



Disability and Guardianship Project

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April 2, 2015

Honorable Harry Hull
Chair, Rules and Projects Committee
Judicial Council of California
914 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Justice Hull:

Thank you for the time and attention you have been giving to the concerns we have raised with the limited conservatorship system in California – a system that has been entrusted to the Judicial Branch.

When I first wrote to Chief Justice Tani Cantile-Sakauye about our concerns, she forwarded my letter to you as Chair of the Rules and Projects Committee. Having been in communication with you for the past several months, I realize that you are the most appropriate representative of the Judicial Branch for discussions about improvements to the limited conservatorship system.

Your letters have been thoughtful and detailed. The meeting that Dr. Nora Baladerian and I had with you in Sacramento was warm and constructive. We appreciate the amount of time you gave us.

You suggested that we work through the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee to address the issues we have been raising. We will follow your suggestion. I will be writing to Judge John Sugiyama, chairperson of that committee, to offer our first specific proposal and to request time on the committee's agenda to discuss it and to answer any questions. Assuming this process is mutually satisfactory, other specific proposals will be submitted to the committee in the future.

I am pleased that Judge Maria Stratton was appointed by the Chief Justice to serve on the advisory committee. Even though she has only been the presiding probate judge in Los Angeles for three months, she has shown great leadership. I sent her a letter today to acknowledge some of the actions she has taken and to request that she work with us and take advantage of the ideas we have to offer for improvements to the limited conservatorship system.

I will write to you from time to time to keep you posted on any progress that is made by working with Judge Sugiyama on statewide issues and Judge Stratton on local issues.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. Coleman
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cc: Judge John Sugiyama
Judge Maria Stratton