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DECLARATION OF RIC SAENZ

I, RIC SAENZ, declare:

I worked as a representative for California Civil and Judicial Bonding from February of 1998 through April 2000. I was present on Fridays at the Probate proceedings at the Santa Monica Courthouse during that period of time.

It was clear to anyone who was observing the proceedings in the Probate Court in Santa Monica that Judge Letteau had a personal bias or animosity towards Mr. Hankin.

On many occasions, I witnessed Judge Letteau undermining or denigrating the professional conduct or integrity of attorney Marc Hankin by disregarding and ignoring Mr. Hankin's comments, explanations, or Mr. Hankin's providing pertinent information. Judge Letteau would constantly interrupt Mr. Hankin, making it difficult for Mr. Hankin to speak. It appeared that Judge Letteau intentionally interrupted Mr. Hankin, whenever Mr. Hankin was talking, in order to make it hard for Mr. Hankin to make his arguments on behalf of his clients. Judge Letteau's bias against Mr. Hankin was clearly evident in his demeanor and his tone of voice whenever he directed any comments toward Mr. Hankin, or discussed Mr. Hankin's conduct.

On many occasions, Judge Letteau clearly demonstrated a disinterest in whatever Mr. Hankin had to say. He would not agree with something that Mr. Hankin suggested unless another lawyer suggested the same thing also. Then, Judge Letteau would agree with the other lawyer, clearly indicating that he was attributing the ideas and his agreement to the other lawyer's suggestion of exactly the same thing that Mr. Hankin had said earlier.

Many times, Judge Letteau chastised or berated Marc Hankin unfairly and without provocation.

1 I was present in the Probate Court on a day (toward the end of my tenure with California
2 Civil and Judicial Bonding) when Mr. Hankin said essentially the following things to Judge
3 Letteau:

4 "More than 50 percent of the time that I am in your court, you have something
5 disparaging to say about me personally or about the way that I practice law, and I
6 am getting tired of it. It adversely affects my representation of my clients and my
7 ability to practice law and earn a living."
8

9 I never saw Mr. Hankin conduct himself toward Judge Letteau in an unprofessional
10 manner. Before that day, when Judge Letteau would mistreat Mr. Hankin, Mr. Hankin always
11 appeared to be trying to appease Judge Letteau, and appeared to be trying to curry the Judge
12 Letteau's favor. That day was the first time that I saw Mr. Hankin "stand up" to Judge Letteau
13 and object to the way Judge Letteau had been treating him. That is why what was said stands
14 out so strongly in my memory.
15

16 The facts set forth in this declaration are true of my own personal knowledge and if
17 called upon to testify, I could and would testify to the truth of these matters.
18

19 I declare under the penalties of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
20 foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed today, February 9, 2001,
21 at Los Angeles, California.

22 Signed: _____
23


RIC SAENZ
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