

## 10/19/15 VERBATIM PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Let's turn to Public Comment. Again, folks who wish to make public comment I'm compelled to limit you to three minutes. I have no choice. Our meetings are about three hours long and we want to hear from you but I need to get into the substance of some of the issues we're talking about, that might bring about reform and changes to Nevada's system. So, at the three minute mark, there will be a buzzer and I'll have to be rude and end your conversation and we'll move on to the next presenter, if there is another presenter.

Let's begin in Elko County, is there anyone up there Judge Porter, wishing to make public comment?

NANCY PORTER: No there isn't Justice Hardesty, but I would like to introduce Kathy Jones, Elko County's Public Guardian. She's here with me today.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Welcome Ms. Jones. Judge Porter offered to the Commission at the last meeting a thorough and heartfelt description of the work that you do in Elko County. I'm so impressed and very grateful for all that you do for the Wards that you serve. We're grateful to have you present at a Commission Meeting.

KATHY JONES: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Judge Gibbons, anyone in Carson City wishing to make a public comment?

CHIEF JUDGE GIBBONS: Anyone want to make comment? We have four people in the audience but no one chooses to comment.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Okay. Then in Las Vegas, anybody in Las Vegas who wishes to make public comment?

JULIE BELSHE: Good afternoon. This is regarding Case No. G1404018-A. It was given to me by Scott Nerenberg in Florida.[begins reading letter]

Your Honorable Judge Hardesty:

I would like to participate in your upcoming review on September 16, 2015 regarding the "overview of the commission to study the administration of guardianships in Nevada courts". I can be available via conference call and/or web. I can provide firsthand knowledge to the commission of improper processes and abusive practices in Nevada's adult guardianship proceedings as a result of my petitioning the court (as a family member) to become my aunt's guardian. This was following the public guardian's order under Case#: G-14-040180-A, which resulted after my aunt voluntarily, admitted herself to a local Clark County Hospital where she was determined at risk and later incompetent, for which the Clark County Public Guardian used as the basis in securing this order.

This resulted in an interstate 1.5 yearlong complex legal process that unnecessarily liquidated the

vast majority of my aunt's savings and other assets at the behest of the following: public guardian's office, multiple nursing homes, the public guardian's attorney, the public guardian's estate appraiser, and (2) case managers from the public guardian's office. As a condition of my appointment as guardian and as a non-Nevada resident, a third party private guardian resident was appointed as my co-guardian per Clark County regulations. This appointment resulted in a court ordered liquidation by auction and sale of my aunt's home, cars, personal property and bank deposits all administered by the private 3rd party co-guardian. My aunt was physically transferred to me in Florida while her assets remained under court order in the custody of the co-guardian in Nevada for 10 months following her transfer. Additional legal and administrative fees were charged by the co-guardian (including legal fees) against the bank balances over this period.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: I have to interrupt you. You're reading apparently from a letter and I'm going to request that you provide that.

JULIE BELSHE: I have it for you.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: To the Clerk please.

JULIE BELSHE: That's fine.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: We will put that in our meeting materials.

JULIE BELSHE: That's fine, thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: I'm sorry, the author of the letter again is?

JULIE BELSHE: It's Scott Nerenberg. They live in Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Could you state your name?

JULIE BELSHE: My name is Julie Belshe.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: Thank you.

JULIE BELSHE: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: All right. Any other person in Clark County wishing to make a public comment today? Okay. Oh, yes sir.

RUDY NORTH: My name is Rudy North. I'm a victim or one of the victims. I remember being in this room with Judge Hardesty the first time that we all got together. I was wondering if we ever found out if there was an active roster. We used a number which came from the Review Journal that was something, either it was 8,400 or 8,600 Wards. I believe that you requested that we do find out what was active. I was wondering where we are at that point. I have a reason for asking, because I have my

own account.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: The Chief Judge of the State Judicial District has instructed their staff to formulate a listing of all of the pending cases and they are in the process of entering orders and we need to assign senior judges to sit on cases for those who have been ordered to come forward and explain the status of the cases. I don't want to quote you a number, but we will get you that number. My memory is that it's in the range of 4,000. We'll get the precise number. That process is currently going on.

By the way, as an aside, I was at an event where I gave a speech and afterwards I was approached by a lady and she said, what is going on in that guardianship court? I said, what do you mean? She said, well I was ordered to come in and talk about a case involving my son over which I'm guardian. He was appointed very young in his life and we hadn't realized we were supposed to file accountings and hadn't done so in four years. So, I know the process is taking place. I can't tell you the status of it, but we'll get you the numbers.

RUDY NORTH: Thank you. I lost two this last month. One was my Rose of San Antone, the other was one of the New York Yankee baseball players and Murray was so excited and I can see him at—I get the chills when I say this, Babe Ruth's daughter came into our assisted living facility and was there for about a week. You had to have dinner with her obviously and they change or exchanged pinstripes as we used to call it. I'm glad that you're working on this to find out the gravity or the specificity of the number. Because the number is very, very important. What bothers me about the number is that it grows. It shouldn't be growing. It should be stopped. We should stop right now and say, if I may I'll just use the term 4,000, use 4,000—there are 4,000 people and stop. Don't let it grow. As it grows, obviously expands and more of the things happen. I say this with all due respect, but I see lawyers here who specialize for example in real estate. I look at them and I think to myself, my God in Heaven, it's a felony what's going on out there. These are straw buyers. This isn't anything new. You know it. And as I look here, amongst you beautiful, wonderful people who do care—and I believe you care, I just don't want another layer. This is not a layer. This is something that means it must come to an end. It must come to an end as soon as possible. Obviously my time is up, thank you so much. I appreciate the fact that the work is being done on the specifics of the numbers. Thank you again.

CHIEF JUSTICE HARDESTY: I will tell you we're working on a lot more specifics than just the number of pending cases. Okay, anybody else wishing to make public comment in Clark County? Thank you very much.