(For Commission Use Only):	
COMMISSION CASE NO.	



NEVADA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

VERIFIED STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT (Please Clearly Type or Print All Required Information)

Part I: General Information

Date: 9/2/2017
Name of Person Completing This Form: Steve Sanson
Malling Address of Person Completing This Form: P.O. Box 28211, Las Vegas, NV 89126
Dudi 7. 1 702 202 2000
Daytime Telephone: (702) 283-8088 Email: vipipresident@cs.com
Part II: Specific Information Regarding Complaint
Name of Nevada Judicial Officer (Only One Name Per Complaint Form): Bryce Duckworth
Name of Court or Judicial District Involved: Clark County District Court, Family Division
Case Number (Please Include All Letters and Numbers):
When and where did the alleged misconduct or disability occur?
Date: 8/30/2017 Time: 2:00 pm Location Department Q, Courtroom 1, Family Court
Date: Time: Location
This Case is (Select One): X Pending in Trial CourtOn AppealNot Pending or Closed
Nature of Complaint (Select One): X I have attached my own explanation page(s) I have used the standard Complaint Form
Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct Section(s) Violated, If Known [(Example: Canon 3B(4)]:
Paras. 1 & 2 of the Preamble, Rule 1.1, Rule 1.2, Rule 1.3, Rule 2.1, Rule 2.2, Rule 2.9, Rule 2.10, Ru

Part III: Obligations Of Complainant

I hereby acknowledge the following agreements and/or walvers:

Consent to Investigate, I expressly authorize the Commission on Judicial Discipline ("Commission"), staff and contractors, to investigate my complaint and take any and all actions, including interviewing any relevant witness(es) or request by subpoens or otherwise any documentary evidence and to verify the statements I have made herein to be true and correct (or if stated to be on information and belief, that the statements are believed in good faith to be true and correct). I agree to promptly supplement and amend this complaint if I learn that the facts I have alleged are materially incorrect. I understand that deliberately misstating the truth of any material fact could subject me to various sanctions including, but not limited to, dismissal of my complaint, contempt or a separate action for perjury.

Part III Obligations of Complainant (Continued)

Full Cooperation. I agree to fully cooperate with the Commission, staff and its designated contractors with regard to my complaint. I understand that even if I wish to withdraw my complaint that the Commission retains independent grounds to pursue it and that the information contained within and attached to the complaint becomes the property of the Commission and the Commission may pursue the complaint even if I seek to withdraw it. I understand that all documents submitted become the property of the Commission and will not be returned.

Appeal Warning. I understand that the Commission, its staff and contractors are not an appellate court and that my filing of a complaint does not stay or stop any time I am provided to appeal a decision I disagree with or any decision that adversely affects me. I understand that I must timely file an appeal to preserve those rights. I acknowledge that filing a complaint with the Commission does not and cannot preserve those rights.

<u>Legal Advice.</u> I understand that the Commission, its Commissioners, Commission staff, investigators and contractors are precluded from giving me legal advice regarding my case or actions I should be taking in my case and I understand that should I require advice I will seek appropriate assistance apart from the Commission, Commissioners, Commission staff, investigators and contractors.

Part IV: Attachments

Relevant documents: Please attach any relevant documents which you believe directly support your claim that the judge has engaged in judicial misconduct or has a disability. Highlight or otherwise Identify those sections that you rely on to support your claim. Do not include documents which do not directly support your complaint, for example, a copy of your complete court case. Keep a copy of all documents submitted for your records as they become the property of the Commission and will not be returned.

Part V: Signature and Verification of Complaint

After being duly sworn, I state under penalty of perjury that I am the above-referenced complainant whose name appears in Part I and who submitted this complaint. I know the contents thereof; and the matters set forth in this complaint are true and correct based upon my own knowledge, except as to matters stated to be on information and belief, and those matters are believed to be true and correct. I request that the conduct set forth above or referenced in the attachments and exhibits provided with the complaint be investigated by the Nevada Complission on Judicial Discipline.

Signature of Complainant Date

How Do I Submit My Complaint? Where Can I Obtain Additional Assistance? This complaint, along with any supporting materials, should be sent by mail to the: Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, P.O. Box 48, Carson City, Nevada 89702. If you have questions regarding the completion of this form, please contact the Commission on Judicial Discipline at (775) 687-4017. In addition, if you have access to the internet, or can obtain access at a local library or other facility, the Commission's web site located at http://judicial.state.nv.us and provides additional information to help you prepare your complaint. The web site also includes the full and current text of the Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct and other laws, statutes and rules governing the Commission.

STANDARD COMPLAINT FORM (STATEMENT OF FACTS)

The following is my explanation as to why the judicial officer named in this complaint has violated the Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct or suffers from a disability. Please identify yourself as [select one]: [] a litigant; [X] a witness or interested party; or [] a member of the general public who witnessed or viewed this conduct (but not otherwise involved). The following are the specific facts and circumstances which you believe constitute misconduct or disability (please be as specific as possible about the event(s) or action(s) and attach additional pages, if necessary): See attached, I have [select one]: [] appealed the judge's decision [] not appealed the decision [] not decided to appeal the decision yet [X] not applicable

Attach Additional Pages as Necessary

(Revised 12/28/2015)



Veterans In Politics International, Inc.

P.O. Box 28211 Las Vegas, NV 89126, U.S.A.

STEVE SANSON, USMC - PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR

JOHNNY SPICER, USN RET, – SECRETARY GEORGE CHEHADE – MINISTER RON Q. QUILANG – AUXILIARY DIRECTOR

September 2, 2017

VIA MAIL

Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline P.O. Box 48 Carson City, NV 89702

Re: Judge Bryce Duckworth

Dear Commission:

We are writing to ask that you investigate Judge Bryce Duckworth in connection with a hearing we had before him on August 30, 2017 in the *Ansell v. Ansell* divorce case, Eighth Judicial District Court case no. D-15-521960-D. A copy of the video of the hearing is attached as Exhibit 1.

We believe that Judge Duckworth violated at least the following Rules of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct (the "Code"): Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Preamble requiring a judge to maintain the dignity of the office and avoid the impropriety; Rule 1.1 requiring the judge to comply with the law, including the Code; Rule 1.2 for failure to promote confidence in the judiciary; Rule 1.3 for using the prestige of his judicial office and the judicial process of other parties to advance his personal and economic interests; Rule 2.1 requiring the judge to give precedence to the duties of judicial office; Rule 2.2 requiring impartiality, open-mindedness and fairness; Rule 2.5 for failing to give due regard for a party to be heard; Rule 2.9 requiring the judge not to collude with one of the parties; Rule 2.10 requiring the judge not to make statements on pending and impending cases; and Rule 2.12 for failing to control staff from colluding with a party.

I. INTRODUCTION:

As you are aware, Veterans In Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI") is a government watchdog organization and media outlet. VIPI and I were recently dragged into the Ansell divorce case by the family court lawyer, Marshal Willick, who is personally suing me and VIPI for defamation in connection with articles we published about him and his fiance's (Jennifer

Abrams, also a family court lawyer) improper professional tactics. Mr. Willick is representing the wife in the Ansell divorce case.

Until the August 30, 2017 hearing, the judge in the divorce case was Bryce Duckworth, one of the family court judges against whom we recently complained in an open letter to the Presiding Judge of District Court, each of the Supreme Court justices, and to the public corruption directors of law enforcement as part of VIPI's "war" on Family Court corruption. A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit 2.

In the Ansell divorce case, VIPI and I had filed motions to quash the subpoenas that were served on us by Willick. Instead of having the motions referred to a Discovery Commissioner as provided by Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 2.34, Judge Duckworth decided to hear the motions himself. As discussed below, he improperly ordered me into court under false pretenses, turned the hearing into an evidentiary hearing with no notice, questioned me on issues that he admitted he had a conflict on with, stifled my counsels objections and launched into an unsupported implausible rant accusing VIPI of corruption and generally attacked our organization and investigations. At the end of the hearing, he recused himself for conflicts of interest, claiming that it was because he may be called as a witness if there is a corruption investigation against us, when in actuality, he was recusing himself because he had a conflict of interest between one of his staff members and the husband in the divorce case.

It was clear to us that the whole hearing was a set-up for him to launch into a self-serving tirade to discredit us and our investigation of him, and to try to paint himself as a hyper ethical judge to deflect from his own improper behavior. The coup de gras is that the judge or someone in his office then leaked the video of the hearing to Willick hours or a day before the Court Clerk could make it available to the public and before the Court Clerk could officially unseal the case. (The case was unsealed pursuant to VIPI's request at the hearing.) It is clear to us that the video was leaked to Willick with the specific intent that it be distributed online to discredit our organization and our complaints against Judge Duckworth and other family court judges and practices.

We also believe that this event makes probable that the judge and Willick have either directly or indirectly had ex parte communications regarding this case and/or this hearing.

