

Beth Ploesch, Executive Director
Children's Legal Services of San Diego

Re: Nicole McConn — Demand for Accountability for Retaliation, Abuse of Authority,
Family Destruction, and Catastrophic Harm to Malaika and Xayah Robinson and Their
Family

**To Beth Ploesch and the Executive Leadership and Supervising Attorneys of Children's
Legal Services of San Diego:**

This letter is directed specifically to Nicole McConn and to the executive leadership, supervising attorneys, managers, and other responsible officials within Children's Legal Services of San Diego who knew of, authorized, participated in, supervised, approved, or failed to stop the conduct described below. It also concerns the role of Lisa Haight and others whose actions contributed to retaliation, interference with family relationships, and continuing harm to Malaika and Xayah Robinson and their family.

Children's Legal Services publicly tells the community that Every Child's Voice Matters and that it protects and defends children through high-quality and compassionate legal representation. Those words demand an explanation, because what is happening to Malaika and Xayah is impossible to reconcile with that mission. These girls cry, scream, resist separation, express love for their mother and family, and demonstrate powerful attachment to the people they know and love. Their distress is repeatedly documented, and expert testimony establishes that severing their family relationships causes catastrophic psychological and emotional harm. Yet the system continues enforcing the separation and its consequences.

Malaika and Xayah have never been without family. They have a mother, father, grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, uncles, cousins, military service members, veterans, and a former Army serviceman who now works as a K-9 police officer. Their great-grandmother, my own elderly mother, lived through much of this ordeal before she died while I cared for her as her conservator and trustee. These girls are part of a large, living, multigenerational family that loves them, wants them, and continues fighting for them.

Yet for more than two years, the system has progressively isolated them from that family while our family documents severe emotional distress, chronic trauma, contradictory and false reporting, escalating restrictions on family contact, retaliation following protected speech, and conduct demanding independent investigation. If every child's voice matters, leadership must explain when Malaika and Xayah's voices stopped mattering.

The reality these girls are living has become a Cinderella horror story. At the end of one visit, Malaika experienced a prolonged meltdown lasting approximately 25 minutes in front of an expert witness who later testified about the harm being caused by separation. Our family also documented social workers closing their laptops before visits were even over, leaving critical behavior and distress occurring at the end of visits unreported.

The expert testimony matters, but it should not take an expert to recognize what these children are showing. Anyone who watches the videos of Malaika and Xayah screaming, resisting separation, and being placed into a County van can see the distress for themselves. The suffering is visible. The children are telling us through their words, their behavior, and their reactions what this separation is doing to them.

Malaika has said she does not want to go back and has said the caregiver is mean to her. Those statements, behaviors, and omissions cannot simply be brushed aside while permanent decisions are being made about her life. If Children's Legal Services disputes what these children are experiencing, then their voices should be heard directly and treated with the seriousness your organization claims every child's voice deserves.

Our family also had to discover critical medical information about Malaika and Xayah on our own rather than being promptly and honestly informed by the system responsible for protecting them. Serious medical events and abuse concerns involving these very young children were minimized, withheld, or inadequately communicated while the family was kept at a distance. Leadership should examine who knew about the girls' medical conditions, when they knew it, what was reported to the family and the court, what was omitted, and why family members had to independently uncover information concerning the health and safety of children Children's Legal Services claims to protect.

Nicole McConn's conduct and supervisory role require immediate executive examination. She was not a passive observer. As a supervising guardian ad litem attorney, she occupied a position of substantial authority while our family experienced interference with family relationships, retaliatory restraining-order proceedings, fixation on protected speech, repeated scrutiny of the paternal grandfather, and continued separation of two young children despite documented trauma and expert warnings of catastrophic harm. Leadership needs to determine exactly what McConn knew, what she authorized, what she encouraged, what communications she participated in, and whether hostility toward our family's exposure of misconduct influenced decisions concerning these children.

I was an RFA-approved paternal family placement, a senior citizen, and a grandfather with no criminal conduct establishing that I posed a danger to Malaika or Xayah. Yet I became the subject of relentless scrutiny as though something damaging had to be found somewhere. Negative reporting about me began before I ever started blogging about this case. One early report raised concern about the grandfather's mental health despite no clinical evaluation. Shortly before my first supervised visit, I had a cordial telephone conversation with the social worker I was scheduled to meet. A witness heard it. I spoke about money I had spent helping keep the girls safe and how much I looked forward to seeing them. The report later portrayed me as yelling about money and hanging up on the social worker. That was false.

That kind of reporting is part of what pushed me to begin documenting this case publicly. My history, family, background, and conduct were repeatedly examined while there remained no evidence that I was dangerous to these girls. Instead of recognizing an approved family placement and a grandfather fighting to preserve his granddaughters'

family bonds, the system increasingly treated me as an adversary. Leadership should examine why so much energy was spent searching for something wrong with the paternal grandfather while contradictory reporting, private-caregiver conduct, the children's visible distress, and serious concerns raised by the family did not receive the same level of scrutiny.

