

March 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Emily Vickery

My name is Morris Dees. I'm the founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama. I'm happy to serve as a professional reference for Emily Vickery.

Emily worked as a research fellow for our Teaching Tolerance project from 2003 to 2004. The project provides print, on-line, and multimedia products to educators throughout the nation. The products, I'm happy to say, are of the highest quality. Our *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, for example, has been honored twice in recent years by the Association of Educational Publishers as the Periodical of the Year. Our documentary films have been nominated for Academy Awards four times and won Oscars twice.

As a research fellow, Emily was responsible for keeping the project abreast of the latest educational trends. But because she was a former teacher, we also depended on her to bring a real world, classroom perspective to our efforts. Perhaps Emily's most significant accomplishment during her time here was coordinating the production of a multipart report on Columbine high school five years after the tragedy for *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and the Web. Scores of journalists had been poking around the school since the killings; almost all had been turned away. But Emily managed to win the trust of the principal, the teachers, and students and to produce a compelling portrait of a school learning to live in the aftermath of the unthinkable. After Emily had spent a week at the school, the Principal, Frank DeAngelis, called to thank us for sending someone with such insight and empathy.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Morris Dees