



April 10, 2014

Hon. Bob Wieckowski
State Assembly
Sacramento, California

Re: The Need for Legislative Audit and Oversight of
the Limited Conservatorship System in California

Dear Assemblyman Weickowski:

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. I believe that your committee has jurisdiction over legislation affecting or revising the Probate Code.

The Probate Code is one of the statutory schemes that established a Limited Conservatorship System in California – for the protection of adults with developmental disabilities. That system is operated by the Judicial Branch of government. There is little, if any, monitoring of this system or participation in this system by agencies of the Executive Branch.

Three separate cases came to the attention of our Project that prompted us to examine how the Limited Conservatorship System is operating. We conducted a “mini audit” of that system in Los Angeles County. Our findings are contained in a Pre-Conference Report that will be distributed to various agencies and individuals prior to a series of four conferences we will conduct to examine flaws in the system and identify ways to remedy those flaws.

I am taking the liberty of sending this Pre-Conference Report (and the agendas of the four conferences) to you for review. I believe that you will be surprised and disappointed by what you read. I am also including our Preliminary Findings as a separate document.

Perhaps you would like to send someone from the Judiciary Committee staff to attend some or all of these conferences as an observer, so you can get a first hand report of the situation.

I would be pleased to speak with you or your staff at any time about this ongoing problem.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas F. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas F. Coleman
Legal Director
(818) 482-4485 (direct)