

CASE NO 13OP 1272 HEARING "1:30 PM CST Friday the Thirteenth of September, 2013"

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE IMMEDIATELY TO ALL PARTIES INCLUDING ASSIGNED OFFICIAL JUDGE

Letter to the Court as as Community

What Do We Judge as of Value?

**Equally to She Kin Elizabeth ~Nunez, Tunesha, Amy and He Kin Incl George
~Strickland and the Shes and Hes of All Our Familyes**

Re: Cousin Rollin "versus" Cousin Rachelle

In The Case of One Family's Urgent and Overdue Need to Become Kin of Kindness

Dear Members of the Court as Community and Not So Distant Family Yourselves*

HAS EXTENDED FAMILY LOVE, CARE, & MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BECOME ILLEGAL?

I am writing to you regarding the Order of Protection upon me that was initiated by my first cousin, Rollin ~Soskin. I believe this order of Protection was deeply emotionally driven without insight into a complex intergenerational family problem, and a misuse of legal process. I feel it should and best be immediately rescinded and Rollin (and his wife Diana, who is also really at the center of this family problem as are all the women of our family as much as men) simply given hugs and urged toward more constructive ideas about how to resolve family conflict and achieve kinder understanding of fair, nondivisive and loving connection with all their family.

In addition, as a Ph.D. in Psychology with a doctorate from Loyola University and trained at the Family Institute of Chicago at Northwestern and a long term believer in the importance of love and family, I believe that my cousin and his wife's emotional grudge and vendetta reveal a deeper problem: **unresolved loss occurring over several generations and disconnections among women.** What is actually motivating Rollin to do this, must be understood at a deeper level of something going very wrong in our society and culture, affecting many families and their communities, and their interaction with lawyers, and the superficial way our society deals with family problems and conflicts. I do not have to tell you that many lawyers are trained to be adversarial. Therapists and healers, on the other hand, are trained to do something other than judge and sanction individuals. They are missioned to understand, heal and care. Billions of people believe, indeed, know, that **our society needs a Therapist**, and understanding that is an exercise of better judgement, especially toward current and future generations, but indeed, all generations.

Specific to this situation, I want to say that ALL my contacts to the petitioner, my cousin, Rollin, and his family and those who know them in a very close way, were **With the Repeatedly Stated Goal of Trying to Arrange Mutual Loving and Respectful Apology, Family Therapy and Reconciliation Circles**, and not for any purpose of what would be traditionally thought of as *harassment*. **I am beginning to feel that in the parts of our family more influenced by Rollin and his wife Diana, Love & Regard for the most precious Shared Heritage that pertains to the Potential of Love in Familyes at the time of New Millennia (which I want to discuss in a loving**

way, especially with Rollin's daughter Sarah, his wife Diana, on behalf of their younger Cousin Abby, and All the Women of Our Family), is becoming "Illegal". Specifically, All My Contacts Were

- Expressing Concern & Upset About How Our Family has Been Dishonoring Memory & Souls of Mothers, Grandmothers, Men Ancestors, too & Many Cousines (the way Europeans call female cousins) and Cousins.
- Expressing Upset at a long term impact of deliberate One Way Communication, i.e. no thank you notes for many Gifts to family and children, no reciprocating seasonal WHoliday card contact for decades, deliberate snubs involving important family events, and a pattern of palpable emotional cold disrespect amounting to true cruelty via emotional ostracism <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110510151216.htm>, all while in frequent contact with my Sister, creating a family division.
- Expressing Deep Concern about how this seduced my Sister into a culture of sibling relational aggression http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relational_aggression and family splitting that I believe exists to a greater degree in both Diana and Rollin's families of origin, both of which suffered extremes of separation and splitting in current or preceding generations, that sadly, are all too common in our troubled culture. This is Affecting My Own and Many Nieces and Nephews Sisterhood and Brotherhood
- Willingness to Mutual Apology, as I understand that I made some mistakes that I am very willing nondefensively to acknowledge and smooth ruffled feathers, and none of us need be perfect to be Loved and Included Wellcomingly in a Loving Extended Family.
- Expressing concern that this pattern involved some male genderism as well as envious petty female bullying toward me, based in the all too true reality that many women have some level of low self esteem in our society. I was ostracized not because I was a discredit, but in fact, in part because I had some unusual educational, and social service achievements and emotional instincts toward both caring and fairness. So the emotional exile I have been treated with, has been sending a wrong message to our family, females, and males both, telling them to hide their loving abilities and gifts instead of share them.
- Expressing deep concern that this pattern is putting great stress on our younger generations especially, and in fact, all our generations at emotional risk and out of touch with an ancestral Heritage that should co-inspire and unite, not been forgotten and never shared, by a divided. cold warring family. MORE THAN ONE LIFE IS AT RISK.

