



Urban & Regional Planning

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February 15, 2002

Honorable Chief Justice Ronald George  
and Associate Justices  
Supreme Court of California  
300 South Spring Street, Second Floor North  
Los Angeles, California 90013

Re: Conservatorship of Levitt  
2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Nos. B140538, B142397  
Supreme Court No. S

Dear Chief Justice George and Associate Justices:

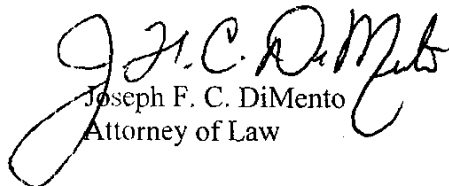
I request that this Court grant review in *Conservatorship of Levitt* to resolve several crucial issues concerning access of elder abuse victims to the courts and freedom of speech for advocates for the elderly.

Elder abuse cases are draining on lawyers attempting to assist people who have been taken advantage on the basis of age and weaknesses. Reduction in awarded attorney fees is unjustified in these cases and review should be granted to fully address this issue.

Dedicated, competent attorneys are needed to bring dishonest persons to justice. The lower courts' decision misses the point that providing justice for the elderly, even if the award is small, shows that courts will not tolerate those who exploit the weak. Denying a fair fee discourages attorneys from representing the disadvantaged, while it encourages those who would exploit them.

I urge the Court to grant review.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph F. C. DiMento  
Attorney of Law

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