
CPPA December Newsletter

CA Protective Parents Association

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California Protective Parents Association Newsletter

Dear Friends,

The holidays are here, which adds a new layer of pain for safe protective mothers who have lost their children to abusers. You may feel beaten down by the loss of your

children, but you are not powerless. Please join us in working toward change. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas to this newsletter.

Friday Dec.11th: Join Us at the Judicial Council in San Francisco!

9:15am - 10:45am
Judicial Council of California- 3rd Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Please suit up in your red "Stop Court Crimes" t-shirt and join us next Friday, Dec. 11th at 9:15am as we continue to put the California Judicial Council on notice about the horrific outcomes for children and mothers in the state's family courts. Speakers get 3 minutes each to speak about system-wide problems in family courts. Public comment lasts 30 minutes and is scheduled for 10:10am but could happen sooner, so please arrive by 9:15am if you would like to address the council.



These meetings are audio-recorded and your comments can later be heard on the California Judicial Council website. You can sign up to speak in advance by emailing judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov by 4pm on Thursday, Dec. 10th. Same day sign ups are also typically allowed. Please join us and speak truth to power!

Sunday Dec. 13th: Has the System Failed Vulnerable Children?

4pm - 6pm
Davis Community Church 412 C Street, Davis CA

Multiple children have been placed at risk by Yolo County family court judges in the past several years. One child was killed and others were placed with alleged and adjudicated domestic violence and child sex offenders. Last spring, Barry Goldstein, author of *The Quincy Solution*, was the keynote speaker at the 21st Child Sexual Abuse Awareness conference in Davis. He described the different systems for handling claims of child abuse, depending on the relationship of the child to the alleged offender:

- * If the identified offender is a stranger, the reports are aggressively investigated by law enforcement detectives and the findings are forwarded to prosecutors. Criminal charges are filed and the case proceeds in criminal court. Even if the case does not proceed to prosecution, the child victim is protected

- * If the reported offender is a family member, the case is handled very differently. Child protective services social workers investigate and cross report to law enforcement. But family crimes are infrequently prosecuted, often due to a lack of sufficient evidence or a victim who is too young or too traumatized to testify. Once the case is closed, the accused goes to family court to seek custody. (Family courts operate under the presumption that allegations are false and are initiated only to gain advantage during custody hearings.) The identified offender receives unsupervised contact 70-90% of the time. The child victim is not protected.

On Sunday, December 13, the Davis Vanguard and the California Protective Parents Association are hosting a free event from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Library of the Davis Community Church (412 C Street), where a panel of experts will attempt to answer the question "Has the System Failed Vulnerable Children?"

May 7 - 8, 2016: The Survivorship Ritual Abuse & Child Abuse

Conference

Executive Inn & Suite - 1755 Embarcadero - Oakland, CA 94606

Attend two days of survivor and professional workshops, working together to bring the survivor movement forward. For more information, please email conference2016@survivorship.org or visit <https://survivorship.org/survivorship-ritual-abuse-and-child-abuse-2016-conference/>.

ACTION: United Nations Fact-Finding Mission Is Here In U.S. Until Dec. 11th!

The United Nations has sent the first ever fact-finding human rights mission to the United States to look into discrimination against women in law and in practice. This UN Working Group was created by the Human Rights Council.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WGWomen/Pages/WGWomenIndex.aspx>
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/USIndex.aspx>

You can send information to them at wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org with a copy to barditi@ohchr.org.

NEWS RELEASE -

Discrimination against women: UN expert group starts first fact-finding visit to the United States

WASHINGTON / GENEVA (30 November 2015) - A United Nations expert group on discrimination against women in law and in practice starts today in Washington, D.C., the first ever official visit by UN independent experts to assess the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the protection and promotion of women's human rights in the United States.

The visiting delegation comprised of human rights experts Alda Facio, Frances Raday, and Eleonora Zielinska -who currently heads the expert group- will also travel to Alabama, Oregon and Texas in order to gather first-hand information on issues related to discrimination against women in various contexts, including women victims of multiple forms of discrimination.

"The Working Group is particularly interested in legislative reforms and policies that have been implemented in the United States to promote women's rights and gender equality," Ms. Zielinska said.

"We will look at achievements and good practices to eliminate discrimination against women in all aspects of women's health. We will also address aspects of law and practice which affect women's participation in political and public, economic and social, family and in cultural life," she added.

During its nine-day visit (November 30-December 11), the experts will meet with Government officials at federal, state and local levels, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as academics, practitioners and individual women.

A **press conference** to share the delegation's preliminary findings will be held on Friday, 11 December at 1300 in the United Nations Information Center in Washington DC (1775 K ST NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20006). Access to the press conference is strictly limited to accredited media.

