



Letters of Recommendation LORs

Sharon P. Douglas, MD

Pulmonary Physician

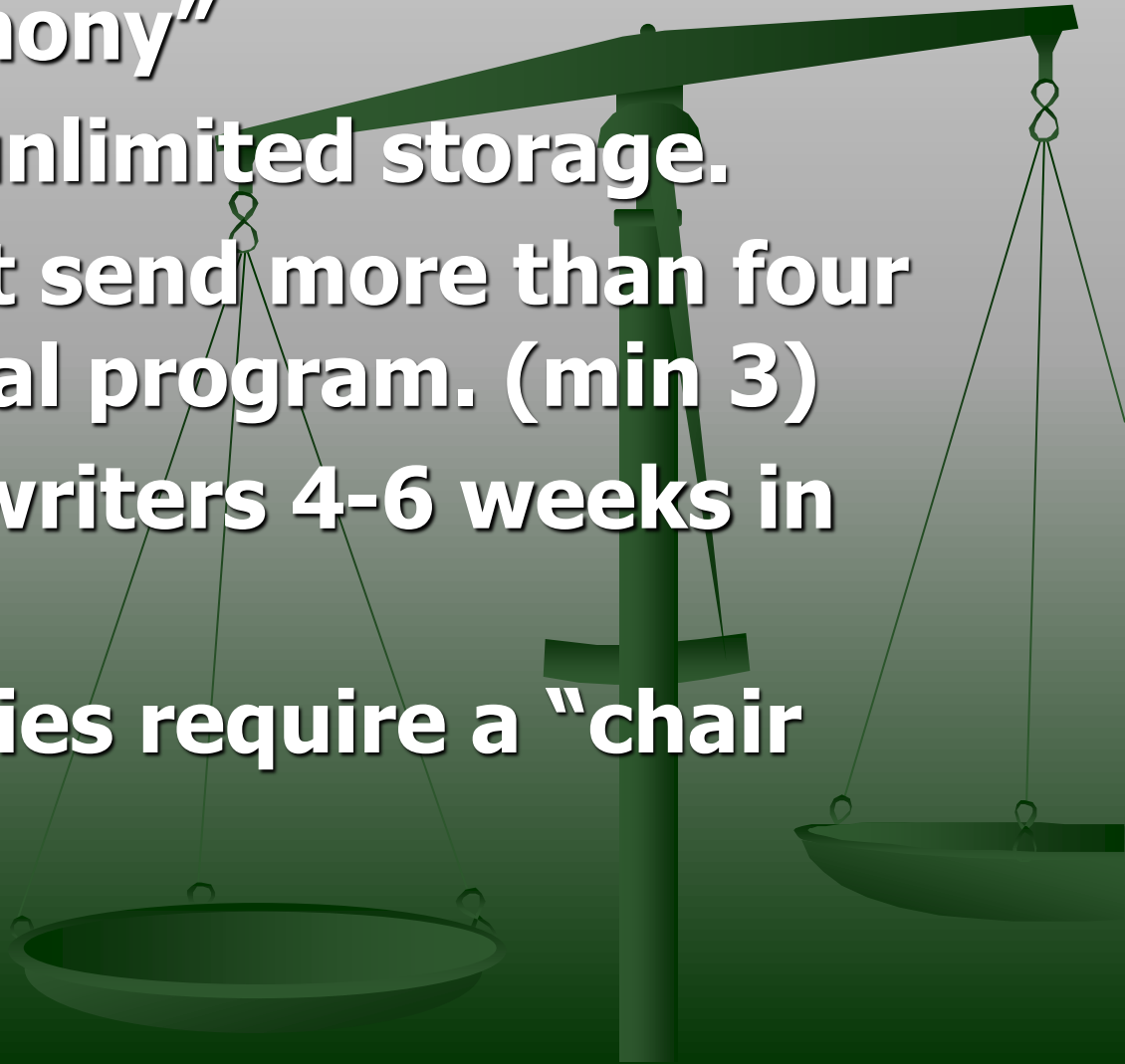
Professor of Medicine

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Letters of Recommendation

LORs

- “expert testimony”
- ERAS allows unlimited storage.
- BUT, you can't send more than four to an individual program. (min 3)
- Need to give writers 4-6 weeks in general.
- Some specialties require a “chair letter”.



LORs-What

- **Qualitative**
- **Personal and professional characteristics**
- **Strengths in clinical care**
- **Hopefully specific examples of your performance**



Ideally a clinical faculty in your specialty that knows you well and can clinically attest to your skills in the specialty you have chosen.

• At

• De

• So

• Re

• Fa

• M

• **NOT Residents**

• **Not Chief Residents**

*****For questions about writers, discuss with your dean.**


tions

mes

ities

alty

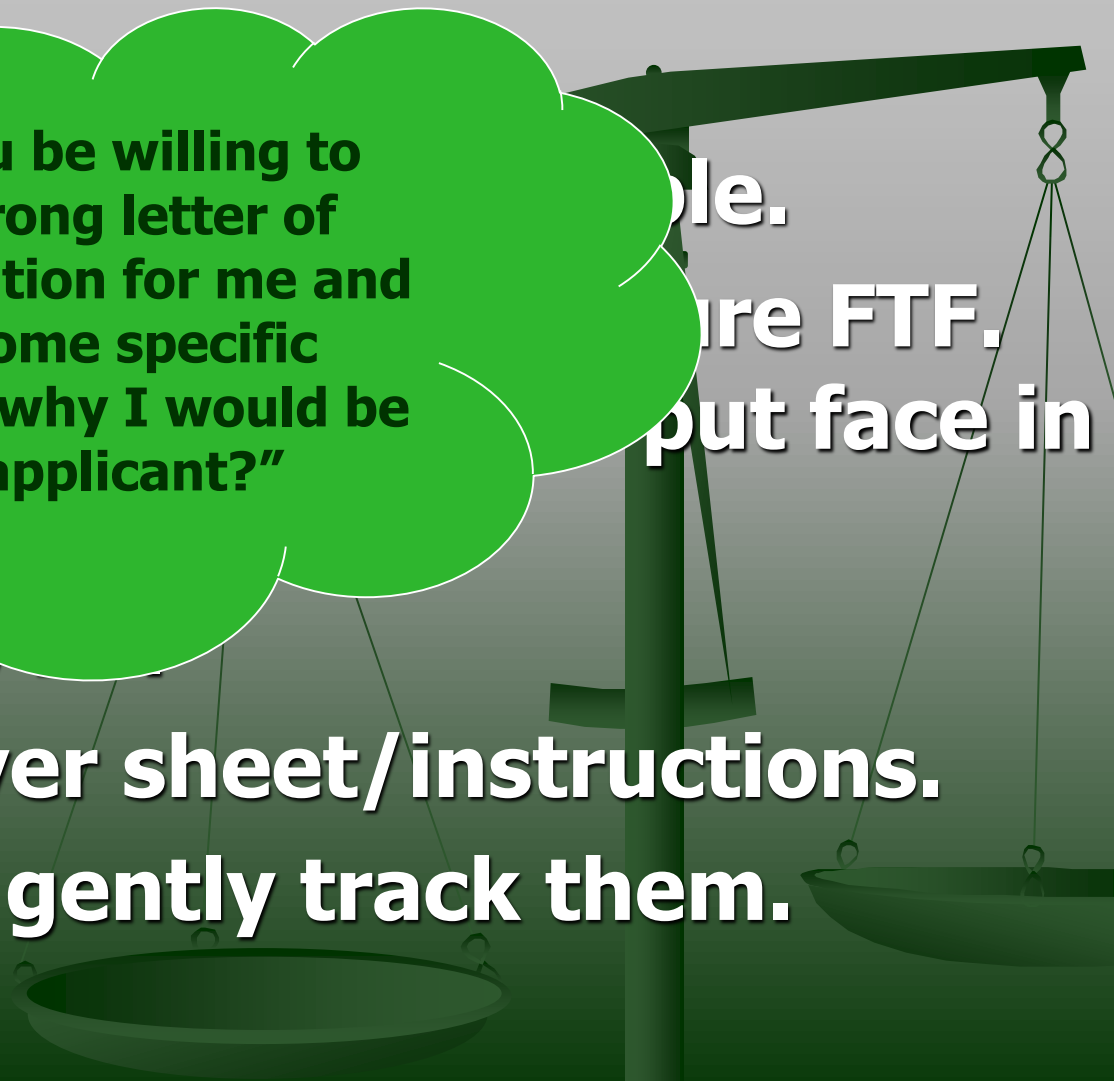
LORs-ask Yourself

- **Did I do a good job on service?**
 - **Did I develop a good relationship?**
 - **Does person think highly of me?**
 - **Does person care about my future?**
 - **Does person have good communication skills?**
- 

Asking for an LOR

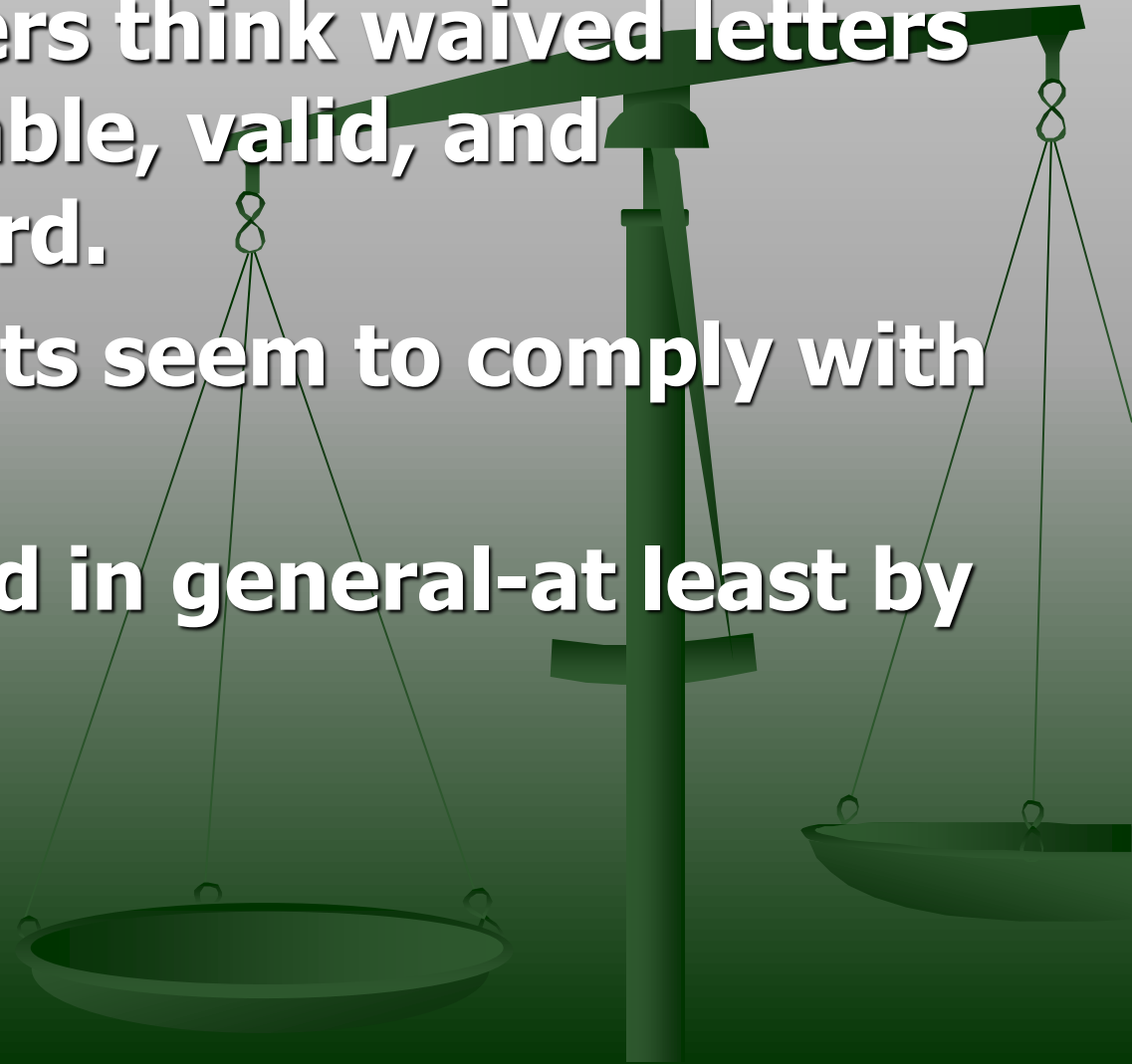
- Be polite
- Do not ask for a letter of recommendation from someone you don't know. **Be polite.**
- If you are asking for a letter of recommendation from someone you don't know, **prepare FTF.**
- **Th** **put face in**
from
- Give them CV,
- Give them cover sheet/instructions.
- Diligently but gently track them.

