

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**County of Nevada**



THOMAS M. ANDERSON  
*Presiding Judge*

SEAN P. DOWLING, *Judge*

JULIE A. McMANUS, *Judge*

YVETTE DURANT  
*Commissioner*

**201 Church Street**  
**Nevada City, CA 95959**  
**(530) 265-1380**

CANDACE S. HEIDELBERGER,  
*Assistant Presiding Judge*

ROBERT L. TAMIETTI, *Judge*

B. SCOTT THOMSEN, *Judge*

G. SEAN METROKA  
*Court Executive Officer*

September 28, 2011

Bill Campbell, Chairman  
Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Hall of Administration  
333 West Santa Ana Boulevard  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: California's Laura's Law (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5340, et seq.)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I am writing to encourage the implementation of Laura's Law in Orange County, California.

Nevada County began utilizing Laura's Law in 2008. Laura's Law has provided life-saving services to individuals suffering from mental illness and kept many from the trauma and brain damage associated with involuntary commitments to mental health facilities under W & I Code, Section 5150, and the jail commits and tragedies associated with untreated mental health crisis. Most notable, is that the process of initiating a Laura's Law Petition, by itself, most often results in negating the need for Court action. In over 75% of our cases, the intervention of the designated mental health professional by their personal outreach to the individual in crisis resulted in that person accepting some level of treatment. Thus, avoiding continued decompensation that could potentially result in injury to themselves or others. This outreach provided that person with the stability to allow them to remain free of forced commitment (hospital and/or jail) and provided relief to their families and security to our community. This process has reduced the need for action by law enforcement, medical emergency personnel, and the Courts, and lessens the trauma and anguish of family and friends.

Money: Laura's Law saves a lot of money! During our experiences with Laura's Law, it has provided a return of \$1.80 for every \$1.00 spent. In this era of ongoing budget cuts and close scrutiny of all public spending, having a program that is successful, efficient, lifesaving and cost effective is priceless.

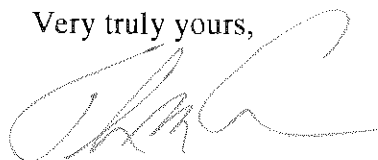
Laura's Law is not a panacea for all that is needed for proper mental health care. However, it is a much needed safety net that works. It saves lives and money. Most importantly, the assisted outpatient treatment that is provided through Laura's Law is the "best practice model" for those who qualify. It is, simply stated, the right thing to do.

Bill Campbell, Chairman  
Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Page Two

Our experience in implementing Laura's Law turned out to be easier than anticipated. With the cooperation and support of our County's Board of Supervisors, Behavioral Health Department, County Counsel, Public Defender and the Court, we have created a proactive team and a seamless and efficient process. If we can be of any assistance to your County or answer any questions you may have regarding Laura's Law, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or any other participants in this essential program.

You may reach me by phone at (530) 265-1273, or by email at [tom.anderson@nevadacountycourts.com](mailto:tom.anderson@nevadacountycourts.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



THOMAS M. ANDERSON  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court California,  
County of Nevada

TMA:hb

Original letters sent to:

Bill Campbell, Chairman  
Third District

John M.W. Moorlach, Vice Chairman  
Second District

Janet Nguyen  
First District

Shawn Nelson  
Fourth District

Patricia C. Bates  
Fifth District

Darlene J. Bloom  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors