afterwards for a week’s vacation in Beijing. Bob attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of the University of Michigan Residential College, which he attended not quite that long ago. He will be starting his second semester of Mandarin by the time you receive this letter.

This summer, our traditional summertime reunion with Bob’s relatives again was again held at Delray, Florida. Mary rendezvoused with her mother, brother Henry and Amy and, of course, Nora at U of A. Bob and Mary are celebrating life by doing yoga, biking and salsa dancing together. December 29, 2008 will be our 25th anniversary. Thanks to technology, we are able to keep up with loved ones via letters, cards, blogs, video podcasts, text messages, emails, and the occasional phone call. Keep the news and poetry coming.

With love,

Mary, Bob, and Nora  
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Casino at Avalon, Catalina Island, December 2007