II. VIOLATIONS:

A. COLLUSION WITH A PARTY.

The video of the August 30, 2017 hearing was secretly leaked to Willick (or his followers) at least several hours, if not a day, before the Court Clerk made the video available to the public. VIPI requested a copy of the video immediately after the hearing, and as usual, was advised that it would be available the next afternoon. Yet, Willick and his followers posted the hearing video online by 10:30am the next morning. Moreover, while the official video was in two parts, the one Willick or his followers posted online was in one part, indicating it was either an original master or was obtained in sufficient time to edit together before its 10:30 am release. The Court Clerk also confirmed that VIPI was the only entity that officially requested a copy of the video from the Court. So, either the Judge or someone in the Judge's office apparently leaked the

video to Willick or his followers to put out onto the internet as soon as possible. Moreover, at the time Willick or his followers posted the video online, the Clerk had not even officially unsealed the case, which was not officially unsealed until the afternoon. No court clerk was authorized to release the video to any third party before that time.

We have since also released the video online with our own explanation, but it was clearly a violation of the obligation to avoid the appearance of impropriety for the judge to have leaked the video to one of the parties, and to have done so outside the proper court channels.

Rule 2.12 of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct (the "Code") states that "A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this Code." The comment indicates that "A judge is responsible for his or her own conduct and for the conduct of others, such as staff, when those persons are acting at the judge's direction or control."

Further, Rule 1.2 of the Code states that "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and appearance of impropriety."

Canon 2 of the Code states that "a judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially, competently and diligently."

Certainly, leaking a court video to one of the litigants' counsels before it is made available to other litigants or to the public is not in keeping with the requirement to avoid impartiality or the appearance of impartiality and is a violation of Rule 2.12 which requires the judge not to engage in improper behavior or to permit his staff, which is under his legal responsibility, to do so.

B. THE NEFARIOUS "SET UP":

Instead of VIPI's motions being heard by a Discovery Commissioner as is stated under Eighth Judicial District Rule 2.34, the judge arranged for VIPI's motions to be heard by him personally. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a copy of the Order.

In the Order, he represented that the purpose of the hearing was to rule on the outstanding discovery motions. Yet, shortly after taking the bench he advised counsel for VIPI that he had no intention of making any rulings on the discovery.

His Order also took the unusual step of stating: "The Court expects that all individuals related to the issues before the Court will be available to participate in the hearing." While we have no problem with judges ordering parties to attend hearings, it is highly unusual for this to be done in a non-evidentiary discovery motion, particularly requiring a non-party to the case to personally show up. My lawyer even called Judge Duckworth's courtroom and confirm that I and the other litigants were being ordered to personally appear. Notwithstanding how unusual this was, in good faith and wishing to comply with all court orders, I showed up with my lawyer. Yet, I was the only one to do so. Tellingly, the judge was unfazed that the actual parties to the case did not appear even when my lawyer pointed this out. He did not inquire about this, did not reprimand

their lawyers, nor did he postpone the hearing to compel their appearance which he had at least pretended to order. It was clear that he was concerned only with having me there.

Immediately after counsels stated their appearances for the record, the judge swore me in to give testimony – he was turning this into an evidentiary hearing without any notice to me or my lawyer. Moreover, this became a hearing in which only he and I were witnesses! A <u>clear</u> conflict of interest for him.

C. IMPROPER, FALSE AND SELF-SERVING RECORD: During the hearing, the judge was intent on making a false, unsupported, improbable and self-serving record that accused VIPI of trying to influence him in the divorce case based on a brief conversation that I had with him regarding VIPI's "war" on family court last May, over *three months ago*.

Here is the background: I had appeared in his courtroom as a court monitor in May 2017 (the judge disputes the exact date but I think it's irrelevant what the exact date was). During a break in the proceedings, I spoke to the judge as I have on other occasions, during which time the judge acknowledged VIPI's "war" on family court corruption. During that conversation, the judge asked me "Am I ok?" I did not answer the judge, and after I left it was bothering me that I hadn't responded since I have known the judge and had been friendly with him for over 9 years. VIPI had supported and endorsed him and we even recommended him for a presiding judge position in family court. (Attached as Exhibit 3 is a declaration I submitted in support of my motion to quash the subpoenas, which confirms the facts I'm reciting here.) So I thereafter texted the judge that I wanted to speak with him, which we did. During that phone conversation, I said words to the effect of "you asked me the other day 'am I ck?' and to answer your question, I can't believe the crap you let Willick get away with in the Ansell case." The judge immediately ended the conversation. He then texted me that I was trying to influence him on the case, which I was not trying to do – I had no information on the Ansell case. My comment was directed to Willick's general litigation tactics of making allegations in pleadings without evidentiary support, just to see what sticks, a tactic he and his fiancé have used in their personal lawsuits against VIPI and me. VIPI had even complained about too much of these practices in its open letter. We believe in a basic court principal that every judge should abide by anyway – allegations should be supported by evidence. My comment had nothing to do with any particular procedural, substantive, parties-related or other issue in the case itself as I have no knowledge of any such issue and I have never even reviewed any paperwork in the case. (See my Declaration.) When the judge texted me immediately after the phone call, that I was trying to unduly influence him I responded saying that I was just trying to answer his question and that I wanted him to know what we were thinking at VIPI since he had asked and we had also put this in our open letter to the Presiding judge, and others.

In any event, at the August 30, 2017 hearing, the judge interrogated me as to what I meant by "crap" in my May phone conversation with him, and I explained. Despite my explanation and without any proof whatsoever, the judge started reciting a false narrative that he read into the record from a pre-written speech, apparently in complete disregard for any answers that I gave him. He accused VIPI of engaging in corruption, he showed his bias by stating that the VIPI Court Observers are nothing but "disgruntled litigants," he mocked the fact that I attached a copy of an article showing that the FBI is investigation of family court corruption in

California to my declaration, and he also falsely accused me and VIPI of failing to investigate our complaints against judges, an issue that had nothing to do with anything that was before him in the divorce case, but had everything to do with our pending complaints against him.

He then falsely stated at the end of the hearing that he had to recuse himself because my conversation with him may be subject to a corruption investigation to which he may be a witness. Yet, if that were the case, then he should have recused himself three months ago. Moreover, the real reason he was recusing himself at this time was his admission that he had just learned that one of his staff members also works for the husband in the divorce case, and that put the judge in an "appearance of impropriety" situation. He had again made a false narrative simply to try to discredit us.

Rule 2.10 of the Code states that "A judge shall not make any public statement that might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court, or make any nonpublic statement that might substantially interfere with a fair trial or hearing." The comment to this Rule states that "this Rule's restrictions on judicial speech are essential to the maintenance of the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary." Given that the judge knew he was going to recuse himself since it was part of his prewritten speech, the only reason he could have had for making his speech was to influence whichever judicial officer was later going to rule on our outstanding motions (a violation of Rule 2.10), and to leak the video to Willick or his followers to post online to discredit me and my organization, which would help the judge in dealing with the outstanding complaints we made about him, and would help Willick (and his fiancé) in their private defamation suits against VIPI and me.

Further, Rule 1.3 of the Code states in relevant part that "a judge shall not abuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the judge..." Here, the judge's actions, conclusions and speech were clearly motivated by his improper desire to use the <u>credibility of a judicial proceeding</u> to discredit VIPI and me in light of the pending complaints we made about <u>him and the way he does his job</u> — both the personal and economic interests of the judge.

D. CONCLUSIONS UNSUPPORTED BY LAW OR EVIDENCE:

The judge's conclusion was biased and was unsupported by the evidence or the law. The judge concluded we were "corrupt" despite making the following admissions:

- a. The judge has had a friendly relationship with me for over nine years and neither VIPI nor I have ever tried to influence the judge on a case.
- b. Other than the brief phone conversation at issue, there was no indication that I was trying to influence him on the case in any way.
- c. Neither I nor VIPI were parties to the case, or were even subpoenaed as witnesses or anything else at the time I made the statement to the judge.

- d. My alleged attempt to influence the judge was made at an "odd" time in the case after the party on whose behalf the influence was allegedly intended had already won the main issue in the case.
- e. I had no knowledge about the issues or merits of the case, and did not impart any substantive information to the judge.
- f. My statement to the judge was about *Willick's courtroom antics*, the same lawyer who was suing me separately, and not about the litigants or their specific issues.
- g. The judge could point to no effect that this conversation had on the case, and my statement had no tie to any ruling on any issue in the case.
- h. The judge admitted that there was no gag order in the case, yet was upset that I may have spoken to one of the parties in the case, even about non-confidential, non-sealed issues. This is a violation of VIPI's and my First Amendment and journalistic rights.
- i. The Judge did not view my conversation with him to be significant enough to recuse himself over the *three months* since that conversation took place.

In addition, even if the judge thought that my singular comment was an "ex parte communication," Rule 2.9(A) of the Code states that ex parte communications (even by parties, let alone by a non-party like VIPI) are not prohibited "if the judge reasonably believes that no party will gain a procedural, substantive, or tactical advantage as a result of the ex parte communication" and notifies the parties of it, which he had already done in a prior May 17, 2017 hearing. Rule 2.9(A)(5) of the Code states that "a judge may initiate, permit or consider any ex parte communication when authorized by law to do so."