Because of my concerns about how this family split has been affecting our younger generations, I have been more recently zealous in this effort to gain family therapy/counseling http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_therapy#Evidence_base <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7123/> and reconciliation circles. i.e. <http://www.ibarji.org/circles.asp> <http://www.peerspirit.com/books-callingthecircle.html> <http://worldpulse.com/files/upload/386/pronto-pages.pdf> and have tried to get some potentially caring community involved, because several more gentle attempts at family reconciliation have gone totally and coldly ignored. Indeed, several clergy, counselors and abuse specialists have called my Aunt and Rollin to discuss this, and have been ignored or hung up on. I feel Rollin's behavior has, whether intentionally or not,

insidiously and destructively seduced My Sister into a culture of divisiveness and unfairness, compromised her deeper ethical and emotional needs, endangered my Nephew's Psychological and Physical Health, are causing my Aunt's Mental Health to deteriorate and make her into an all too willing and even more codependent victim, and may now be affecting Rollin and Diana's Daughter Sarah's Emotional, Psychological Development and Self Esteem.

I believe Rollin and his family's relational aggression and selective divisiveness, sanctioned by his wife and mother because of their own codependency upon him related to early loss of father figures, it is the underlying reason for Rollin's younger brother's recent divorce and separation from his wife and young children. I think it is affecting the Ability of our Family's Younger Generation, to Give Their Gifts in an Balanced and Healthy Way, without either bullying or self-suppression, to their Family Community and World, and this conflict has and is now also Affecting Many Cousins Related to Our Families. I believe the Rollin and Diana's all too human, yet unresolved emotional issues from childhood are have deeply and unnecessarily corroded our family circle, and our family needs optimal therapy and reconciliation/mediation, not Orders of Protection, that would further set the cold war in stone by inadvertent official sanction.

In our culture, it is all too easy to selectively use and disguise geographical separation as cover for having driven close family away by acts of unkindness, for long term covert disparagement, disrespect and inappropriate relational aggression and extreme ostracism inappropriate to family health and life. Those that need to hide these memories act as if there were no mail, and telephones to mend fences and hearts. It is both easy and cowardly bullying in this way, to continue very destructive patterns in a covert and family corrosive way.

When an Order of Protection is used to coverup this family divisive behavior and keep it in place, it is an inappropriate use of any law, which is (or must become) generally inclined to assist family reconciliation not impair it. So I feel a continuation of this Order against me will actually hurt several young people in our family watching, who will come to learn that a personal grudge match based in unresolved childhood emotions and generational issues, can receive official sanction, while several excellent healing opportunities, such as telephone and Skype family therapy now available, that can even help family living at a distance, go rejected and unexplored.

***I also want to add that from an anthropological perspective, the relationships of aunts and cousins are extremely important, something that is often overlooked in our individualistic culture. In fact, all people on Earth are at most 50th cousins to everyone else on this planet biologically, <http://io9.com/5791530/why-humans-all-much-more-related-than-you-think>** Whether of a religious perspective or archeological one, it is generally agreed that All on Earth are from one ancestral Mother, (Mitochondrial) Eve. We are All in Fact, One Family. It is my belief that what we call the laws of our culture is failing family at every level. Only four countries in the world do not have paid family leave, 3 starving illiterate third world countries, and the United States; while in Europe, many countries offer 2-4 years of paid leave, recognizing the developmental and emotional bonding needs of not only young children and mothers, but also including fathers and other family as well. In my State Maryland, the unpaid work of family and community bonding is explicitly valued at least a some level of official law <http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/maryland-launches-genuine-progress-indicator>

, but this is not the case in Illinois, making the State more ill than most (considered the third most corrupt state in the country.http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/study-finds-illinois-third-most-corrupt-state/article_e5038a26-5812-11e1-bf8d-001a4bcf6878.html But even beyond that, the legal profession and its modes and makers are do not have public trust anymore.<http://finance.yahoo.com/blogs/big-data-download/most-least-trusted-occupations-160721749.html>, and if Shakespeare's famous quote is correct, they never did. Perhaps, no, obviously right under our noses but habitually unseen, this is because most of our world's 51% female kin do no have direct input into what are accustomed to calling and defining law and legal practice.

