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March 28, 2017

VIA EMAIL and U.S. MAIL

Gary Shinnars, Executive Secretary
NLRB
Region 5, Resident Office
1015 Half Street SE
Washington, DC 20570-0001

**RE: The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York
Case No. 02-RC-143012**

Dear Mr. Shinnars:

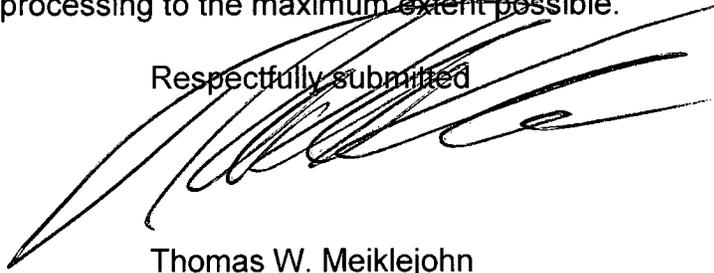
I represent the Petitioner in the above-captioned matter, which is now pending before the Board for the third time since this petition was filed in December 2014. Two years after this petition was filed, the employees voted to be represented by Graduate Workers of Columbia-GWC, UAW. The Employer filed objections to the election, and Hearing Officer Rachel Zweighaft issued a report recommending that those objections be overruled. The Employer filed exceptions to that report, which are now before the Board. I am writing to request expedited consideration of these exceptions.

I understand it to be the Board's practice to give priority to representation cases in order to afford employees the opportunity to exercise their right to organize under the NLRA. These considerations are particularly urgent in the circumstances of this case. First, as noted above, these employees have been attempting to achieve certification for more than two years. Second, as the bargaining unit involves student employees, there is substantial turnover of unit employees in May of each year. In order to afford the employees who voted for representation the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of that vote, the Board should strive to issue a decision by May of this year.

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Accordingly, for the reasons stated, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Board afford this case priority processing to the maximum extent possible.

Respectfully submitted

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Meiklejohn', is written over the typed name and extends upwards into the 'Respectfully submitted' text.

Thomas W. Meiklejohn

TWM:vds

cc: Bernard Plum
Patricia Catapano

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NLRB
ORDER SECTION