I have maintained my website for nearly 18 years. During this case, I have used it to publish evidence and information, document lies and case-fixing, appear on podcasts, distribute flyers, protest, appear before the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, name officials, speak with journalists and advocates, and refuse to remain silent. The blogging did not create the problems in this case. It began after I started seeing them. I saw statements rewritten or mischaracterized, serious accusations repeated without meaningful investigation establishing their truth, psychological conclusions placed into reports without qualified clinical evaluation, family members portrayed as dangerous without evidence, favorable information minimized or buried, and decisions increasingly moving away from reunification and family placement.

After our family began speaking publicly, restrictions increased, family contact was removed or reduced, restraining-order litigation emerged, and names, photographs, blogs, flyers, public comments, and other protected speech became recurring points of conflict. The people exposing what was happening increasingly became targets of the system they were criticizing. Our family has preserved recordings, reports, messages, court records, videos, photographs, witness information, public testimony, and other documentation capable of independent review. This is not simply a disagreement over perception. There is a record, and the chronology matters.

The restraining-order proceedings against me deserve particular scrutiny. They targeted the paternal grandfather of these children, an RFA-approved family placement, a senior citizen, and, at the time, the caregiver, conservator, and trustee for my elderly dependent mother. Our family possesses evidence concerning discussions linking removal of names and photographs from the internet with making restraining orders go away. If Lisa Haight objected to her photograph appearing on a website, there were lawful and professional ways to address that disagreement. Using institutional power against a grandfather and family because they were publicly criticizing government conduct was not the proper response.

Those proceedings also imposed an extraordinary burden on me personally. Although the underlying dependency case was much closer to my home, I was repeatedly forced to travel to Vista for restraining-order proceedings, requiring roughly eighty-mile round trips while I was caring for my elderly dependent mother as her conservator and trustee. At times I had to bring my mother with me because I could not simply abandon my caregiving responsibilities. I also raised serious procedural concerns in those proceedings, including restrictions on my ability to present witnesses and evidence and denial of assistance I requested. Executive leadership should examine why those proceedings were handled in that manner and whether the process became another instrument of retaliation against a grandfather who refused to stop speaking publicly.

The handling and location of those proceedings demand independent examination. Investigators should determine who selected the Vista forum, why it was selected, what communications preceded that decision, whether particular judicial assignments were sought, and whether the process was used to obtain a preferred result. Children's Legal Services should preserve communications involving Nicole McConn, Lisa Haight, Child Welfare Services, County Counsel, Norma Olivares, Ronald Rivas Silverio, other private caregivers, attorneys, supervisors, and any court personnel whose communications are lawfully subject to review. Investigators should determine whether protected speech influenced visitation, placement, family contact, restraining orders, or termination.

Norma Olivares is not the primary subject of this letter, but her role cannot be ignored. I had never met her before these proceedings, yet she became increasingly influential while reunification with Malaika and Xayah's mother, father, and paternal family deteriorated. Damaging characterizations were repeatedly accepted while information favorable to the family was minimized or disregarded. Leadership should determine why a private caregiver was permitted that level of influence and whether her interests became improperly intertwined with decisions that should have remained focused on the children and preservation of their family relationships.

The treatment of Evelyn Lopez also deserves direct examination. Evelyn returned to California, surrendered herself, complied with what was demanded of her, attended her visits, and continued fighting to reunify with her daughters. Instead of reunification, she experienced pressure, intimidation, psychologically damaging interactions, shifting expectations, and conduct our family documented behind closed doors and over the telephone. We preserved evidence of a social worker blocking her path while she attempted to disengage and leave an interaction, as well as telephone encounters that contributed to panic and emotional distress. Yet Evelyn continued showing up for her daughters.

The human consequences are enormous and continue today. Their mother gave birth to twins in November 2025. Malaika and Xayah know those babies exist, yet they have never been allowed the ordinary experience of meeting them, holding them, watching them grow, or developing the relationship sisters should have with younger siblings. Their great-grandmother died during this case. Their mother continues living with the devastation of separation. Their father remains separated from his daughters. Grandparents, siblings, relatives, friends, neighbors, advocates, and others continue living with the consequences of decisions made by institutions claiming to act in these children's interests.

Nicole McConn is herself a parent. Her spouse and children bear no responsibility for her professional conduct, but being a parent should make the consequences of exercising this degree of institutional power impossible to ignore. A professional can leave the office and return home to her own family while decisions made during that workday may determine whether another mother holds her daughters normally again, whether a father sees his children grow up, whether grandparents remain part of their grandchildren's lives, and whether sisters are allowed to know one another. That is extraordinary power, and extraordinary power demands extraordinary accountability.

This case has already received substantial public attention. Our family has appeared before government bodies, spoken with investigative reporters and advocates, contacted law-enforcement and civil-rights authorities, and provided documentation to television stations, newspapers, elected officials, federal authorities, and the White House. That outreach continues, and this matter is moving beyond the dependency system. Evidence is being preserved for appellate review, civil-rights investigation, public reporting, and federal litigation. Our family intends to determine who participated in retaliation, who authorized it, who knew about it, and whether protected speech and exposure of government misconduct influenced decisions concerning visitation, placement, restraining orders, family association, and termination.