It is my sincere belief that if our courts spent more time looking at issues of siblings, cousins, parental, grandparental and other important family and community relationships, most crime, conflict and human suffering would be made a thing of the past. It is because we forget that **all are cousins, or cousines (as Europeans know to recognize the special kinship of female cousins) and cousins**; that is **sisters and brothers one or a remarkably few degrees distant**; that we all are cousins and siblings, mothers and aunts and men kin that all must learn to be kinder, too, and all their close family constellation are interacting leaves of a family tree, that our society is having so many problems. A culture in which male siblings and cousins do not divide, but honor Sisters and Mothers, and one another, without coldness or anger, is the real work of the Court that is the Human Heart and Spirit, and the Ultimate Court upon which All Are Judged, Hopefully, with Understanding and Love.

Background

As children and throughout our young lives until adulthood in our thirties, our mothers, my mother Harriet (Rollin's Aunt) and my Aunt Jackie (Rollin's Mother) were close, and our family visited with each other about every week or two weeks. Rollin and his brother were then, in some ways, like brothers to me, and indeed, cousins are simply children of sisters or brothers, and therefore, sisters and brothers one generation sequenced in what is called a degree. I remember that during these visits, Rollin and his brother were almost always engaged in very rough and highly competitive play, and indeed, often rolling around on the floor fighting each other. But Rollin and his brother and I generally got along well within the warmth of the family circle then, and I thought liked and loved each other. As young adults, Rollin's brother left the area and moved to California. I have now come to realize this likely occurred because his younger brother felt that Rollin was still competing with him in a way that was hurtful, and their parents were unwilling or unable to address this. Even after this, as young adults, Rollin sometimes handled small traffic tickets for me, and we would often have lunch together. I was in graduate school at the time, and Rollin was always friendly and positive and showed some interest in my views and education. So I know Rollin has affection for me in him somewhere; this friendlier and fairer side has simply deteriorated due to some unresolved childhood and intergenerational issues, that a good therapist could easily help with.

Rollin and his wife's friendliness toward me all changed drastically when our Mother Harriet, Rollin's Aunt, passed from our midst on Earth around 25 years ago. At that time, Rollin wanted to handle Harriet's estate, but I did not feel comfortable with this arrangement and objected, because I felt it blurred the roles of closest cousins during a period of mourning, and we should concentrate on comforting each other, not financial

matters. At first, my Sister agreed with me, but then, she changed her mind and asked Rollin to represent her, and I feel he may have somewhat pressured her to do this by subtly suggesting he would not be as friendly and supportive to her and my Nephew if she did not, a heavy message to a single parent looking for some male contact for her son.

As a result, a few weeks after our Mother passed, I invited Rollin and his wife Diana to my home for dinner with my Sister, and Rollin and Diana did not only not come, but actually canceled by calling my Sister instead of me, and I did not find out they were not coming until my Sister and Nephew arrived for the meal. Similarly, a traditional gravesite ceremony to honor our Mother/Aunt Harriet, was held about 6 months after her passing, and I sponsored a family wide gathering at my home for all our relatives. Rollin and Diana did not come, and neither did my Sister. All the rest of our family was there, some nearly 50 people. But my Sister and first Cousin were not there, thereby, as I felt then, dishonoring our Mother as well as hurting me severely during the year of mourning, and preventing us from mourning appropriately together.