"Would you be willing to write a strong letter of recommendation for me and include some specific examples of why I would be a good applicant?"



Waiving the Right to See

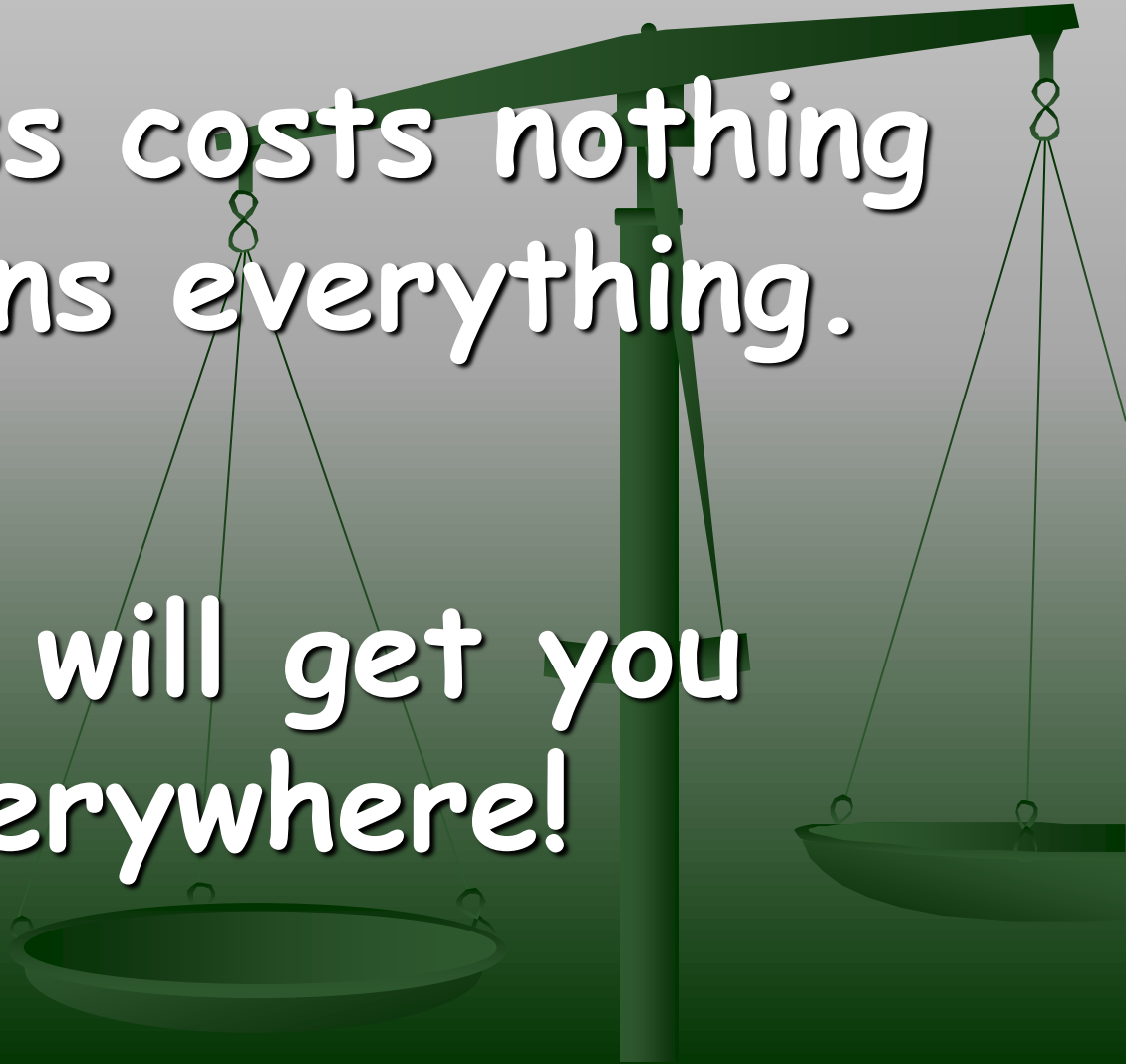
- **Some reviewers think waived letters are more reliable, valid, and straightforward.**
- **Most applicants seem to comply with waiving.**
- **Recommended in general—at least by me.**



