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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Ryan Bashor, President  
Kerri Maxey, Vice-President  
Rafael Nones, Treasurer  
Amy Coffee, Secretary

Letter to the Editor:

On Monday, May 23, 2016, Judge Hafen improperly handcuffed one of our public defenders simply for doing her job. His actions were unreasonable and unprecedented. Judge Hafen was wrong.

Every person accused of a crime has a constitutional right to have an attorney speak on his behalf. Public defenders exclusively represent people with little or no money: the poor. Judge Hafen silenced an attorney who was merely attempting to speak on her client's behalf. He violated one of our most sacred, fundamental, and constitutionally protected rights.

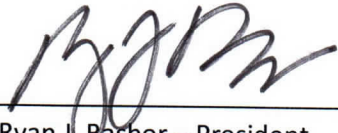
Judge Hafen claims he handcuffed our colleague to "teach the lawyer about courtroom etiquette." Handcuffing an attorney who is merely doing her job to teach her a lesson is simply improper and has never been done in the history of Nevada. This misguided "lesson" runs contrary to the fundamental right to counsel. That right entitles Americans to have an attorney at their side, speaking on their behalf, especially when they are facing jail. We will continue to take our lessons from the Constitution and our solemn Oath of Attorney.

Another concern in this case is that the official transcript of the proceedings appears incomplete. More importantly, every courtroom in the courthouse is equipped with video and audio recording capabilities, and Judge Hafen's courtroom is no exception. However, it is extremely alarming that the cameras and microphones in Judge Hafen's courtroom are habitually kept turned off and, coincidentally, the video recording of this incident is, very conveniently, non-existent.

We will continue to do our jobs. We will continue to speak for our clients.

-Clark County Defenders Union, Board of Directors

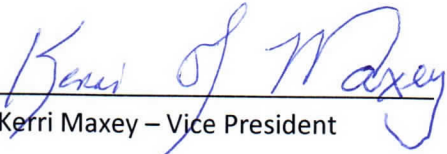
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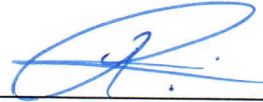
Ryan J. Bashor – President



Amy Coffee - Secretary



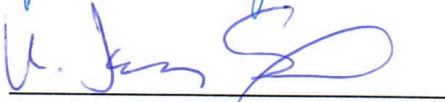
Kerri Maxey – Vice President



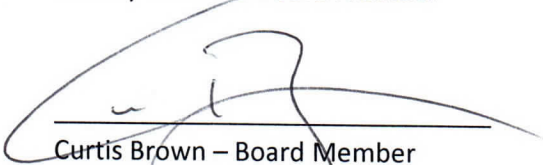
Rafael Nones – Treasurer



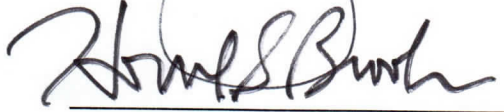
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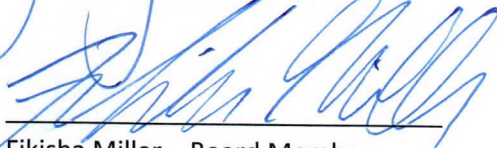
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