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Chief Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

December 3, 1993

Dear Chief Mankiller,

I am writing to you in the hope that you will be able to review and mediate a dispute between myself and a member of the Cherokee tribe. I have used all resources available to me to seek restitution for a dishonor and have not found satisfaction despite having won a judgement in the state of Florida against the offending party.

Let me provide you with as brief an overview as I can offer:

In June of 1992, I met a woman who called herself Theta McPheron. She claimed to be a Cherokee medicine woman and she lived, at the time, in Bainbridge, Georgia. Our initial contact was a business relationship but soon we became close friends. I invited her, her and business contacts, to my home often for dinner and several times she spent the night when she was in town on business. I befriended her children and espoused her causes. I was deeply moved by what I perceived to be her spirituality and her abiding love of nature and respect for all thing provided by mother earth and father sun. I asked her to take me on as a shaman student and put my trust in her hands. Our friendship continued to develop.

In the fall of 1992, as her business involving medical management grew, she found it necessary to computerize her office and client tracking system in order to manage her rapid growth. Since my husband was a computer consultant of some considerable expertise, I offered his services to her. Together, they drew up a contract outlining what her needs were and how his services would fulfil her business goals. Basically the contract stipulated that he was to purchase hardware and software on her behalf, install it, teach her employees how to use it and customize software for her unique needs. They agreed upon a price, a payment plan, a time frame and signed contracts. My husband immediately began the task of completing the project.

Within 6 weeks the bulk of the work was completed and Ms McPheron had paid him 2/3 of the fee they agreed upon. The last leg required working with her staff to fine tune the software they would be using. Since Ms. McPheron was right in the middle of moving her offices and home from Bainbridge to Tallahassee, she asked that he wait a week or two for her staff to settle in. He willingly agreed. Several weeks went by and each time he called to set a date to