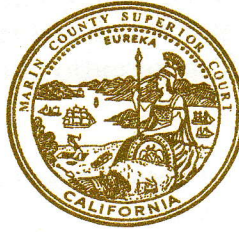


Superior Court of California
County of Marin



KIM TURNER
Court Executive Officer

CHERI BRANNON
Assistant Court Executive Officer

April 13, 2007

Ms. Erin Fogg
Center for Judicial Excellence
336 Bon Air Road, #447
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Dear Ms. Fogg:

We are in receipt of your fax, letter and multiple telephone calls requesting the court's presence at the upcoming forum on juvenile justice. Neither Judge Duryee nor I will attend. As to your proposed speakers from the court, please note that Commissioner Grove retired from the court in March 2006, and Commissioner Goldfine is assigned to criminal trials and arraignments. He has not served in the juvenile division since 2005.

The interest in our participation expressed in your various communications is perplexing, given CJE's overtly harsh view of the Court and court administration. CJE has been quite public in its criticisms of certain judicial decisions as well as the performance of court administration.

It is the duty of the judge to render decisions based on the facts and the law. It is an everyday occurrence that one side is displeased with a court ruling. However, the appropriate forum for an aggrieved party is the Court of Appeal, not a group formed to attract disgruntled litigants. Special interest groups whose purpose is to criticize controversial, unpopular or difficult decisions or to put pressure on individual judges constitute a threat to judicial independence.

CJE's website continues to publish blatantly untrue allegations about the court. For example, CJE asserts that the court has an inappropriate financial relationship with a San Rafael law firm, despite our having provided CJE with conclusive evidence rebutting this claim. Although months have passed since the court provided this information to you, the CJE website continues to publish this false information. It is also revealing that your letter to the court, requesting a full disclosure of payments to this law firm, and the court's written response that no such financial relationship exists, are not among the letters on your website.

The website also contains many newspaper articles critical of the court, some dating back seven or more years ago, yet does not contain a single print article about the excellent work our court is doing in family law, drug court, mental health court, case management, and other areas featured in various newspapers and other publications.

CJE's stated purpose, to support "greater communication and collaboration between the Courts and the Marin community" is disingenuous. Your background materials, public questionnaire and September 2006 Public Forum reveal your organization's clear intent to discredit the court and mislead the public.

Finally, and perhaps most disturbing, our community partners have reported to us some unpleasant contacts with CJE. When they were contacted for support by CJE, community partners told CJE that they were very pleased with the court's services and outreach efforts. Instead of being reassured to learn that community groups were satisfied with court services, CJE representatives reportedly became angry and argumentative. Apparently, CJE has no interest in receiving positive information about the court.

It is clear to us that CJE has no genuine intention of strengthening community involvement with the court but instead seeks only to attack the court. For these and other reasons previously expressed to you, we have concluded that participating in any venue with CJE would not be an effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,



Kim Turner