



Work Force Programs

Michael A. Courtney

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January 5, 1996

Chief Justice Barbara Durham

Olympia, Wa.

Dear Chief Justice:

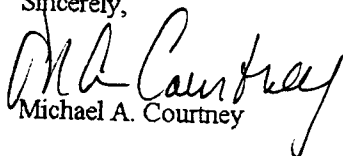
I am a volunteer with the American Association of Retired Persons serving on the State Legislative Committee and Chair of the Vulnerable Persons Committee. I have been following the apparent lack of interest shown guardianship problems by the Superior Court of Pierce County since early 1995. Attached is the News Tribune article of June 15, 1995 outlining recommendations by a special committee of 3 Past Presidents of The Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association. Attached also is a copy of the Committee report dated June 9, 1995, and finally a News Tribune Editorial dated Dec. 28, 1995 reviewing this very long-awaited report from another Special Committee to correct the problems outlined by the previous Special Committee Report. Over 6 months is intolerable to wait for problems such as this to be resolved.

What I find even more outrageous, is that this issue would be left to be reviewed by the Pierce County Bar Association, rather than the Superior Court of Pierce County. This might give the appearance of the fox guarding the chickens. Is it any wonder that the American Public is losing faith in not only our Justice system, but Government in general.

What is the relationship between the Superior Court and the Bar Association, that only one lawyer would dare to bring up problems that apparently have been going on for some time. Why have no others in the legal or judicial system had the courage to back up this lonely lawyer who brought up these issues that were ultimately validated by two special committees? These are questions that need to be answered to ensure that Justice is not blind and slow in Pierce county.

If I am in error in asking your assistance to resolve this problem, please advise who I should contact, and I will take whatever action you recommend.

Sincerely,


Michael A. Courtney