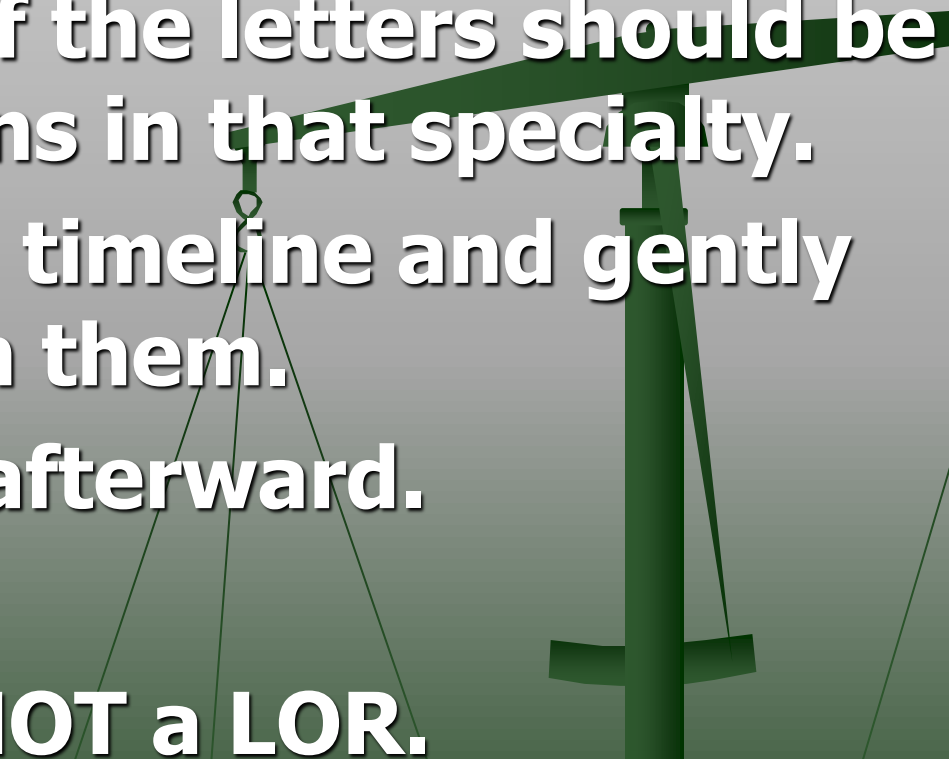
POINTS TO REMEMBER

Politeness costs nothing
and gains everything.

Charm will get you
everywhere!



