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We are here today to help the public understand who Natalie Khawam really is, to correct some misconceptions about her, to explain what her plan of action is and to discuss why former CIA Director General Petraeus and his wife provided affidavits in her custody battle.

Natalie Khawam is a loving, caring mother to her four year-old son, a supportive loving sister to her twin, Jill Kelley, and an aunt to ten nieces and nephews. She is part of a strong and devoted family.

In addition, Natalie is a highly educated academic scholar and a successful attorney. She has earned two masters degrees in addition to a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

She is a whistleblower attorney who trained as a healthcare attorney. She specializes in qui tam cases, government fraud and Medicare/Medicaid fraud cases.

Natalie and her twin sister, Jill Kelley, are very close. Jill has continued to protect and support Natalie through the years and Natalie will continue to love and support Jill for doing the right thing.

Like many single moms in this country, Natalie was forced to fight for custody of her child. There have been many erroneous reports about what the family law court had decided and why it decided what it did. Instead of attempting to correct the many errors that the press have made in the reporting of this case, I will simply state that Natalie's family law attorney has filed an appeal and the briefs that he has filed on her behalf articulate why Natalie believes that the lower court decision should be reversed.

Further, the issues in Natalie's case are extremely important to single mothers across the nation and that is why many women's rights groups are

seeking leave to file a friend of the court brief in support of the significant issues raised in Natalie's case.

Some of those issues include: (1) refusal of the first court in her custody matter to allow Natalie's attorney to submit what he believed should have been admissible evidence of allegations by Natalie of alleged domestic violence, (2) restrictive expensive and onerous requirements placed on Natalie by the court for her visitation when the evidence supported her claim that she was a loving protective mother who had not harmed her child in any way and was never found unfit by the court in the custody matter or at any other time, (3) a requirement that she pay a substantial portion of her ex-husband's legal fees in her custody battle.

These issues are extremely important to women because for example: (1) it involves a wrongful attorney fee award which will deter women from pursuing allegations of spousal abuse in marital dissolution or custody proceedings and (2) the legal standards relied upon by the trial court will, as a practical matter, make it impossible for women to prove spousal abuse in marital dissolution or custody disputes.

Because Natalie's son is so important to her she felt that she needed to hire attorneys to attempt to reverse what she believes are onerous, unfair and expensive restrictions placed on her by the court. As a result she has been forced into bankruptcy because of the legal fees and costs in complying with the court order and attempting to reverse it so that she can once again have full custody of her son.

Natalie is just one of the many mothers in this country who has been forced to suffer because of family court decisions.

Finally, Natalie feels that it is important that the public understand why General Petraeus and his wife Holly both filed affidavits in support of her in her custody case. Both have known Natalie and her son personally for many years, and have had numerous opportunities to observe them together. They have loved Natalie's child and emotionally supported her and her son through the toughest time in Natalie and her son's life. They both spoke up through their court declarations in support of Natalie and what a loving, protective mom she

was. They did so when they learned that she was being unfairly portrayed and was a victim of injustice.

Natalie feels that they stood up for the truth as they knew it in her custody case and she is deeply appreciative that the Petraeus family has continued to love and support her and her son during the hardest times.

Natalie feels that both General Petraeus and his wife have made so many sacrifices and contributed so much to our country. She will be forever grateful to both of them for not abandoning her when she needed them the most.

Because there are pending investigations and because Natalie may be asked to testify, she does not plan to do any interviews or answer any questions in the near future. However, she hopes that the media will focus on the important issues raised in the amicus brief to be filed by women's rights organizations in her case.

I look forward to continuing to support Natalie in her quest for justice.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Natalie Khawam
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