Further, Rule 2.9(B) states that "if a judge inadvertently receives an unauthorized ex parte communication bearing upon the *substance* of a matter, the judge shall make provision promptly to notify the parties of the substance of the communication and provide the parties with an opportunity to respond." It does not state that such communications constitute corruption. Here, the judge admits that there was no communication that pertained to any *substantive* issue in the case, the judge notified the parties in a May hearing of the nature of the communication, and there was no evidence that the statement influenced the court in any way, let alone constituted "corruption" by VIPI or an attempt to subvert the judicial process.

E. JUDGE NOT IMPARTIAL OR OPEN-MINDED, IGNORED EXAMPLES GIVEN OF PERCEIVED BIAS, AND FAILS TO LET THE PARTIES BE ADEQUATELY HEARD: During the hearing, counsels made several arguments to the judge pointing out the lack of evidence for numerous conclusions that the judge jumped to without any evidence. The judge refused to address them, told counsels that he did not want further discussion and railroaded the hearing towards his end-goal agenda of discrediting VIPI and me.

Comment 1 to Rule 2.2 of the Code states that "a judge must be objective and open-minded." The judge here was neither. He questioned me about the statement, but it was clear that he had

no interest in my explanation and was going to reach his pre-written conclusion regardless of what I said.

Further, Comment 4 to Rule 2.5 states that "a judge must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost or delay." The judge did not give counsels the opportunity to be heard on the unfounded accusations in his speech, and by hauling us into court under false pretenses and creating issues where they don't exist, has failed to resolve the case without unnecessary cost or delay to the parties and to myself and my organization.

F. LACK OF JUDICIAL TEMPERMENT: During the course of the hearing, the judge stormed off the bench two times. Once in the middle of hearing when he got angry and again at the end of the hearing when he wanted no response to his "speech." This type of behavior does not reflect the proper judicial temperament required of a judge.

VIPI used to have high regard for Judge Duckworth, and even endorsed him in his campaign to become a judge and had recommended him for a presiding judge position. But, this was the first time we have been before Judge Duckworth as litigants. What we experienced unfortunately causes us to reinforce our public complaints against this judge. If he acted this way with us, we cannot imagine what he does to other litigants who do not even have the benefit of counsel.

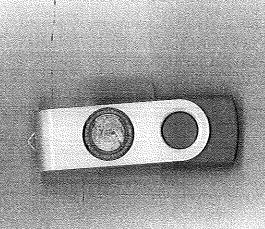
We ask that this Commission please investigate this judge and his retaliatory tactics.

Very truly yours,

Steve Sanson

President, Veterans In Politics International, Inc.

ANSELL v. ANSELL VIDEO TRANSCRIPT OF AUGUST 30, 2017 HEARING JUDGE DUCKWORTH





Veterans In Politics International, Inc.

P.O. Box 28211 Las Vegas, NV 89126, U.S.A.

STEVE SANSON, USMC - PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR

JOHNNY SPICER, USN RET. – SECRETARY GEORGE CHEHADE – MINISTER RON Q. QUILANG – AUXILIARY DIRECTOR

July 14, 2017

VIA MAIL
Chief Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez
Eighth Judicial District Court
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, Nv 89155

Subject: Carnage Within the Clark County Family Court System

Dear Judge Gonzalez:

We are writing to bring to your attention what appears to be a dire situation in Clark County's family court system. As the Chief Judge, we urge you to please take immediate steps to investigate the situation.

As you may be aware, Veterans In Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI") is a government watchdog organization and media outlet. Pursuant to numerous past and recent complaints we received about abuses by family court judges, we recently put together a team of court observers to sit in on various family court hearings. What we found surprised even us.

Below is a sample list of abuses, numerous of which we personally observed and others of which were reported to us. While some of the litigants involved in the cases mentioned below were represented by counsel whom you would think would be able to protect their clients, we believe that the problems are so systemic and entrenched that there is often little a lawyer can do to rectify the situation especially if his/her client has no means to pay for an appeal. Particularly in family court where there are also many prose litigants, the injustice is even more profound.

We are copying each of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the heads of the state's legislative judiciary committees, the FBI's division of public corruption, Nevada's Attorney General and Clark County's Chief County Commissioner, so that everyone in

key decision-making positions can be aware of the problems, and can take action to investigate and rectify what appears to be a horrendous situation. At the end of this letter, we also list key laws and policies that we believe should be changed or implemented to help mitigate the abuse in the future.

Also, please note that on April 16, 2017 we created a Facebook page entitled "War Declared on Clark County Nevada Family Court System." In the short time it has been up, we have received hundreds of complaints from litigants who believe they were victimized by our family courts. We invite you to visit the site and review their comments.

Below are examples of what we believe are systemic violations in family court:

1. Violations of the 5th Amendment Right Against Self-Incrimination

The Fifth Amendment guarantees our right against self-incrimination. Yet, family court judges are routinely violating this right by ordering civil litigants to undergo drug testing. In some cases, litigants agree to take these tests out of fear that the Court will deny custody and/or visitation with their child should the litigant refuse to take a drug test. Yet, it is well known that civil courts cannot order a litigant to undergo a drug test, and should not make any inference from the fact that a litigant may not want to submit to one. Drug testing is reserved for criminal cases, not civil cases.

We have also received information, but are not in a position to confirm, that a certain family court judge who often orders drug testing from a Nevada service provider, may have a financial interest in that provider, and fails to disclose this to litigants. We are available to give you the names of the judge and the service provider. We have also received information from several litigants, which information we are again not in a position to confirm but ask that you or others cc'd on this letter do so, that this same service provider is intentionally overcharging litigants, issuing false positives on their reports, and sometimes remotely turn off ankle bracelets or otherwise alter them, so that when a litigant "messes" with the devise to see what is wrong with it the litigant is accused of illegally "tampering" with the device and more revenue is generated for the provider in dealing with this. We are informed that the facility is geared to keep litigants "in the system" for financial reasons. Again, we will give you the name of this provider separately and we ask that you and/or others cc'd on this letter please look into this.

2. <u>Misadjudication of Military Veterans Benefits Exemptions</u>

Military service connected disability benefits are exempt under federal law, and more recently under Nevada law as well, from all garnishments including taxes, collections, bankruptcies and levies. In Clark County, however, family court judges count these disability benefits towards child support and alimony. VIPI lobbied for Assembly Bill 140 and 271, which passed into law, stating that a veteran's service connected disability benefits cannot be used in connection with alimony payments. However, family court

judges are disregarding this law. We recently filed a complaint with Family Court Presiding Judge Hoskins about this, but have not heard back.

3. Over-Priced Third Party Service Providers; Children Being Held Hostage Until Payment is Made; Violations of Relocation Rules.

Judges in family court appear to be ordering litigants to use court appointed third party service providers, such as family therapists, at prices that appear excessively high.

D-05-331190, the *Velasco* case: Judge Mathew Harter ordered the parties to retain third party therapist, Claudia Schwarz, M.A., L.M.F.T., for a child custody evaluation at a price reportedly set by the evaluator at a flat \$8,000. Judge Harter ordered each party to pay half of the fee. When Mom couldn't pay her half of the fee, the judge awarded full custody to Dad and told Mom that she wouldn't see her child until her half of the bill was paid. Consequently, Mom has not seen her child for several months. Not only is holding the child as hostage for bill payment unlawful and outrageous, but our investigation indicates that the typical court appointed evaluator should only cost between \$800 to \$3,000. On what basis was \$8,000 ordered, and who is receiving these extra fees? We recently filed a Judicial Disciplinary Complaint about this, and a complaint against Ms. Schwarz with the Nevada State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. We have not yet heard back.

D-10-424830-Z, *Abid v. Abid*: Our information is that Mathew Harter in 2013 granted an evidentiary hearing on Dad's motion to relocate with the child. It's our understanding that notwithstanding that Dad never produced elements of relocation like a job, housing and proof of improvement for the child due to relocation, the judge nevertheless ordered a custody evaluation to be performed by psychologist Dr. John Paglini. This psychologist reportedly charged the litigants \$14,000 for an evaluation. Afterwards, Dad indicated he didn't want to relocate and the parties settled. Judge Harter then reportedly ordered that if there were any further issues between the parties, they would have to retain a private Parent Coordinator, have the Parent Coordinator handle the issue (and often write a report), all to be paid for by the parties before he would allow them to go to court. Neither party had requested this, and it appears unlawful to essentially place a financial barrier on litigants' access to court.

In our opinion, Judge Harter appears to rely especially heavily on third party service providers who seem to charge high rates. We ask that you please investigate why this is happening and whether Judge Harter is incentivized or receiving any benefits from these third parties.

4. <u>Pro-Se Litigants Not Getting Sworn In Before Giving Testimony and Are Therefore Unable to Use Their Testimony on Appeal</u>

In many cases we observed family court judges failing to swear in pro-se litigants when they give testimony. This procedural violation makes any evidence the litigant gives in court inadmissible on appeal. There is no reason for family court judges to fail to have witnesses, including pro-se litigants, sworn in before testifying.

5. Judicial Conflicts of Interests

Often family court judges have a personal or business relationship with attorneys who appear before them and either fail to disclose the relationship or fail to recuse themselves when recusal is appropriate.

