



September 15, 2008.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Dr. Peter Baran's application for the title of Docent.

I have known Dr. Baran since 1993 when we initiated our fruitful collaboration on the synthesis and study of transition metal-pyrazolato complexes at the University of Crete, Greece. Dr. Baran joined my group again in January 2000, after I had moved to my current position in the University of Puerto Rico, and stayed with us until May 2004, before moving to his present position in Juniata College. During that 4-year period, besides his own research project, Dr. Baran was also responsible for the operation and maintenance of our single-crystal X-ray Crystallographic facility, as well as for the training of new users.

Peter proved to be a very good bench chemist with excellent synthetic techniques and analytical skills, something that I deeply appreciated as he transferred his experience to my students. He is thorough and meticulous in his planning, very well organized and careful with his record keeping. He puts all his heart to his project and makes enthusiastic presentations of his results. Dr. Baran, made significant original contributions to both the conceptualization, as well as the execution of our research projects. His deep knowledge of the literature allowed him to produce several innovative ideas for our work. His project focused on the synthesis of new transition metal pyrazolato complexes and was able to prepare a variety of copper, iron, vanadium and manganese materials with either commercially available, or in-house synthesized pyrazole ligands. We have co-authored several publications based on his work and his participation in the preparation of the manuscripts had always been invaluable.

Since he moved to Juniata College, Dr. Baran has followed a new research direction, completely distinct from the work we developed together. I was able to see the progress he has achieved in his new work in a short period at the American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans, April 2008, where he and his students made several presentations.

In conclusion, I believe Dr. Peter Baran is valuable colleague and fully deserves the title of Docent.

Sincerely yours,

Raphael G. Raptis, Ph.D.  
Professor, Inorganic Chemistry.