The situation continued under the surface, and both a family therapist and a Rabbi called both my Sister and Rollin and asked them to engage in family therapy with me. Rollin refused and so did my Sister. The Rabbi told me I was experiencing what the Biblical Joseph (the son of my Biblical namesake, Rachel) experienced as the hands of his siblings and cousins. The situation put a great strain on my relationship with my Sister, and she confided in me that she felt suicidal because she felt guilty toward our Mother, who has passed during a two week period when my Sister was not talking with our Mother because she was upset with her about issues related to the relationship of my Sister and Mother related to their relationship as the primary caregivers of my Nephew. My Sister did not tell Rollin this, and when I told him in a phone conversation, he refused to believe that my Sister was having suicidal thoughts, and told me he thought I was. I told him that if he thought that I, his first cousin also, was suicidal (even though it was not so), why would he not engage in family therapy to help me, or indeed, either cousin?

Rollin hung up the phone and refused all requests to talk again. I was so concerned about my Sister, since she was refusing to see a therapist, that I left the area to seek input from friends living near where I live now. Because the family situation was so intense, I decided to remain at a geographical distance, to take the "heat off" these relationship problems. I saw a therapist near me in my State around 25 years ago, but the therapist refused to contact my family for reasons I now regard as evidence that, while many do, too many therapists do not understand the importance of contacting involved family, and engaging in some level of healing community intervention, when there is an important and extreme family conflict.

Also relevant to understanding our family is this: I noticed something: when Rollin and his brother received their JD degrees, I sent them both beautiful plants for their office for congratulation. When I received my Ph.D. degree some years later, neither Rollin or his brother sent even a card or called, even though I was the first woman in our branch of closest family to receive a higher degree. I have come to realize the underlying mindset this reveals is quite common in US culture, but nevertheless, destructively especially to women in a family. My sister later got a Paralegal degree. I sent her a beautiful gift of silk flowers. I am almost sure Diana and Rollin did not send my Sister any gift for her achievement, even though they were in regular contact at the time.

During the past 25 years since I moved, for the most part, my Sister and I had regular and frequent contact, reciprocally initiated by both. I also sent Diana and Rollin gifts when their children were born, and when they had Bar and Bat Mitzvahs (for which I received no invitation, but heard about through my Sister). I also sent Wholiday cards to them as with all our extended family, about four times a year for many years, and sent My Aunt Jackie and her husband (while he was on this Earth) birthday gifts every year. My Aunt Jackie would always send me a thank you note and called, while she was living with her husband in Florida, and she always sent me a birthday card for my Birthday. But when she returned to Chicago and resumed living near Diana and Rollin her husband passed, she stopped sending me any birthday cards. I noticed that I called her and she seemed happy and grateful to hear from me, but she never initiated any calls to me.

So I asked her to be more reciprocal and inclusive, and make sure my Sister and her Son knew she was treating both her Nieces with Love as the best way to protect the values of a family circle. My Aunt repeatedly agreed with me that she should and would do that, but never did. I now realize she would have felt disapproval from Diana and Rollin if she did. Shortly after the year two thousand, my Aunt called me to tell me she thought my Sister was suicidal. I told her we needed to do a three way call with my Sister. I initiated this and my Aunt and Sister were on the phone with me. I told my Sister that my Aunt had said she thought she was suicidal. My Sister did not say anything. To say something cheerful, I told them both I had done a write-in candidacy and run for President, with a very nice gentleman running mate, as a consciousness raiser for our culture, as in fact, several other women around the country had done. Both remained silent and said nothing. Then I told them that I thought there was a problem with Rollin and Diana, affecting us all. At this point, my Aunt very quickly and angrily hung up on my Sister and I, and then my Sister hung up.

I then undertook to call my Sister regularly for 2 years and talk for her for at least one hour a week, and wrote her every two weeks. My Sister cheered up and said she was not suicidal. But the underlying situation involving Diana and Rollin's vendetta and grudge toward me, which I feel continues to dishonor our Mother's many years of loving, family uniting Sisterhood, was never addressed. I have since come to understand that certain events occurred in my Sister's childhood which make her vulnerable to men who present as father figures at first but under the surface have competitive and dominance preoccupations that can impair their relationships with others, and even their own health. I also understand now that since Rollin's father and uncle were raised in an orphanage, and lost contact with their mother and (and assuming their were some) aunts and cousins, after their family fell apart, (which I will assume involved some conflict), Rollin may have come to think extended family separations and disconnections are normal, and have become desensitized to the importance of remembering and sharing the memories of Mothers and Aunts, and all ancestors, in families.