D-08-395501-Z, *Holyoak* case: Judge Ochoa was presiding over this case, in which attorney Marshal Willick was representing Mom. We received information that Judge Ochoa failed to disclose that at the same time he was presiding over the case, Mr. Willick was also representing Judge Ochoa personally in a separate matter. So at the same time that Judge Ochoa was adjudicating a case in which Mr. Willick was representing a party, Mr. Willick was also representing the Judge in a separate matter, and the Judge failed to disclose it.

D-12-471941-P, Yury Fedotov vs. Olga Ciesielski: Mom was unrepresented by counsel throughout the proceedings. Dad was represented by attorney Edward Kainen. Family court judge, Denise Gentile, was renting a room from Mr. Kainen (Dad's attorney) at the time she presided over the matter. The judge disclosed the relationship, but did not recuse herself, choosing instead to simply promise to be unbiased. The judge should have recused herself given that she was living with the lawyer in the case, particularly since the other litigant was unrepresented, and should have at a minimum avoided the "appearance of impropriety." We are advised that at one point, after Mom testified on her own behalf in a hearing, Dad's lawyer reportedly asked the judge words to the effect of "Who are you going to believe, [Mom] or me, your friend of 20 years?" According to our information, Judge Gentile's orders ultimately did not reflect neutrality. In that case, Judge Gentile did not schedule a hearing that Mom asked for in connection with enforcing a prior stipulated custody order, and instead, entered a revised order that was submitted by Dad's lawyer on an ex parte basis, without Mom's opportunity for input and without a hearing. The revised order changed Mom's custody rights and gave Dad sole legal custody. This also appears to have also been a violation of Mom's Due Process rights.

6. Lack of Due Process for Litigants; Failure to Follow the Rules of Evidence

Judges are making decisions that affect people's lives based on unsubstantiated allegations instead of based on actual evidence. This is a violation of the due process rights of the litigant who is on the receiving end of the ruling.

D-16-537243-D, *Johnson* case: We are advised that Judge Bryce Duckworth ordered a litigant install an intoxalock device on his vehicle on a mere allegation, without any evidence, of alcohol abuse. The litigant had to pay for this device and have it installed.

D-13-488682-D, *Pelkola v. Pelkola*: Dad is a retired USAF Sargent in good standing, and is now a civilian contractor at Creech AFB. We are advised that Judge Elliott took the following unwarranted actions in this case based on Mom's beliefs instead of based on evidence.

- a. Dad was ordered to not drink any beer at least 12 hours before his visitation and during his visitation; this was based on Mom's belief that Dad's DUI three years prior meant that he was an alcohol abuser. We are advised that there was no evidence of present alcohol abuse.
- b. Dad was ordered to take gun safety classes even though he had 20 years of military firearms training, and ordered LVPD to inspect Dad's gun storage at his residence. This was reportedly based on Mom being afraid of guns and upset that Dad bought their 7 year old son a BB gun. Dad reportedly bought the BB gun to teach his son self-defense and only let him use under supervision.
- c. Judge ordered the removal of a service dog from the home; the dog belonged to a household member who has Asperger's Syndrome. We are advised that there was just an allegation, but no evidence, that the dog was violent or posed a threat.

D-15-518905-D, *McDonald vs. McDonald*: We received information that Judge Linda Marquis proceeded with a parental termination trial even though Dad's lawyer committed suicide shortly before the hearing, and Dad requested a continuance of the trial so he could secure new counsel. Dad's request was denied and Dad was required to proceed with the trial unrepresented, losing visitation rights with his children.

7. <u>Sealing Cases</u>

The Nevada Supreme Court has recognized, consistent with federal law, that the public has a constitutional First Amendment right to access court documents and proceedings, absent a finding by the court that there is a compelling state interest in keeping a particular document or hearing private, and moreover, the portion kept private must be the minimum necessary to protect the compelling interest. See family law case, *Del Papa v. Steffen*, 915 P.2d 245, 248 (1996), ("a state may deny this right of public access only if it shows that the denial is necessitated by a compelling government interest, and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest.")

Cases in family court are getting sealed without a showing of a compelling state interest, and sometimes, without any express written order at all.

Further, when a case is sealed in family court, the family law clerks are removing the entire case from public access. The case completely "disappears" from public online

records searches and even from the court's attorney online records searches. It is as if the case does not exist. This is a violation of NRS 125.110(1) which requires that certain documents and information, such as the case name, number, summons, court orders, etc. remain accessible to the public even when cases are sealed. The Nevada Supreme Court has been very clear on this point, stating that it is a manifest abuse of discretion of the court to seal entire cases. *See*, *Johanson v. District Court*, 182 P.3d 94 (2009).

8. "Closed Hearings" Where Only Court Observers are Kicked Out

In our efforts to monitor family courtrooms, we were often kicked out of the courtroom on the premise that the "hearing is closed." This occurred even in courtrooms where there were no litigants standing before the court and the hearings had not even commenced. Moreover, we noticed that we were the only ones who were being kicked out, while litigants, attorneys and others were permitted to remain in the courtroom. If the hearings were actually closed, then NRS 126.211 requires that all those who are not involved in the case be kicked out and not just those whom the judge or the Marshalls feel like kicking out. We were subjected to this primarily in the courtrooms of Judge Robert Teuton, Judge Cynthia Giuliani, Hearing Master Jon Norheim courtrooms. In one such hearing, we were told that the hearing was one dealing with adoption and was therefore closed. When we asked why the many other people were allowed to remain in the courtroom, we were told by the Marshall "it's a big family." We recently filed a complaint about this with the family court; we have not yet heard back.

9. Marijuana Consumption Being Punished

Marijuana consumption is legal under Nevada state law for medical purposes and most recently, for recreational use, but judges appear to be punishing parents for consuming marijuana.

D-17-552831-C, the *Amanda Macias* case: Senior Retired Judge Nancy Saitta, who sat for family court Judge Jennifer Elliot told the litigant if he tested dirty for marijuana he will only have supervised visits with his child.

10. <u>District Attorney Child Support Division</u>

There are litigants who are owed over \$50,000, and in some cases over \$100,000, in child support arrears. The D.A.'s office is supposed to help those litigants collect unpaid child support, yet many are not getting the D.A.'s assistance despite repeated requests. Examples are the cases of Colleen Smith (case D-08-399100 and R-13-179244) who was owed about \$75,000 and the case of Beatriz Trujillo (case no. R078764) who is owed over \$100,000. We have recently reached out to the D.A. on these two cases who has launched an investigation on these cases.

11. Hearing Masters Issuing Bench Warrants

We observed Hearing Master Sylvia Teuton stating that she is "issuing a bench warrant" when hearing masters are not allowed to issue bench warrants. We have seen bench

warrants that were actually signed by the hearing masters him/herself. This is clearly beyond the authority of a hearing master. We recently filed a complaint with the Presiding Judge of Family Court, but have not yet heard back.

12. Ex-Parte Communications

D-12-467820-D, *Silva* matter: The mother is a pro-se-litigant and Clark County family court Judge Rena Hughes removed the mother from the courthouse property and proceeded with the hearing adjudicating custody of the child with only the father and his attorney and the minor unrepresented 12 year old daughter present. The Judge harshly interrogated the young girl as the girl sat alone at counsel table without her Mom or any representation and lied to the girl threatening to throw her in jail at Child Haven. Not only did the judge traumatize the child, but this was a complete violation of the Mom's rights and constituted a court-ordered ex parte communication/hearing with the judge. We filed a judicial disciplinary complaint against Judge Hughes on this and were advised that an investigation is underway and Judge Hughes was required to recuse herself from the case.

13. Parent's Right to Educate

D-14-505292-C, *Tiffany Wagner* case: We were advised that Judge Rena Hughes took away Mom's right to provide a home IEP (Individual Education Program) for her 3 year old disabled daughter even though she had been caring and obtaining special services for her daughter at home since birth and there were no problems. There was no showing as to why the services could not be performed in Mom's house. This is a violation of Mom's due process rights and her right to care and educate her child at home instead of in a facility. Under Nevada Senate Bill 314 all parents have a fundamental right to educate their child; this bill is now law. We filed a judicial complaint against Judge Hughes on this and have not yet heard back.

14. Juvenile Court

Does the punishment fit the crime?

We observed Melissa De La Garza, a Juvenile Hearing Master, during her court calendar on July 7, 2017 from 11am to 12pm. During that single hour, we found numerous instances of unfair and excessive penalties to children, all of whom were minorities, and all of whom were still in custody when we left the courtroom.

a. A 14 year old boy was in custody for "petty larceny." Turned out his crime was stealing a bottle of water from a Clark County truck. This occurred during scorching weather in Clark County. The boy was ordered to remain in custody, he was sentenced to take a Petty Larceny class, was given probation and ordered to wear a GPS ankle bracelet. All this punishment, child trauma, and tax dollars spent for stealing a water bottle during the heat of the summer.

