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January 8, 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
2nd Civil Nos. B140538, B142397
Supreme Court No. S

**REQUEST OF STEPHEN E. WEBBER, PVP ATTORNEY FOR JOEL LEVITT
THAT REVIEW BE GRANTED**

Dear Chief Justice George and Associate Justices:

The undersigned respectfully requests that this Court grant review in *Conservatorship of Levitt* to resolve several crucial issues concerning (1) access of elder abuse victims to the judicial system and (2) freedom of speech for advocates for the elderly.

All elder abuse cases are emotionally draining on attorneys seeking to provide justice for persons who have been taken advantage of due to their age and infirmities. Reductions in court awarded attorney fees is unjustified in elder abuse cases and review should be granted to fully examine this issue.

The elderly are often deprived of their homes, savings, and valuable personal possessions by swindlers. It takes dedicated and competent attorneys willing to expend the time and emotional energy to bring dishonest persons to justice. The lower courts' decision in this matter regarding fees misses the point that providing justice for the elderly, even if the recovery is small, demonstrates that the courts will not tolerate those who exploit the vulnerable. There is no justification in denying a reasonable fee to attorneys whose efforts do the entire public a great service. Denying a fair fee discourages attorneys from representing the disadvantaged, while at the same time it encourages those who would exploit them.

I was the court appointed Probate Volunteer Panel attorney in this case, *Conservatorship of Levitt*. I strongly support the appellant's position but, because of the circumstances of being court appointed, I did not join in the appeal in this matter.

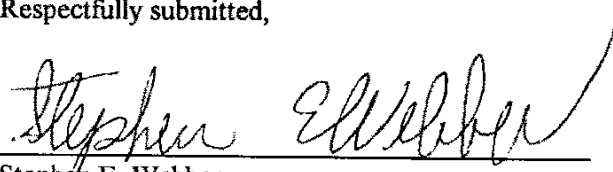
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Over 20 years of doing elder abuse cases has made me aware of the psychological toll on attorneys handling these cases. Time is of the essence if the victim is to benefit before dying or becoming mentally disabled. The exploiters respond by trying to delay proceedings as much as possible. If uncertainty whether an attorney will be paid fairly for his services becomes a factor, elder abuse cases are not going to be given the time and emotional energy they require.

A decision by this Court on the issues raised by *Conservatorship of Levitt* will provide needed guidance in addressing the problems of persons whom the legislature (1) determined to be a "disadvantaged class", and (2) enacted Legislation, such as the Elder and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act (EADACPA) and its progeny, to protect.

I therefore urge the Court to grant review.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen E. Webber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephen E. Webber,
PVP Attorney for Conservatee, Joel Levitt

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. I am employed at 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1800, Los Angeles, California 90010. On [date], I served the attached letter by placing true copies in a sealed envelope with proper postage in the U.S. mail at Los Angeles, California, addressed as follows:

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In propria persona
(Estate of Page)

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Trial Court (Page and Levitt)

Second District Court of Appeal
Division One

I declare under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on [date] at Los Angeles, California.

Signed: _____

Julie D. Webber