This may be also true of Diana's wife, whose parents were divorced. I was kind to Diana's mother and sent her many cards over the years. But when Diana's mother Barbara, who knew my Mother Harriet also and was kind to our family, passed a few years ago, no one told me, so I could not even know to send a condolence card. This saddened me greatly. Currently, under the stress of this situation, my Aunt Jackie's mental faculties have begun to fail. Since she told the counselor and that she had no interest in counseling, she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but I have a feeling her doctors are treating her with no knowledge of the stressful family situation and her likely guilt toward both my Mother's memory, and me her daughter. Indeed, I am named for my

and my Mother's Mother, and I have a sense that my Aunt's cut off from me is in some ways, emotionally, an emotional cut off from many mother figures in our family, and I feel this is at the root of my Aunt's mental deterioration, whether she is able to admit this just now under the pressure to please her Son and His Wife, or not.

Most important to me, My Nephew has Crohn's disease and from what I can tell from the distance, some measure of depression, which can both be induced by and worsened under stress, and it is likely his doctor is also treating him with no knowledge of how this situation has affected my Sister and I and Nephew and the family that all were once so much warmer and loving. Years ago, my Sister herself tried to obtain a Masters in Psychology. and showed great interest on conflict resolution techniques. But because our family under Rollin's and Diana's influence, I believe, has avoided needed family therapy, I have suffered a great deal of anxiety and upset over many years about many aspects affecting all of us, especially our younger generations.

Conclusion

All this is evidence of how our society is dealing with families. Both the medical and legal communities have much to learn in this regard, and likely, many people with JDs are having health and emotional stress in their own families, let alone those they see and represent in court, and not even knowing that family therapy and family reconciliation circles could and likely would help.

Because I believe this kind of situation is affecting millions of families, I have shared it with some other therapists and clergy, confidentially, already. I remain hopeful of family reconciliation circles and family therapy with our family. I hope no order will be kept in place that makes this even more difficult to arrange than it already has been. I have high standards for therapists, and I believe that either best practice family therapy, or even family reconciliation circles which is done by peers, would help and I can assist this to make it possible

Ever since my Cousins Rollin and Diana refused to speak with both clergy and counselor after our Mother Harriet/Rollin's Aunt passed 25 years ago, I have felt like Don Quixote tilting against the Windmill in honor of not only a Beloved Esmeralda, my Mother Harriet, but all her and our family, women and men, which once was fairly warm and close. As you know, Don Quixote never gave up and knew that even seemingly impossible dreams will one day become possible.

I truly Love My and All Family, and I know that All our Mother and Grandmothers, and also all the Men who at their best once brought family together, would never want me to give up on the potential of family reconciliation instead of a cold family civil war. And, as a therapist, I understand that all this keeping family from any contact for constructive and mutual understanding, icily insulated against any caring community, from counselors, and clergy and friends, actually covers up some very vulnerable feelings that Rollin and Diana had as children, and that could be addressed by any good therapist. If not, I fear for all our younger generations impacted by this family civil war that has gone on for 25 years. The name ~Soskin literally can have two meanings: Kin Who Provided Soss or Help, or Kin Who are in Need of Help. My Kin, Your Kin and All Are Kin are Mostly, in one way of another, In need of Soss, of Saving.

I Urge All Present and Aware of this Letter to Understand that a Protection Order was not

an appropriate remedy in this situation, but reveals a lot about all too common realities of our social including what we are accustomed to as legal systems. I also wish to say that even though I love all very much and never will lose that feeling toward any family, I have no plan of trying to speak with my cousin's wife Diana, my Cousin Rollin or my Aunt Jackie individually or myself directly right now, unless they contact me of their own good will, sense of shared memory, hope and volition. They have received so many very caring communications from me during this 25th year since our Mother/Aunt Harriet's passing from our Circle, although I have certainly expressed upset and intense concern, too. I think they will be much better served by hearing from a caring clergyperson, therapist or teacher about family including close extended family, whether trained or peer, than me, preferably a woman because so much of this is related to the loss of Harriet 25 years ago, and other separations and losses. The sad part is that in our very troubled society, it is difficult to find such people. But I do know of some kind people who may yet be willing to help, and **indeed, more likely to try because they know our social and legal system at every level so badly needs to look at the way it is letting family healing fall through the cracks. Love Itself is the Most Powerful Law upon Which All Life Depends.**

