

**Feb. 22, 2018 ~ BBS Testimony**

For 12 years, we've been committed to creating judicial accountability in all California courts, and to protecting the rights and safety of children and other vulnerable populations in the family court system.

We've spent years educating the various oversight entities like yours about a crisis in our family courts because you are supposed to be PROTECTING the public. The BBS, along with the CJP, the BOP, and the State Bar, is charged with disciplining the unethical professionals who violate the law and standards of care during their work in our family courts.

Our organization co-led the effort to convince the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to order its first-ever fiscal and performance audit of the CJP in 2016. The CJP is battling the State Auditor in court and members of the Legislature are very unhappy about this thwarting of legislative oversight.

We've been educating the Board of Psychology about the family court crisis at four of their last five meetings during the past year. They've agreed to change their complaint procedures in custody cases and have eliminated the requirement for written consent forms from all parties in order to investigate a licensee. They've re-opened cases that had been closed for lack of these signed consent forms, and they are now utilizing their administrative subpoena power to access licensees' records in order to investigate professional misconduct. This is an important first step.

We are on the front lines of a harrowing children's and human rights epidemic in this state- and we know that you're failing to protect the public because we get the calls.

Too many of your licensees, especially LCSWs and LMFTs, are severely harming the public and not being disciplined for it. This has got to stop. NOW. A woman from Riverside Co called recently to tell me that she's collected 23 different families who've been destroyed by the illegal behavior of just one of your licensees. 23 families.

Another of your Sacramento licensees has escaped this Board's discipline for two decades, despite dozens of well-documented complaints explaining that she yells at children, grabs them by the ear, flat out lies in her reports, and has essentially trafficked dozens of children away from the protection of a safe parent and into the waiting arms of a sexually or physically abusive parent, always for large sums of money.

How is this possible? Rampant junk science such as “alienation,” which BY DEFINITION dismisses real child abuse, is forever peddled by your licensees through the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, an influential trade organization otherwise known as the AFCC.

Countless innocent kids are being forced into lifetimes of sexual slavery or ongoing physical abuse by a parent as a direct result of this junk science.

At least 53 California children have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent in the past decade, often after your licensees deemed them safe parents that the kids should spend time with.

**53 Murdered Children- that’s about 3 mass shootings like the one at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School- many of these were preventable homicides if child safety had been the top priority of your licensees instead of junk science.**

How many more kids must die before this Board wakes up and takes action to stop these harmful licensees?

It’s just like we’ve seen with the State Bar Association. You cannot adequately license a profession on the one hand while effectively disciplining it on the other. You get too chummy with the industry and lose your objectivity. It’s human nature. I’ve seen the list of conferences you attend- they are all with your licensees, and none are with the PUBLIC that you are supposed to protect.

These are extremely serious cases, quite often involving the life and death, or the rape of a child. This Board has a duty to protect the public from misconduct, but you are failing.

**THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE BEFORE ONE MORE CHILD IS KILLED.**

We will be back here again and again until this changes. Thank you.



**Kathleen Russell**  
Executive Director