- b. In another case, a 17 year old girl was in custody for "walking away from a police officer" and violating the curfew law. The girl was booked for "obstruction of an officer," she was ordered to be detained, and was inexplicably deemed to be "a danger to the community and a danger to herself."
- c. A 15 year old boy was in custody for smoking (not selling or distributing) a marijuana joint. He was sentenced to six months probation, Thug Class suspended, community service, ordered to attend a drug awareness program and was ordered to have a mentor. All this, for smoking a joint.

15. <u>Cases Excessively Prolonged:</u>

D-11-449918-C, *Terabelian vs. Klatt*: Our information is that this case has been prolonged/canceled 8 times. Judge Marquis had continued it 8 times, before the plaintiff got a new lawyer, who happened to be on Judge Marquis' recusal list, and the case was therefore transferred to Judge Rebecca Burton. We have learned of numerous other cases in which Judge Marquis has unnecessarily postponed cases.

D-09-408072-7, *Plog v. Plog*: This case has been ongoing for *eight years*. The judge is Bryce Duckworth. We observed Mr. Plog break down in open court saying that he simply can't take more family court proceedings – the protracted litigation has killed his will to fight, and that he's at the point of giving up all his rights, stop fighting for his daughter, and just commit suicide!

This is one example of the toll that protracted litigation is having on people and families. There is no reason for our family courts to be party to inflicting this kind of torment on those before them.

16. <u>Judge Inexplicably Stops Mom's Collection of Child Support Arrears</u>
D-13-486094-D, in the matter of *Marisella Barry*: Our information is that Mom had a court order from two prior judges for child support arrears that was being enforced by the District Attorney Child Support Division case UPI-076902200A. Judge Rena Hughes inexplicably stopped all collections of arrears without any legal cause or hearings.

17. Judge Wrongfully Detained Mother and Children

D-10-43924-Z, the *Kerrigan* case: Our information is that Judge Cheryl Moss locked Mom up for not turning the children over to an abusive Dad for visitation. Dad had been convicted of domestic battery, DUI, and had a protective order against him by a girlfriend. The 2 children involved also did not want to go to their abusive Dad, so the judge banished them both to Child Haven.

18. <u>Violation of Nevada Custody Laws</u>

Vincent Ochoa: In a 2014 radio interview on AM 720, in which attorney Michele Lobello was interviewing Judge Ochoa during his re-election campaign, Judge Ochoa blatantly admitted that he does not grant overnight visits for the first six months of the life of a child to the father. Judge Ochoa admitted to factoring the gender of the parent into his custody orders, which was a violation of then-in-effect NRS 125.480 which provided that "preference must not be given to either parent for the sole reason that the parent is the mother or the father of the child."

D-14-505292-C, *Tiffany Wagner* case: Judge Rena Hughes reportedly denied Mom her first right of refusal to babysit her own child and instead ordered the child to stay with a babysitter for Dad, even though Mom was available and wanted to care for her child.

19. <u>Unethical Behavior By a Judge</u>

Vincent Ochoa: D-10-432708-D, Smith vs. Vaughn case: "Ashley," once known as Divinity James, changed her model name to Chevy Nicole to hide the fact that she was still performing online and doing porn with the child at home. Our information is that while presiding over her case, Judge Ochoa "friended" her on his personal Facebook page, as well as personally "liking" her nude pictures as of August 15, 2014, and pictures of the minor child that he took away from Dad. Mom in turn "likes" his personal page and his re-election page. We previously complained about this to the Judicial Discipline Commission which indicated it would conduct an investigation, but we were never advised of the outcome. There has been no transparency on this matter.

Judge Harter: According to an incident report written by an officer of the Police Department, Judge Harter's son was found to be in possession of stolen property inside Judge Harter's home including a hand gun, ammunition, and drugs. The property was from a burglary of a police officer's home. Several teens who were friends of Judge Harter's teen son were arrested and convicted in connection with the incident, yet Judge Harter's son was never arrested, and was whisked of to live with his mom in Utah, which is surprising given that in divorce papers Judge Harter reportedly stated that she was a drug abuser. In any event, we ask that you look into whether Judge Harter used his influence to keep his son from being arrested and prosecuted. We previously reported this to the Judicial Discipline Commission and were advised, without any reason given, that they would not pursue this matter.

Judge Linda Marquis: D-10-424830-Z, *Abid v Abid*: We received information that in 2015, Judge Marquis ignored settlements between parents to have joint physical custody, ignored a binding order issued by a judge who preceded her, and allowed an illegally recorded conversation that Mom had with a third party in Mom's home, to be played in open court (against NRS 200.650) and to be used against Mom by an expert witness. The conversation had been taped by Dad who had slipped a recording device into his child's

backpack to secretly record private conversations in Mom's home. Such taping is a class D felony under NRS 200.690 and should have been thrown out and sanctioned. When Mom objected to its use in court, arguing that it was a violation of her Fourth Amendment rights of privacy, Judge Marquis reportedly replied words to the effect of: "Fourth Amendment Rights certainly don't exist in this courtroom".

20. Laws and Policies that We Believe Need to Be Changed:

a. <u>Closing Hearings And Sealing Documents:</u>

As stated above, court proceedings are supposed to be open to the public as a matter of First Amendment constitutional right. In the family law case of *Del Papa v. Steffen*, 915 P.2d 245, 248 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court held that courts are presumptively open to the public and "a state may deny this right of public access only if it shows that the denial is necessitated by a compelling government interest, and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest." See also, *Civil Rights for Seniors, Non-profit Corp. v. Admin. Office of the Courts*, 313 P.3d 216, 129 Nev.Adv.Op. 80 (Nev. 2013) (the public has a First Amendment right of access in criminal and civil judicial proceedings). This indeed is the law nationwide. NRS 1.090 also recognizes this important public policy and provides that "the sitting of every court of justice shall be public except as otherwise provided by law."

NRS 432B.430(c): This statute provides for the mandatory closing of hearings in all family law cases in which the court must determine whether there is enough evidence of neglect or abuse to remove a child from his/her home, unless the judge finds that keeping the proceedings open is in the best interest of the child. First, this blanket across-the-board requirement to close such hearings, without a case by case analysis showing a compelling state interest and a finding of the least intrusive method of closing such hearing, is unconstitutional. While one may think of a child's removal from the home as a sensitive issue, we believe this is the very reason it should be open to the public — so as to minimize the risk of abuse in the proceedings. There are indeed many criminal cases that are particularly sensitive, yet we view those as a society as especially warranting open review by the public. Again, the hearing may be closed on a case by case basis, but a compelling state interest must be shown in each case and the restrictions must be narrowly tailored. Secondly, the statute's requirement that the hearing only be open if it can be shown to be in the best interests of the child appears to make no sense, and appears to be an amorphous bar to reach.

NRS 432B.430(1)(a): This statute provides that proceedings pertaining to the permanent placement of the child are presumed to be open "unless the judge or master, upon his or her own motion or upon the motion of another person, determines that all or part of the proceeding must be closed to the general public because such closure is in the best interest of the child..." This statute is also unconstitutional. The test is not whether

keeping a hearing open is in the best interests of the child. The legal test must be whether the state can show a compelling state interest, on a case by case basis, of the need to close the hearing, and to what extent the hearing needs to be closed — typically, only a portion of the hearing if any can be closed. The findings of such compelling state interest must be specifically argued and found to be compelling in the order closing the hearing. This is particularly true where the termination of parental rights is at stake. The public should have full transparency on such a vital issue.

Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 5.02 was repealed as of 1/27/2017, but it had provided for many years that family court cases could be "closed" to members of the public simply upon the request of one of the parties. No good cause or any other factors had to be shown or justified. This was unconstitutional. Many hearings were closed pursuant to this rule. The courts need to review whether any cases which are still open and which took advantage of this Rule without a showing of a compelling state interest stated on the record, continue to hold such closed hearings. The judges must be instructed to abide by constitutional protections for open court before granting such closed hearings again in those or other cases.

- Judges' Campaign Financing we have seen for years that judges running b. for re-election are soliciting campaign funds and the throwing of fundraisers from lawyers and/or parties who have open cases before them. This is not in keeping with a judge's requirement to avoid the "appearance of impropriety." The fact that a judge may disclose the campaign contribution on a government filed Contribution and Expense Report months later of is no import to avoiding the appearance of impropriety. By comparison, California requires the recusal of judges who accept more than \$1,500 from any party or lawyer at any time during the prior 6 year period. In Nevada, judges are making calls to litigants' counsels and asking for and accepting up to \$10,000 for their campaigns while their case is pending. We have also spoken to numerous lawyers who have felt pressured to contribute to the judge when he/she calls for money, or feel compelled not to contribute to a different candidate they would otherwise support, because they have an open case before the judge asking for funds and are afraid of retaliation. This practice of taking money when there are open cases, which is not even engaged in by our politicians in Nevada, is fertile ground for corruption and results in a loss of trust in our judicial system - a system that is supposed to serve as the very safeguard against corruption.
- c. <u>Jury Trials for Termination of Parental Rights and Relocation of Children:</u> The termination of parental rights and the relocation of a child away from one of the parents invoke such fundamental rights of parenting that they should be subject to a jury trial, rather than being subject to the decision of one person.
- d. <u>Judge Meetings Should Be Subject To Open Meeting Laws or At Least Open to the Public:</u> Nevada's judges are elected officials. Yet they routinely hold

private meetings. These meetings should be subject to Open Meeting Laws or at a minimum be open to the public. We recently asked to sit in on a family court judicial meeting and were turned away at the door. We also asked to at least get a copy of the agenda for the meeting, and were again advised by the court officials, including counsel, that we could not have a copy of the agenda. When we asked to be put on the agenda for the next judicial meeting in order to express our concerns about numerous abuses, we were advised that we would not be put on the agenda. There is no question that our courts need to be as transparent as possible. Secret meetings, where secret agenda items are discussed, no agenda is available to the public, and no minutes are available to the public do nothing to foster the public's confidence in our court system, and serves as fertile ground for corruption, particularly in a court system that is already fraught with impropriety.

