

Senator Boucher & Representative Steinberg,

I am a resident of Westport and the father of three children (two boys, ages 11 and 9, and a girl who just turned 7). Over the past three years, my family has endured enormous abuse at the hands of the Connecticut divorce industry and its family law system. I currently have sole legal custody of my children, and they live with me seven days a week. My ex currently has very little contact with them, on account of significant mental illness. While my children have been devastated by the loss of their mother, and I have been devastated by the loss of my 22 year marriage to my high school sweetheart, I am writing regarding the impact of the CT divorce industry and family law system, particularly the guardian ad litem ("GAL") system on my family.

In particular, the GAL supposedly assigned to represent my children's interests in this matter has taken in excess of \$100,000 from my family (at a time when I am unemployed and a stay-at-home dad and my ex's only income is provided by disability payments). I cannot describe the abuse I have endured at her hands after I challenged her decisions and bills. In the context of a dispute over her bills, she at one point threatened to put my children in foster care.

In recent months, I became aware of the Task Force studying the reform of CT's GAL System and Child Custody laws. I have watched many of the hearings on the web. And I have exchanged emails and sometimes phone calls with a large number of other parents who have been devastated by the CT GAL system. This Thursday morning we will be providing public testimony before the Task Force. I expect to attend and hope you both will attend as well. I suspect you will be absolutely shocked by what you hear.

While I am currently a stay-at-home father, I am also a magna cum laude, Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. I previously worked in tax law at Sullivan & Cromwell and on Wall Street. I also clerked for a federal judge after graduating from law school. Thus, I know how a legal system, judiciary and lawyers should operate in an ethical, professional and beneficial manner. And I have every intention of reforming CT's laws so they work better for families. However, particularly given my family's difficult situation, I need help. I am hoping you will stand with CT families in this effort.

I aspire to put together a briefing document to present to the Task Force on Thursday. If I complete that, I will email you a copy. In any event, I very much hope to see you both when I speak with the Task Force on Thursday. I have arranged childcare on Thursday for my trip to Hartford. So I would be happy to meet with you at any time on that day.

Regards,  
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