

## **Spectrum Institute -- Disability and Guardianship Project**

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Ms. Angela Sierra  
Civil Rights Enforcement Section  
California Department of Justice

Dear Ms. Sierra,

In January 2017, Spectrum Institute wrote to Attorney General Xavier Becerra asking him to investigate the broken probate conservatorship system in California. <http://disabilityandabuse.org/becerra-letter.pdf>

In May 2018, a number of organizations sent similar letters to the Attorney General. <http://disabilityandabuse.org/tash-letters.pdf> / <http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/Becerra.pdf> / <http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/arc-letter-to-becerra.pdf>

Despite having a Civil Rights Enforcement Section, so far the California Department of Justice seems to have taken no action to address this area of concern. Local problems in the probate conservatorship process have been identified in Alameda County (<http://spectruminstitute.org/path/>) and in Sacramento (<http://spectruminstitute.org/Sacramento/>). Problems in Los Angeles have been the subject of complaints to the United States Department of Justice. (<http://spectruminstitute.org/doj/>) The complaints filed with the DOJ in June 2015 are still under review.

We are bringing to your attention an initiative recently sponsored by the Attorney General of Michigan, in cooperation with the Michigan Supreme Court and other officials, to address similar problems in that state. (See attached press release.) We encourage the Attorney General of California to acknowledge the problems we have been bringing to his attention and to take formal actions to address them.

As the chief law enforcement officer of the state, the Attorney General has a constitutional duty to ensure that the laws of the state, as well as state and federal constitutional mandates, are faithfully executed. Sadly, when it comes to the probate conservatorship system in California, that is not happening. Local judges, court-appointed attorneys, and others involved in probate conservatorship proceedings, are doing whatever they want. The system has no checks and balances and participants in the process have no accountability.

We look forward to learning what Attorney General Becerra will do to address these issues.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. Coleman  
Legal Director  
Spectrum Institute