

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, through personal experience and/or through knowledge of another's experience, believe that there exists an influential group of persons and businesses who encompass a large part of the San Bernardino & Riverside County probate systems. This alliance preys upon the area's elderly and disabled, particularly regarding conservatorships, guardianships & estates. Some, but by no means all, of the names which appear frequently in cases where an exorbitant amount of the client's estate is consumed are:

Melodie Jo Scott; conservator, probate administrator, owner - C.A.R.E. Inc.

Lawrence Dean; conservator, probate administrator,

Christina Erickson-Taube; conservator, probate administrator

Bryan Hartnell; conservator, attorney, of Hartnell, Lister, & Moore

David Horspool; attorney, of Horspool & Parker

C.A.R.E., Inc; Conservatorship And Resources for the Elderly, Inc. - Redlands , CA

Hartnell, Lister, & Moore; law firm – Redlands , CA

Horspool & Parker; law firm – Redlands , CA

E. Joan Nelms; attorney, judge pro tem

Sherri Kastilahn; attorney, judge pro tem

A name search in the Superior Court websites for the above-named counties reveals more than 400 cases for the first two names alone. In these cases it would not be unusual to find: one of this group acting as Conservator/guardian; another as attorney for the Conservator/guardian, a third as attorney for the Conservatee, a fourth as Case Manager, and yet another sitting as Judge Pro Tem. Upon death of the Conservatee, one of the group is often then appointed Probate/estate Administrator, with another as Attorney for the Administrator. In this single-sided scenario, abuse is inevitable.

One member of this group, Melodie Jo Scott (aka Melodie Z. Scott), is currently the respondent in an Administrative Hearing regarding the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau's refusal to license her. Ms. Scott figured prominently in a 2005 Los Angeles Times four-part series (Guardians For Profit) exposing corruption and abuse by conservators. This series led to precedent-setting legislation (the Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006) and ultimately the formation of the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau, which began licensing of fiduciaries in 2008. Ms. Scott was refused a license in 2008.

We who have signed these Affidavits believe that the decision made in Ms. Scott's Administrative Hearing is critically important, and will determine and set a precedent as to the Bureau's ability to carry out its mandate as stated in the Professional Fiduciaries Act (Business & Professions Code Section 6516):

"Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the bureau in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public is paramount."

In Ms. Scott's case, the news stories (the Times series was one of several) and the large number of clients who have suffered financial ruin or worse, are undeniable indicators that protection of the public is indeed the issue. Ms Scott and her contemporaries, rather than assisting their clients and preserving clients estates from harm, are usually the greatest threat they face.

Each of us, in signing a copy of this affidavit, asks not only that (a), the 2008 decision not to license Melodie Scott be upheld, but that (b), the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau, the Office of the Attorney General, and appropriate local law enforcement work together to investigate and prosecute Ms. Scott and her associates for dishonesty, fraud, and gross negligence in performing the functions or duties of a professional fiduciary.

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME (print)

TELEPHONE

ADDRESS (print)