



Supreme Court of California

350 McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-4797

JORGE E. NAVARRETE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

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December 2, 2016

Ms. Ashley Fortier
Assistant to the Legal Director
Spectrum Institute
9420 Reseda Blvd., #240
Northridge, CA 91324

Dear Ms. Fortier:

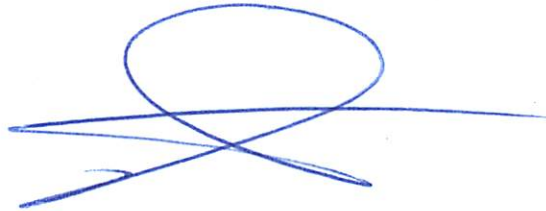
The court is in receipt of Spectrum Institute's letters dated November 12, 2016 and October 26, 2015. Thank you for expressing your access to justice concerns for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in limited conservatorship proceedings.

Although the Supreme Court has no authority to act directly on the concerns raised, earlier this year the Chief Justice, as Chair of the Judicial Council of California, authorized the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council to review the minimum qualifications and educational requirements for court-appointed attorneys in limited conservatorship proceedings. The committee is in the process of undertaking this review. If the committee determines that these requirements need augmenting, it will develop and submit a proposal to the Judicial Council to amend the California Rules of Court. As part of the council's rulemaking process, any proposed amendments would circulate for public comment. The Spectrum Institute would have every opportunity to express its views on the proposed amendments for consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the council. Any rule amendments adopted by the council would take effect no sooner than January 1, 2018.

Additionally, court staff contacted the State Bar of California regarding Spectrum Institute's request for an audit of an MCLE program conducted by the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) for attorneys on the Probate Volunteer Panel. Staff has been informed that the State Bar is currently reviewing the matter, and has contacted both Thomas Coleman and LACBA as part of that review. With regard to Spectrum Institute's additional request that the court encourage formation of a new State Bar task force, please be informed that the State Bar will be operating in 2017 with restricted authorization to collect member fees for non-disciplinary functions. The court will leave it to the State Bar to prioritize all activities for which funding is limited.

Thank you again for your letter, and I hope this letter clarifies for you the actions taken on your concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top, followed by a horizontal line that crosses itself, and a final downward stroke.

JORGE E. NAVARRETE
Court Administrator and
Clerk of the Supreme Court

cc: Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, Executive Director, State Bar of California
Rec.