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Ms. Wendy M Musielak – Guardian Ad Litem
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November, 23, 2023

Dear Ms. Musielak,

To express my concerns regarding the ongoing proceedings of case number 2022 DC 915, In Re: The Marriage of Thomas Neal and Mario Neal, I pen this letter. Fundamental to our judiciary system are the principles of fairness, impartiality, and equal protection, which seem obscured due to recent developments in our hearings.

In our July 2023 session, you and Mr. Chuck Roberts proposed the restriction of my US passport, an act with potential constitutional breaches. Disturbingly, this was tied to my Mexican roots, invoking elements of racial bias and possibly breaching the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause of the Constitution.

Disappointingly, there seem to be hints of an undue alliance between you and Mr. Roberts during the hearing. Aligned stances, especially from a guardian ad litem sworn to impartial representation of [REDACTED], are a cause for concern as it compromises the crucial principle of neutrality. As per the Illinois Supreme Court ruling in 'In re Marriage of Bates, 212 Ill. 2d 489, 516 (2004)', the role of a guardian ad litem is to "observe, participate in the litigation, investigate the facts... and present or argue the position deemed in the child's best interest."

This alignment becomes evident upon examining your shared perspective on my travel rights. You suggested, "Maybe it's the reverse, Judge, and instead of me keeping it all the time, it's only keeping it if they're traveling with the children.". Similarly, Mr. Roberts stated, "Let's deposit the passports with Ms. Musielak, and if somebody needs to travel, they can furnish an itinerary and deal with it appropriately." This conformity of views erodes the impartiality fundamental to your designation as guardian ad litem, echoing the concerns raised by the Illinois Appellate Court in 'In re Marriage of Kostusik, 361 Ill. App. 3d 103 (2005)' that requires a guardian ad litem to bring a level of objectivity to the proceedings.

Furthermore, proposing to restrict my passport unduly on account of my Mexican heritage fosters a climate of hidden racial bias. A crucial symbol of American citizenship, a US passport should not be revoked or limited without substantial probable cause. In light of *Batson v. Kentucky*'s implications, racial bias, overt or covert, can significantly impact legal outcomes.

In light of these concerns, I humbly request you ponder recusing yourself from this case. Your

actions have unfortunately sown seeds of doubt about your impartial representation of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] best interests. I'm sure such allegations and doubts are antithetical to your professional convictions and integrity. Therefore, an act of recusal will be a testament to upholding justice, impartiality, and equal protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mario Neal
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