Complaints: Presently, when someone files a complaint with the state bar or with the judicial disciplinary commission the complainants simply get a letter stating whether the commission is proceeding with an investigation or not. If there is no investigation, the commission does not give the complainant any reasons for its decision or a copy of the judges/lawyer's response to their complaint. This can give the complainant the impression that the commission simply didn't want to act for whatever nefarious reason. If there is a reason for not proceeding with an investigation, the complainant should be made aware of the reason.

Further, even when the commission or Bar proceed with an investigation and actually file a complaint against the judge or lawyer, there is no copy of that complaint made available to the public, and with regard to lawyers, the State Bar's website does not even show that any charges are pending or any proceedings or complaints have been filed against the attorney. The website instead continues to show that the attorney is "in good standing." This is even the case after Bar finds the attorney guilty of malfeasance, and even if the lawyer has agreed to be suspended. The attorney's status is only changed once the Supreme Court has signed an order agreeing to the punishment of the attorney, which could be months later. In the meantime, potential clients are unaware that there are any issues. Yet, the job of the Bar, and the Judicial Disciplinary Commission, is to protect the public - not to protect the lawyer or the judge. The public should be made aware if there is a proceeding pending, should have access to the pleadings and records, and should frankly even be entitled to sit in on hearings upon request. There is no reason for our disciplinary bodies to operate in the shadows, when their very existence is to protect the public. At a minimum, operating in secrecy diminishes public confidence in these public bodies, particularly since they are being called upon to rectify wrongdoing.

Conclusion:

It is our sincere hope that this letter prompts you and others who are copied on it to take action on these important issues. There is no doubt in our minds that the credibility of our family courts is at stake and that many litigants have lost hope of getting fair treatment. We have even heard from several unrelated litigants that they have the impression that some judges purposely grant custody to abusive parents so that the protective parent has to keep fighting for custody and the family is forced to "stay in the system" churning fees for lawyers, third party service providers, and the entire "machine" of judges, hearing masters, juvenile court authorities, etc. that is involved in the multibillion dollar generating family court system. We certainly hope that is not the case, and ask that you please look into the above reports and do whatever you can to restore the public's trust in our family court system.

Please let us know the results of your investigation, and whether we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

Steve Sanson

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President, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

Copies via mail:

Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry Supreme Court of Nevada 201 South Carson Street, Suite 201 Carson City, NV 89701-4702

Justice James W. Hardesty Supreme Court of Nevada 201 South Carson Street, Suite 201 Carson City, NV 89701-4702

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Justice Michael Douglas Supreme Court of Nevada Justice Kristina Pickering Supreme Court of Nevada 408 East Clark Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101

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Senator Tick Segerblom Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Nevada State Senate 701 E. Bridger Ave. #520 Las Vegas, NV 89101-5554

County Commissioner Steve Sisolak Chairman Clark County Board of Commissioners 500 South Grand Central Parkway Las Vegas NV 89155

1	NORH		Electronically Filed 8/28/2017 12:00 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT		
3	DISTRICT COURT				
4	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
5	TRINA ANCELL)			
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8))	V 15 801010		
9) CASE NO. DEPT NO.	D-15-521960-D Q		
10	DOUGLAS ANSELL,)			
11	Defendant.				
12					
13	AMENDED NOTICE OF RESCHEDULING OF HEARING				
14	AND SETTING CALENDAR CALL				
15	TO: ALL PARTIES AND/OR THEIR COUNSEL				
16	Please be advised that the times of hearings set before the Honorable BRYCE				
17 18	C. DUCKWORTH have been changed. All discovery motions and oppositions/				
19	countermotions, currently scheduled for August 30, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.,				
20					
21	shall be heard on August 30, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., in Courtroom 1. Further, this				
22	matter is set for a Calendar Call on August 30, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.				
23	No additional papers should be filed in this matter regarding the issues on				
24	calendar for the hearings. The Court expects that all individuals related to the				
25	issues before the Court will be available to participate in the hearing.				
26					
27	HONORABLE BRYCE C. DUCKWORTH				
28 BAYCE C. DUCKWOATH	В	y <u>/s/ Kimberly W</u>	eiss eiss		
DISTRICT JUDGE FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. Q	Kimberly Weiss Judicial Executive Assistant				
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 80101	·	Department Q	Assistant		

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 3 I hereby certify that on the above file-stamped date, I caused a copy of the foregoing Amended Notice of Rescheduling of Hearing and Setting Calendar Call to be: E-Served pursuant to NEFCR 9 on, or placed in the folder(s) located in the 5 Clerk's Office of, the following attorneys: Marshal Willick, Esq. 8 John Jones, Esq. 9 Anat Levy, Esq. 10 11 ☐ E-Served pursuant to NEFCR 9 on, or mailed postage prepaid, addressed to, 12 the following litigants in Proper Person: 13 14 15 16 17 /s/ Kimberly Weiss 18 Kimberly Weiss 19 Judicial Executive Assistant Department Q 20 $\overline{21}$ 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

DATRICT JUDGE

FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. Q LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

JEFFREYANN ROUSE DESUTY

DISTRICT COURT / CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FAMILY COURT

IRINA ANSELL, PLAINTIFF VS.

CASE NO: D-15-521960-D DEPARTMENT O

DOUGLAS ANSELL, DEFENDANT.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF HEARING

MOTION: NON-PARTY'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES RE: MOTION TO QUASH SUBPOENA SERVED on VERZION WIRLESS shall be heard on 9-30-2017 at 2:00 pm. in Department Q, before Judge Duckworth.

MOTION TO QUASH: NON-PARTY'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES RE: MOTION TO QUASH SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM AND DEPOSITION SERVED ON STEVE SANSON on July 22, 2017, shall be heard on 9-30-2017 at 2:00 pm, in Department Q. before Judge Duckworth's.

MOTION: NON-PARYT'S MOTION to QUASH SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM AND DEPOSITION SUBPOENA SERVED ON STEVEN SANSON on July 22, 2017, shall be heard on 9-30-2017 at 2:00 pm in Department Q, before Judge Duckworth.

OPPOSITION: PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO QUASH SUBPOENA SERVED ON VERIZON WIRELESS, MOTION FOR ATTY'S FEES AND MOTION to QUASH SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM DEPOSITION SUBPOENA SERVED ON STEVE SANSON on July 22, 2017 and MOTION FOR ATTY'S FEES RE: MOTION TO QUASH SUPOENAS SERVED ON STEVE SANSON shall be heard on 9-30-2017, at 2:30 pm, in Department Q, before Judge Duckworth.

MOTION TO QUASH: MOTION SUBPOENA SERVED ON VERIZON WIRELESS shall be heard on 9-30-2017 at 2:30 pm, in Department Q, before Judge Duckworth.

The above referenced matters shall be held on Wednesday August 30, 2017 in Department Q.

STEVEN D. GRIERSON, CEO/Clerk of the Court

Jeffer/ani/ Rouse

The decision of the

Deputy Clark of the Court

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on the 25th day of August, 2017:

If I mailed, via first-class mail, postage fully prepaid the foregoing Notice of Change of Aearing to:

I placed a copy of the foregoing Notice of Change of Hearing in the appropriate attorney folder located in the Clerk of the Court's Office:

Anat Levy & Associates, P.C.

c/o: Anat Levy & Associates, P.C. 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421 Las Vegas, NV 89142

Eva Ansell

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John D. Jones 10777 W Twain AVE STE 300 Las Vegas, NV 89135

Marshal Shawn Willick 3591 E. Bonanza Rd. Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89110

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Jefferyann Rouse, Deputy Clerk of the Court

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Anat Levy, Esq. (State Bar No. 12550)
ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230-421
Las Vegas, NV 89142
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E-mail: alevy96@aol.com; Fax: (310) 734-1538

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY NEVADA – FAMILY DIVISION

Attorney for: Non-Parties, Steve Sanson, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.,

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and Sanson Corporation

IRINA ANSELL, Case No.: D-15-521960-D Dept.: Q (DISCOVERY) Plaintiff. OMNIBUS SUPPLEMENTAL VS. DECLARATION OF STEVE SANSON IN SUPPORT OF: DOUGLAS ANSELL MOTIONS TO QUASH SUBPOENAS DUCES Defendant TECUM SERVED ON VERIZON WIRELESS AND STEVE SANSON AND DEPOSITION SUBPOENA SERVED ON STEVE SANSON ON JULY 22, 2017; MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES HEARING: 8/23/2017 TIME: 1:30 PM [Filed concurrently with: Omnibus Reply in Support of the above motions.1