I am in my golden years, and Nicole McConn and the leadership of Children's Legal Services should understand this clearly: as long as I am breathing and capable of speaking, writing, documenting, publishing, petitioning government, and pursuing lawful avenues of accountability, I will continue. I will continue placing evidence before investigators, journalists, elected officials, civil-rights authorities, advocates, filmmakers, and others willing to examine this case. I will continue asking who did what, who authorized it, who knew about it, and why two little girls surrounded by family were subjected to this destruction after their family began exposing what was happening. That is not a threat. It is notice that I will continue exercising my constitutional and lawful rights.

Malaika and Xayah have a family — a living, loving family that has never abandoned them and is not going anywhere. Norma Olivares and Ronald Rivas Silverio will never replace their mother, father, grandparents, siblings, or the generations of blood family these girls already belong to. No agency decision, court order, or piece of paper can erase that truth. Malaika and Xayah must come home. They must be freed from what our family has described for more than two years as foster prison and restored to the family that has never stopped fighting for them.

Children's Legal Services tells the public that Every Child's Voice Matters and promises high-quality and compassionate legal representation. Then leadership must confront what is happening here. Examine the evidence. Investigate the retaliation. Determine what Nicole McConn knew, authorized, encouraged, or participated in. Determine why the paternal grandfather became the subject of relentless scrutiny while evidence supporting the family and evidence of the children's suffering were minimized. Determine whether protected speech influenced official decisions, whether private caregivers were improperly allowed to shape the outcome, and why expert testimony establishing catastrophic psychological and emotional harm did not stop the severance of these girls' family relationships or the harm that continues today.

What occurred here is a gross miscarriage of justice, and that miscarriage of justice continues through the ongoing separation, trauma, and destruction imposed on Malaika, Xayah, and their family. We will continue seeking independent investigation and accountability through every lawful avenue available, including federal civil-rights remedies. Children's Legal Services of San Diego, its executive leadership, Nicole McConn, Lisa Haight, and every responsible official who participated in, authorized, supervised,

approved, or failed to stop the conduct described above are now on formal notice. This family is not going away.

Included with this letter is an investigative article containing one image that should haunt every person in Children's Legal Services who participated in this case: Malaika and Xayah standing outside a Sheriff's Department holding bright pink signs that say I LOVE MOM, while the system treats that moment as one of their final visits with the mother they love. An investigative reporter captured what your own institution should have been confronting all along — two little girls publicly expressing love for their mother while adults with extraordinary institutional power continue tearing their family apart.

From me, from this family, and from the advocates and community members who have watched this unfold, I want leadership to understand exactly how this looks and feels: it is sickening, inhumane, degrading, and barbaric.

There is nothing compassionate about forcing children who love their mother to say goodbye to her inside a system that advertises Every Child's Voice Matters. There is nothing protective about ignoring their cries, their trauma, their words, their attachment, their medical concerns, and expert testimony establishing catastrophic psychological and emotional harm while continuing to separate them from the family they know and love.

If Children's Legal Services can look at those pink I LOVE MOM signs, look at what these girls continue enduring, and still call this child advocacy, then the leadership of this organization needs to confront how completely its actions have departed from the values it advertises to the public. This family, members of the community, advocates, reporters, social workers, parents, elected officials, and others who have followed this case consider what is being done to Malaika and Xayah profoundly cruel, morally indefensible, and a continuing violation of the human dignity of two children who deserve their family, their siblings, their mother, their father, and their lives back.

Please be advised that this letter, any response to it, and supporting materials may be published online or otherwise made available to the public as part of our continuing effort to document this case, preserve the record, obtain independent review, seek accountability, and ensure that what is happening to Malaika, Xayah, and the Robinson-Lopez family is never buried, rewritten, forgotten, or later denied.

For the record,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricky G. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ricky G. Robinson

August 17, 2026

Paternal Grandfather of Malaika and Xayah

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND FEDERAL CIVIL-RIGHTS ISSUES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION

First Amendment — Freedom of Speech and Right to Petition Government. The First Amendment protects speech, publication, peaceful protest, and the right to petition government for redress of grievances. Government retaliation for protected speech can violate the Constitution.

Fourteenth Amendment — Family Integrity and Familial Association. Parents possess a fundamental liberty interest in the care, custody, and management of their children. The Ninth Circuit also recognizes constitutional protection against unjustified governmental interference with the parent-child relationship.

42 U.S.C. § 1983 — Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights. Section 1983 provides a civil remedy when a person acting under color of state law causes the deprivation of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law.

18 U.S.C. § 242 — Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. Federal law makes it a crime for a person acting under color of law to willfully deprive another person of rights protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

18 U.S.C. § 241 — Conspiracy Against Rights. Federal law prohibits two or more persons from conspiring to injure, threaten, or intimidate a person in the free exercise or enjoyment of federally protected rights.

Our family is requesting independent investigation into whether retaliation for protected speech, interference with familial association, coercive efforts to isolate family members, misuse of governmental authority, coordinated conduct among government actors, court-appointed actors, and private caregivers, and other documented actions in the **Malaika and Xayah Robinson** case violated these constitutional and federal protections.