

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 5:38 PM
To: BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: FW: Item #31: 160488 [Urging Adequate State-wide Funding for Dependency Counsel]
Sponsors: Cohen; Kim, Peskin and Campos

Categories: 160488

From: Nicholas Soter [mailto:nsoter@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Farrell, Mark (BOS) <mark.farrell@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>; Breed, London (BOS) <london.breed@sfgov.org>; Kim, Jane (BOS) <jane.kim@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Wiener, Scott <scott.wiener@sfgov.org>; Campos, David (BOS) <david.campos@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Avalos, John (BOS) <john.avalos@sfgov.org>
Subject: Item #31: 160488 [Urging Adequate State-wide Funding for Dependency Counsel] Sponsors: Cohen; Kim, Peskin and Campos

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As a practicing Juvenile Dependency attorney here in San Francisco for the past 22 years, and a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist, I urge you to adopt the bill that provides for adequate state-wide funding for dependency counsel. We who do this work do not make much money, particularly as compared to other attorneys, and even as compared to county counsel, who represents the Department and the social workers in our cases.

We often are working very hard on difficult cases, involving neglect and abuse of minors, with unique skills, and sometimes our caseloads are too high. We need to be paid an adequate and reasonable amount for our very specialized work, as it involves our very future-the youth and families we represent.

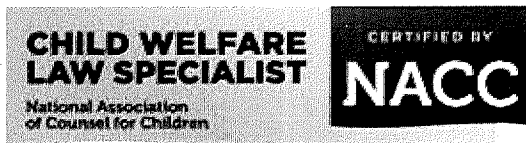
Thank you very much for your consideration,

Nicholas Soter
Attorney at Law

Nicholas G. Soter
Attorney at Law, CWLS*
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Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 8:13 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 160488 FW: comments for the Resolution on Dependency Counsel Funding, Item 31
Attachments: Patty Letter.docx

Categories: 160488

From: Patricia Siehl [mailto:patty@sfchildrenslaw.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 5:20 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: comments for the Resolution on Dependency Counsel Funding, Item 31

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Attached, please find a letter written by parents of two of my former clients in support of the SF Dependency Panel's request for a Resolution by the SF Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Siehl

Law Office of Patricia A. Siehl, J.D.

440 Hoffman Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94114

415- 713-7075 * FAX: 415-751-7093

Patty@sfchildrenslaw.com

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May 17, 2016

To The San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Our names are Neil Robson and Glenn Moala and 4 years ago we decided to adopt. While in the foster adopt licensing process it became evident that Glenn's nephews; Isaiah and Meafua would soon be seeking new homes as their parents were struggling in many aspects of their lives.

That is when Patricia (Patty) Siehl came into the picture, as she was their court appointed attorney. This process can be overwhelming when prospective parents are thrown into this daunting process of adopting. We had numerous phone conversations, more than we can remember, and met with Patty where she would go over paperwork and inform us how the parents were doing, making sure the adoption was on track.

These boys were living in the Double Rock area of San Francisco, and were subjected to many bad and hurtful actions in their early years. Things they saw included the shooting death of a 16yo neighbor and the arrest of their mother following her slapping one of the children in a fit of anger; things we could not imagine seeing in our youth. As a result Meafua has had some issues in school but is responding well to therapy, which was another area that Patty helped facilitate.

There were many times when we had questions and concerns when we would pick up the phone and Patty would be there. During and especially after the adoption there were many times that we could not get in touch with either social workers or case managers with regards to urgent issues and we knew

that one phone call to Patty would get these issues taken care of quickly.

It is very troubling to us to see that Patty and other attorneys like her have not had a pay raise in over 10 years, and even more troubling that they are not offered any benefits. These attorneys do what they do because they are affected by what these children go through and fight for their best interests; often working in somewhat dangerous environments.

We are sorry that we could not make it to this hearing today as we both work fulltime, with benefits, in order to raise these children in a warm and loving home. We could not have gone through this adoption without the guidance of Patty Siehl.

Sincerely,

Neil S. Robson and Glenn J. Moala

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