

Honorable Judge James Shadid:

I am grateful for the privilege of speaking on behalf of my husband, David Litman. We have been married for 16 years and dated for 5 years before we got married. I was lucky enough to grow up around men of the highest quality of character. So, it was of first importance to me to have a spouse who lived a life committed to good values and family and loyalty. Dave has always shown commitment to these areas of our lives together, in fact even increasingly so in our years together. In every joy and trial (we have had some large ones to navigate), Dave has shown his fine character as a spouse, father, and human. I am thankful to have him as a partner for life.

I met Dave when I was 17, during an exciting but stressful time of making preparations to take the ACT and apply to colleges. I was working toward high goals for myself and had specific dreams that were important to me. Dave was already in college out-of-state. From the very beginning of our relationship, Dave has been excited and supportive

of me from the very beginning, which has continued and never waned even to this day. We spent many dates during those early times studying practice ACT tests and working on summer school calculus (he is amazing at math, I struggle with math). He even recommended a calculus tutor when I needed one. Because of his support, I was able to accomplish my ACT goal and to go to my dream university. When Dave chose graduate schools, he even opted to come to my same university, to also prioritize our relationship. During that time, he also worked to save money for our future together. We got married after I got my undergraduate degree. He had planned very diligently and worked so hard for our future that I feel like we could start our lives together with less stress and strain than many couples our age. Dave also continued to support me through that time as I was in graduate school. I have always appreciated how deep his commitment and support was even early in our relationship and how responsible and diligent he has always been about our future and the future of our family.

All of the goodness that I knew in him grew exponentially when we became parents. I believe his commitment and love to be unmatched when it comes to our two boys. Even before our first son was born, Dave found opportunity to become self-employed so he could soak up and be a part of every moment of the lives of our children. He realized that the years would go quickly, and that he did not want to miss any of their lives. Even from the first diaper that we changed (comedically it took us 20 minutes), Dave has been there for everything. Our oldest son slept exceptionally poorly as an infant. Not only would Dave take turns holding him in the middle of the night, but in the mornings he would take him to his office and play him music and hold him and give him tummy-time so I could actually sleep a little. That was a huge life-line to me as an overwhelmed new Mom. Dave has also always had a never-ending enthusiasm for giving his boys all of the quality time that they need. When our kids were little he would play with toys and make up his own stories and push them on a swing for hours on end. Now, he practices sports, shares wisdom and

talks with our 8th - grader about interesting things that they are reading. At the same time, he also holds them to responsibility and working hard at school. We have found that our youngest child thrives at school when he continues to do small amounts of work over the summer. Dave is very good at finding little math worksheets and helping him to read to keep his mind engaged. Dave has also been essential for helping our kids with math recently since we have had remote learning. It has been much easier for our family to manage our new learning situation since we are both able to work with the kids on the subjects in which we are each most proficient. I am grateful that my boys have a Dad that they can learn by example what it looks like to be a wonderful father and husband. I overheard Dave telling our oldest son the other day that he hopes that he will also make the same commitment to his kids someday. I hope he will also. He has had the best example to follow.

It is quite honestly the hardest to come up with words to express my gratitude to Dave as my life partner. With unwavering

loyalty, Dave has shown every commitment to our relationship, even as we have had to navigate heavy trials in our life together. In 2015, we were in the middle of raising our beautiful boys together when I became gravely ill. I had histoplasmosis. It took a very long time to get an accurate diagnosis. Early one morning at the end of April 2015, Dave raced me to the ER as I collapsed onto his shoulder as he drove. My Mom, a nurse, could not find my pulse it was so weak when she came over to stay with our boys as we went to the hospital. Living in a rural area, it was actually faster for Dave to drive me than to wait for an ambulance. My illness had progressed to such a grave point that my lungs were filled with fluid and the lining of my heart was infected and trying to beat in a fluid-filled sac, plagued by a second infection. I endured three cardiac-related surgeries in 24 hours, followed by a hospital stay that required medications that were so aggressive that they made Dave sign a waiver in case my kidneys were permanently damaged. I came home physically broken, on a grueling schedule of at-home IV medication

and using a walker to get around since I was so weak. I was 33 at the time. Dave took on all of the burden of running our family, plus looking after a spouse with a difficult recovery. He supported and loved our boys, made sure that they were fed, going to school, had clean clothes and a clean house and as normal of a life as possible, despite having almost lost their Mother. Meanwhile, he managed my medications, gave my IVs, and organized family sing-alongs with my parents in the late evenings during my last IV of the day to brighten my spirits. He even learned the dance to "Ice Ice Baby" to make me laugh. Many people hope for equal partnerships in their relationships. During that time in our lives our partnership was completely unequal. Dave did 100%-plus of the giving and I was 100%-plus dependant on him for myself and our family life. Dave never faltered or complained about this inequality or the unexpected caretaker role that had been thrust upon him. I know that not every spouse would have the love or loyalty to sustain their world turning upside-down as Dave did.

Despite my long recovery (to this day I still feel like I continue the healing process, most notably in my battle with anxiety), Dave continues to be a rock in our relationship with endless love, loyalty, and patience. I know everyday that I am appreciated and valued. I am endlessly thankful for Dave as a husband.

Dave has never failed to be the man of character that I had looked for many years ago. He has only become more dear to me as he has shown love for our family and for me. He commits himself to increasing in wisdom and service to others with each passing year. He is the finest father and husband. It is a beautiful privilege to grow in our lives together. He is a precious gift that God has given me.

Kindest Regards,

Georgia Litman