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF STEVE SANSON IN SUPPORT OF MOTIONS TO QUASH AND MOTIONS FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

- 1. I am a non-party in the within action and am the President of Veterans in Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI"), and am an officer of Sanson Corporation ("Sanson Corp."), both of which are also nonparties to this case. I make this Supplemental Declaration in support of VIPI's, Sanson Corp.'s and my Motion to Quash the subpoena duces tecum and the deposition subpoena that Mr. Willick served on me on July 22, 2017, our Motion to Quash the subpoena duces tecum that Mr. Willick served on Verizon Wireless, and our corresponding motions for attorneys' fees. I make this Declaration based on my personal knowledge, except as to matters stated to be based on information and belief. I am competent to testify as to the truth of these statements if called upon to do so.
- 2. On May 11, 2017, on behalf of VIPI, I was court-monitoring various family court courtrooms, including that of Judge Duckworth. I have known Judge Duckworth for many years and we have a cordial professional relationship. During a break in proceedings, Judge Duckworth and I spoke briefly during which time Judge Duckworth acknowledged VIPI's "war" on family court and asked me "Am I ok?" I understood Judge Duckworth to be asking whether VIPI had an issue with him as part of our "war" campaign. I did not answer his question at the time, and this later bothered me as I had always had a good relationship with the Judge and I felt I should be honest with him.
- 3. I therefor later contacted the Judge during which we had a good conversation about other matters. At one point, however, I told the Judge words to the effect of: "you asked me the other day 'am I ok?' and to answer your question, I don't believe how you allow Williek to get away with all that crap in the Ansell case." The judge immediately ended our conversation.
- 4. I had no intention of trying to influence the judge one way or another on the merits of any issues in the Ansell divorce case.

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- 5. As previously stated, neither I nor VIPI have any knowledge or information about the specifics of Doug Ansell's divorce case.
- 6. Neither I nor anyone at VIPI has ever been given or shown any documents pertaining to the Ansells' divorce case.
- 7. Neither I nor VIPI have ever discussed the specifics or merits of particular issues in the case with Doug Ansell or anyone else.
- 8. Mr. Ansell and I have spoken on occasion about Willick's overzealous litigation style. However, nothing in those conversations dealt with confidential information in the *Ansell* divorce case. Rather, I believed and still do that I have a constitutional right to speak with whomever I wish about matters that are not confidential. I have never met or spoken to Irina Ansell, and I have no ill-will or any other impression about her one way or the other.
- 9. As I believe is well known, VIPI has declared "war" on family court injustices. As part of our campaign, we organized a protest outside of the family court building on June 23, 2017. Family court Marshalls were on hand to monitor the protest and to make sure that it stayed lawful and peaceful, which it did. It was not our intention to coordinate the date with the Ansells' divorce trial. As it happened, the date coincided with the hearing dates of several litigants who took part in the protest, and I saw them leave the protest to attend their court proceedings and then join us again afterwards. I recall that Doug Ansell was able to participate in the June 23 protest because his trial had been continued.
- 10. Our next protest at the family court location is expected to take place on September 15, 2017. I chose that date because that is the Friday before the national march against family court injustice that will take place in Washington D.C. from Sunday, September 17 through Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the flyer for that event.
 - 11. I am schedule to participate in the Washington D.C. event. I

 therefore chose the September 15 Las Vegas protest date so that I could attend the Las Vegas protest and still participate in the Washington march, and also, so that the Las Vegas protest could draw more attention to the national march.

- 12. I believe that there are a growing number of people speaking out against family court corruption and practices, and that they may be helping shed light on this issue. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of an article indicating that the FBI's public corruption unit is investigating California's family courts.
- 13. Neither VIPI nor I have taken money from Doug Ansell, Irina Ansell or any of their companies.
- 14. Neither VIPI nor I have ever taken money from anyone to expose corruption or malfeasance, or to interfere with judicial proceedings.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 22nd day of August, 2017 in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.

Steve Sanson

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the date indicated below, I requested that a true and correct copy of the document entitled

DEPOSITION SUBPOENA SERVED ON STEVE SANSON ON JULY 22, 2017:

MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES be E-served via the Eighth Judicial District Court's

OMNIBUS SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF STEVE SANSON IN

SUPPORT OF: MOTIONS TO QUASH SUBPOENAS DUCES TECUM SERVED ON VERIZON WIRELESS AND STEVE SANSON AND

I am over the age of 18 and am not a party to the within action.

Odyssey E-file and E-serve online system to the below recipients.

Attorneys for Irina Ansell:

Marshal Willick, Esq.

Las Vegas, NV 89110

foregoing is true and correct.

Email@WillickLawGroup.com

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Willick Law Group
3591 E. Bonanza Rd., Ste. 200

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27 28 Attorneys for Doug Ansell:

John D. Jones, Esq.

Black & LoBello

10777 W. Twain Avenue, Ste. 300

Las Vegas, NV 89135 jjones@blacklobello.law

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the

Executed this 22nd day of August, 2017, in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.

anathy

Families United Action Network (https://www.familiesunite.org/)



News & Events

★ (HTTPS://WWW.FAMILIESUNITE.ORG)

Million Parent March 2017

FUAN / August 11, 2017 /

FUAN Events (https://www.familiesunite.org/category/fuan-events/),

News & Events (https://www.familiesunite.org/category/news-and-events/),

News You Can Use (https://www.familiesunite.org/category/news-you-can-use/)



Sun
The Million Parent March 2017 is a four day event in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about parental rights, family court reform, and foster care

17 - and CPS reform.

At Upper Senate Park

200 New Jersey Ave NW, 20001 Washington DC,

20 United States

Wed

2017 http://www.millionparentmarch2017.org

Are younging to the Millient Rarento March In Was September 17 - 20. 2017

Click to the Million harent Marsh 2017.org/press-releases/press-release-million-(https://maps.google.com/maps?f=q& (http://www.millionparemamentch/2017/august-4-2017/)

FOR OUR CHILDREN

/press-releases/press-release-million-parent-

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<u>q=200+New+Jersey+Ave+NW,+20001+Wa</u>

MILLION PARENT MARCH

Washington D.C

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Are you going to the Million Parent March In Washington DC? Save the date... September 17 - 20, 2017

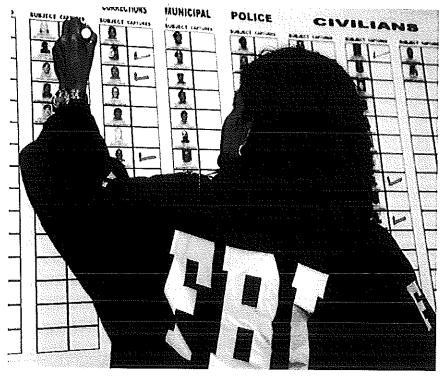
Click to Learn More (http://www.millionparentmarch2017.org/press-releases/press-release-million-parent-march-august-4-2017/)

JANE AND JOHN Q. PUBLIC (/)

FBI Confirms Public Corruption Task Force: Court Reporters, DA Offices and Judges from Family and Criminal Courts Caught in Cross Fire (http://www.janeandjohnqpublic.com/blog/fbiconfirms-public-corruption-task-force-courtreporters-family-law-attorneys-public-informationofficers-district-attorney-and-judges-caught-incross-fire)

6/28/2017

19 Comments (http://www.janeandjohnqpublic.com/blog/fbi-confirms-public-corruption-task-force-court-reporters-family-law-attorneys-public-information-officers-district-attorney-and-judges-caught-in-cross-fire#comments)



ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER GETS SCOOP! (http://www.ocregister.com/2013/07/26/fbi-confirms-oc-publiccorruption-task-force/)

The FBI has confirmed it is investigating Orange County for Public Corruption (http://www.ocregister.com/2013/07/26/fbi-confirms-oc-public-corruptiontask-force/). Santa Clara, Sacramento and Contra Costa Counties appear to be up next as overtaxed federal agencies move to investigate misconduct systemically woven into county DA offices and family courts across the state of California.

Mainstream media has been asleep at the wheel on local corruption issues

Santa Clara County S...



as news papers and television stations are gobbled up and consumed with covering news out of Washingth ANE AND a Gless Als Pto Blowd // transparency at a local level, corruption in our communities flourishes.

Investigative reporters and private citizens have recently launched a Private Attorney General attack and undercover investigation in select counties. Anonymous Blogs, Emails and "Fake News", that have been routinely dismissed by courts and law enforcement for decades, have successfully organized thousands of private citizens with plans to launch a campaign to; flood watchdog agencies with complaints, the state courts with appeals and federal courts with unprecedented federal filings. The FBI and IRS are reported to be using many sites such as these to guide probes and investigations. (https://www.scribd.com/document/325289325/Feb-2016-Santa-Clara-County-Request-to-Limit-Anonymous-Emails-and-Blog-Content-Critical-of-the-Courts)

As newspapers like the San Jose Mercury and San Francisco Chronicle have ignored public corruption in the state's DA's offices and family courts, other news organizations like the Orange County Register have worked diligently to expose corruption. This pressure has led to federal probes that has brought the IRS and FBI to the doorstep of counties where RICO like corruption entangles police departments, DA offices, judges, court reporters and even court clerks in communities up and down the state.

