

August 7th, 2019

Hon. Indira Talwani
United States District Court
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Judge Talwani,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write something down about the character of my good friend Felicity Huffman. As I sat down to write this, numerous wonderful memories have flooded my mind, so I will try and keep this brief and specific to those moments that really impacted me.

I worked with Felicity for nearly a decade of my life on a television show. Seeing her every day, of every week for nearly 15 hours a day. When I began the TV show, I was very new to the business and industry as a whole. Felicity was the first one to take me under her wing. From the first table read of the script, she noticed me sitting alone, scared and unsure of where to go and what to do. Her gentle character and kind heart immediately opened up to me. She approached me, introduced herself and said, "Don't be scared, we will get through this together," as she sat down beside me and never left my side since that day. I remember having to walk on stage at my first award show but having so much fright that I couldn't move. Felicity wrapped her arms around me and said, "Don't worry I got you" and held my hand the whole time, never letting go. There was a time I was being bullied at work by a co-worker. I dreaded the days I had to work with that person because it was pure torture. Until one day, Felicity told the bully "enough" and it all stopped. Felicity could feel that I was riddled with anxiety even though I never complained or mentioned the abuse to anyone. Our TV show as compromised of four women and one award season, all three of the other women got nominated for a Golden Globe, I did not. I was the only one who was left out of the nominations. I wasn't devastated but the press made it a bigger deal than it was between the four of us actors and that did affect me a bit. Felicity came to my trailer and said, "It's just a piece of metal, that and \$1.50 will get you a bus ticket." She then proceeded to tell me how talented I was and how I never needed an award to know that. Her humor always made things better, but it was her heart and intentions to make sure I was always ok that I remember most. I don't know why she always felt like she had to protect me. Maybe because I was the youngest on the cast or naïve about the industry, whatever it was, I am forever grateful.

I know I would not have survived those 10 years if it wasn't for the friendship of Felicity.

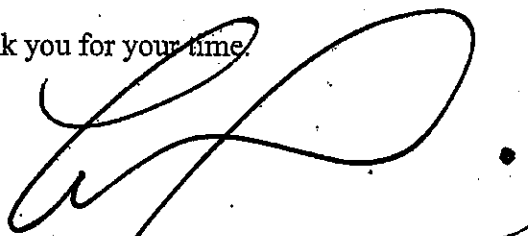
I also know these things may sound like first class problems or small insignificant moments. But to a young, naive, Mexican girl who felt like I didn't belong, those gestures meant the world to me. She mattered. And everything she did to help me along the way, mattered. I don't even think she would remember half of these moments because it was just in her nature to be kind and supportive. But to me they meant the world and were exactly what I needed in those moments.

One of the most significant examples of Felicity's kindness came about when we had to renegotiate our contracts. I was the lowest paid actor on the show, by far. But I mean, by far! Felicity and the other ladies were making much more than I was because I was the most inexperienced. Felicity brought up the idea that we should negotiate together, something we call favored nations that means we all make the same. This meant that my salary would significantly increase and I would be on par with the other, more experienced actors. Well needless to say, that did not go over too well with the others. But Felicity stood up for me, saying it was fair because the success of the show depended on all of us, not one of us. This fight lasted weeks, but Felicity held strong and convinced everyone this was the right thing to do. And thanks to her, I was bumped up to favored nations. It wasn't about the money for me, it was the fact that I was seen as an equal, which is how Felicity had always seen me. Now, thanks to her bold act, everyone saw what she saw, not only on our show, but within the industry.

Outside of work, I knew I could always count on Felicity. I wanted to use the spotlight that the TV show gave us to bring awareness to numerous charities that I support. I knew I couldn't do it alone so I asked the other women to join me. They were all usually too busy to help, except Felicity. I can't tell you how many times she was the only one who would physically show up to help me with kids with cancer, or children with special needs. The most special part about this is that my charities were always for children of the Latino community. I did the work because I am Latino, but Felicity didn't have to, she wanted to. There were so many times Felicity was the only white woman in the room helping me improve the lives of these brown faces and families. I will never forget that.

She always leads with her heart and has always put others first. This is why I still call her my friend today and always.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Longoria Baston', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Eva Longoria Baston