Following its visit, the Working Group will present a report with its conclusions and recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2016.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has already found the United States remiss on protection for battered women in the Jessica Lenahan Gonzales case. Arizona attorney Dianne Post submitted a petition to IACHR in 2007 on behalf of protective mothers who lost their children in family court proceedings. The petition is still under consideration.

ACTION: Contact Spotlight: Urge Them to Cover the Family Court Scandal in Mass

Spotlight is a new movie about the Boston Globe story on the pedophile priest coverup. <http://trailers.apple.com/trailers/independent/spotlight/>

The cover-up of the systematic judicial trafficking of children by family/divorce courts is an even bigger story, mostly ignored by the media. Fox11 in LA is the exception to this marked lack of media involvement.

Although research shows that 94-98% of children do not fabricate sex abuse, 90% of them are placed in unsupervised contact with their identified sexual abusers when their protective parents ask family court to protect them. We are asking protective parents and allies in Massachusetts to call the Boston Globe to ask them to do an in-depth investigation into the cover-up of judicial child trafficking by family/divorce courts.

Spotlight reporters:

Sacha Pfeiffer sacha.pfeiffer@globe.com 617-929-2984

Michael Rezendes rezendes@globe.com 617-929-3047

ACTION: Call Congress for S2280 & Support Domestic Violence Legal Services!

Please call your Congressional Representative <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> to support *An Act to Promote Pro Bono Legal Services* as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s2280/text>.

RECENT ARTICLES

The Monthly

Suffer the Children: Trouble in the Family Court

By Jess Hill

When Erin saw the police lights flashing, she knew it was over. She steered the car to the side of the road, and turned to her two children. "OK guys, this is it," she said. "We've done our best."

Her teenaged daughter started to panic. "Fuck! Oh my god!" she cried. "I can't do this. You can't leave us!" She grabbed for the bottle of Panadol in the centre console, insisting she wanted to die. "No!" Erin said firmly. "Settle, just settle."

As the police officer approached with a warrant, Erin got out of her car. She asked for time to talk to her two children, and promised she'd follow him to the station. Back in the car, Erin tried to remain calm. "I am so sorry I have put you through all of this. This is not the life I wanted for you. Always remember how much I love you."

"What's going to happen to us?" her 10-year-old son cried. "I don't know," Erin replied. "You just need to tell the truth."

By the time the police caught up with them, Erin had been on the run with her children for nine months. She was now confronting a reality she'd been avoiding for years.

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2015/november/1446296400/jess-hill/suffer-children>

Star Tribune South Metro

Rucki sisters headed to family reunification program

Saying the girls' "life has become a circus," Judge Michael Mayer had to choose among three competing arguments of where Gianna, 16, and Samantha, 17, should go.

By Brandon Stahl Star Tribune
December 1, 2015

The runaway Lakeville sisters who had been missing for two and a half years will be sent to an intensive out-of-state reunification program after a Dakota County judge pulled them out of foster care Monday.

The program aims to overcome the resistance of Gianna and Samantha Rucki to moving back in with their father, whom they still refuse to live with, less than two weeks after they were discovered on a western Minnesota horse farm.

Saying the girls' "life has become a circus," Judge Michael Mayer had to choose among three competing arguments of where Gianna, 16, and Samantha, 17, should go. Dakota County child protection thought they should stay in foster care. The couple who kept the runaway teens at the White Horse Ranch filed a petition on Monday saying the girls were best off with them.

"We love the children and believe we can provide them the best environment under these current circumstances," Doug and Gina Dahlen wrote in their motion.

Before the girls ran away in April 2013, the teens repeatedly accused their father of abuse, but a court-appointed psychologist concluded that their mother, Sandra Grazzini-Rucki, had brainwashed them. Their father, David Rucki, was granted full custody of the children in November 2013 after a judge ruled that there was no credible evidence that the girls were abused.

<http://www.startribune.com/couple-argues-that-rucki-sisters-are-better-off-at-ranch/358974031/>

Los Angeles Times

December 1, 2015

'I'm shaking, I'm sick, I'm an emotional mess': Texts from clerk could mark end of judge's career

By Joseph Serna

The text messages to Valeriano Saucedo's phone came in quick succession.

"I think it's time I tell [my husband] absolutely everything ... I'm shaking, I'm sick, I'm an emotional mess," the first message read. "The lies to my family and friends its not worth how I'm feeling right now."

A minute later, another note arrived: "And they don't deserve this. I will also seek a therapist tomorrow just so you know. This has gone bad."

So marked the beginning of the end of Saucedo's 14-year career as a Superior Court judge in Tulare County - which started to unravel when he allegedly tried to manipulate his way into a relationship with his courtroom clerk.

The judge, according to the state Commission on Judicial Performance, essentially tried to make the clerk see him as a confidant who could support her emotionally and financially. They described his conduct as "deceitful, calculated and unseemly."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-tulare-county-judge-saucedo-removal-20151201-story.html>

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