Counties are long overdue for FBI and IRS investigations like Operation Greylord, which set the standard for federal investigations (http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/chichicagodays-greylord-story-story.html) like the one now CONFIRMED to being conducted in Orange County.

While Orange County DA Tony Rackauckas appears to be as corrupt as they come, Jeff Rosen and Mark Peterson are tied for a close second, as the FBI and IRS are now reportedly turning to Northern California after years of complaints have been lodged by private citizens trapped in Contra Costa and Santa Clara County divorce and probate cases.

Advocates, citizen journalists, public records experts, underground press and anonymous sources have been probing into family courts in active investigations for the past five years. Family Courts serve to provide a legal landscape for police and judges to collude with family law attorneys, custody experts, CPAs and psychologists. These collusion leads to funding of lavish lifestyles for a select few, and at the expense of children and their future.

Court records show abuse around manufactured claims of domestic violence and parental alienation, where wealthy child abusers and crooks can manipulate the legal system to decimate a parent or child who tries to expose fraud, child abuse or pedophilia.

Twenty years of court files and complaints made to California's Consumer Affair Watchdogs including the Stanks AND Pall NSQRUBLING(/) Accounting, Board of Psychologists, and Board of Court Reporters have contributed to providing stunning revelations. Insiders are reporting how employees of these agencies assisted a corrupt system by failing to properly perform investigations, shredding complaints and claiming budgetary restraints.

Orange County Corruption- Investigations began back in 2014 after investigative reporters and civil rights lawyers looked into the traffic court scandal (http://www.ocregister.com/2015/06/15/forgeries-fake-plea-dealsphony-jail-time-fbi-re-examining-about-600-dui-traffic-cases-in-orangecounty-some-may-be-retried/). The Orange County Register reporting on these issues has contributed to the successful federal investigations and arrests of some of the most corrupt governmental employees in the state.

Contra Costa County- Probes revealed a DA entangled with political contribution scandals that led to the recent felony conviction of Mark Peterson. Vigilant reporting by reporters from the East Bay Times has served to protect Contra Costa County (https://www.scribd.com/document /351381020/Contra-Costa-County-DA-Mark-Peterson-Convicted-Felon-Article-East-Bay-Times-pdf) residents by brining attention to Peterson's office from the state's Attorney General. Peterson has a long history of covering up corruption that arising from Judge Mills, who acts as the hanging judge for the county bench where Mills openly engages in retaliation against family law victims who try to expose the county corruption.

Santa Clara County - Reporters from the Mercury News have been hit with massive financial cutbacks, combined with poor reporting leadership the county has suffered from a press group acting more to protect the DA and local judges than to shine a light of transparency on them. This has has allowed the county to become fraught with corruption. Public outrage over Judge Persky's sentencing of Brock Turner and Judge Towery's handling of domestic violence victims like Neha Rastogi and Kendra Scott have left many wondering why reporters like Tracy Kaplan have given judges and elected officials like Jeff Rosen a free pass. The county is also home to the high profile cyberbullying case that led to the suicide of Audrie Pott, opening a probe on the DA's doorstep where RICO charges including family lawyer Walter Hammon will reveal far more than a teen suide and Netflix movie. where Audrie Potts' mother Sheila Pott continues to profit from her daughters death. Other high-profile cases involving the death of Alycia Mesitti-(http://www.mercurynews.com/2009/05/13/may-2009-Allen tragic-santa-clara-county-custody-case-dad-suspected-in-girls-death/) show a pattern and practice with family court judges and local "experts" that indicates the county has been allowing children to be SOLD (http://www.mercurynews.com/2009/05/13/may-2009-tragic-santa-claracounty-custody-case-dad-suspected-in-girls-death/) to the highest bidder in custody and divorce cases. The probe has widened and appears to now include the law offices of Bradford Baugh, Heather Allan, Nat Hales, James

Cox, Richard Roggia, James McManis and the CPA firm of Michael Thompson and James Butea. Appeal and JAMIJELANGPedDISTINGQreHUBLEJGs (/) reportedly linked to RICO like conduct where Silicon Valley divorces are the crown jewel of the RICO treasure chest. Dailey appears to have the highest number of family law appeals in the Sixth District, the appeal court for Silicon Valley's wealthiest communities.

Sacramento County- Known as the (https://www.scribd.com/doc/219329131 /Malpractice-Lawsuit-Against-Woodruff-O-Hair-Posner-Salinger-Inc-and-Divorce-Lawyer-Thomas-Woodruff-Court-Order-Granting-Plaintiff-s-Request-T) home of California's Chief Justice has seen the corruption being ignored for the past 10 years (https://www.scribd.com/doc/219329131/Malpractice-Lawsuit-Against-Woodruff-O-Hair-Posner-Salinger-Inc-and-Divorce-Lawyer-Thomas-Woodruff-Court-Order-Granting-Plaintiff-s-Request-T). The state's highest judge appears to now being scrutinized for her role in the corruption scandal, which could may dash any future political plans Tani Cantil Sakauye may have had prior to the state's judicial branch imploding. Sakauye is reported to have known about wide spread corruption at the State Bar, after being privy to a secret report (https://www.scribd.com/document /343684706/State-Bar-Jayne-Kim-Calls-for-Investigation-of-Bar-for-Improper-Activity-from-Bar-s-Chief-Trial-Counsel), which she failed to share with state legislators, as she begged for more money to fund a broken court system that refuses to discipline, judges and lawyers. A culture created by Tani Cantil- Sakayue and her unscrupulous mentors, including the Judge informally known as King George.

Family law lawyers who have ignored or tolerated misconduct for years are drawing scrutiny as the Internal Revenue Service begins to zero in on " court fees" and payments to "experts" and court reporters for transcripts that are routinely used in divorce and probate cases.

Private judge assignments, 730 court appointments and payments for transcripts to court reporters are being reviewed through anonymous complaints and media investigations as part of an ongoing corruption investigation in Sacramento, Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties.

Members of Jane and John Q Public, as well as the brave reporters investigating California's Family Courts are pointing the FBI, IRS and others to conduct district attorneys and the state's Attorney General have ignored for decades.

The lawsuit battle between the state auditor, and the Commission on Judicial Performance continues to rage on as the state's judiciary seeks to prevent transparency that would reveal judges sitting at the center of much of the family law corruption.

Investigators continue to audit case files and conduct interviews that will be turned over to the FBI. Silicon Valley and Southern California court files of cases where

Lawyers: Keri Evilsizor, Bradford Baugh, Valerie Tarvin, William Dok, Nat Hales, Valerie Houghton, Matt EdANE AND MIT BATH NAME AND MIT BATH BANG (1) Faden, Tom Tuttle, Walter Hammon, Debra Crawford, Catherine Gallagher, Dennis Luca, James McManis, Marilyn Mereno, Hector Mereno, Stacey Stevens. Christina Currington, Rebecca Frye, Paula Salinger, Merritt Weisinger, Judith Lawrence, (list growing daily).

Private Judges and Superior Court Judges: David Weinberg, Nat Hales, Diana Richmond, Nancy Perkovich, James Cox, Richard Roggia, Peter Mc Brein, Judge Gary, Thadd Blizzard, Julie Emede, James Towery, Joyce Cram, Mary Ann Grilli, Peter Mc Brein, James Mize, Thadd Blizzard. (list growing daily!).

CPAs: Michael Thompson, Drew Hunt, Donald Glen, James Butera, Megan Thompson and Sally White, (list growing daily)

Custody Evaluators, Supervisors and Experts; Dr. Duke Bussey, Wiley Johnson, Jose Cervantes, John Orlando, Phil Stahl , Susan Stahl, Michael Kerner, Jim Paulsen, (list growing daily)

Vocational Examiner Tim Harper, and other court employees and experts who have acted in divorce and probate cases.

All mentioned herein are included as part of an ongoing STING and INVESTIGATION that shows the conversion of billions in community property for their private gain over the past two decades.

All roads also continue to point to involvement of court reporters who are altering and improperly delaying court transcripts as well as forensic CPAs who have been assisting in the concealment of funds being used to pay the most corrupt lawyers and politicians.

JaneandJohnQPublic.com (mailto:cajohnqpublic@gmail.com) continues to take anonymous tips and information to fuel the investigating of corruption impacting innocent men, women and children trapped in family law cases throughout the state of California. which is finally being used to point investigators in the right direction.



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19 Comments (http://www.janeandjohnqpublic.com/blog/fbi-confirms-publiccorruption-task-force-court-reporters-family-law-attorneys-public-information-officersdistrict-attorney-and-judges-caught-in-cross-fire#comments)

Jennifer Greeen Oter

6/28/2017 01:20:43 pm

What about the Canadian agencies that help with the corruption and court order immoral rulings?

Reply