LOR Points

- **At least half of the letters should be from physicians in that specialty.**
 - **Give writers a timeline and gently follow up with them.**
 - **THANK them afterward.**
 - **The MSPE is NOT a LOR.**
- 

Five Fundamentals



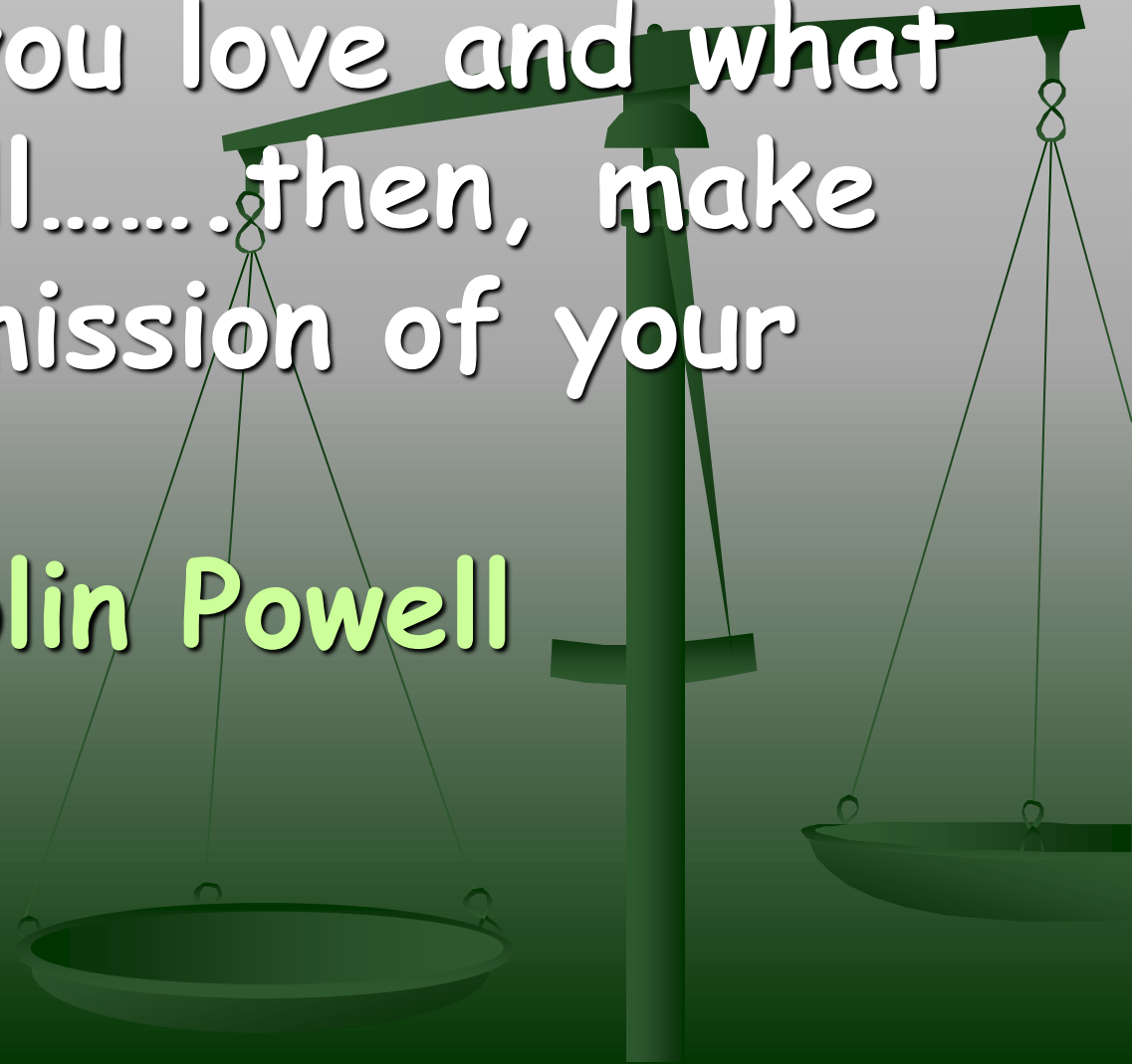
- **Clinical content should be the focus rather than prestige of the writer.**
- **Ask outright if a strong recommendation is possible.**
- **Give writer a copy of CV and PS.**
- **Waive your right to see letter.**
- **Thanks the letter writer.**

American Medical Association

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Find what you love and what you do well.....then, make that the mission of your life.

Colin Powell



Thank You!



Let's Do This!