

LAW OFFICES
GUHRING & FORBES

1730 K STREET NORTHWEST

SUITE 1011

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) 659-3690

MARYLAND OFFICE

SUITE 503

51 MONROE STREET

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

ELIZABETH GUHRING
PAMELA B. FORBES (D.C.)

March 8, 1984

Ms. Lynne Lester
District of Columbia Bar
1426 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Lynne:

On March 8, 1984, Division 9 was invited to participate on March 14, 1984, in a round-table discussion. The discussion will be held by the Judiciary Committee of the District of Columbia City Council on the issues raised by a bill introduced by Council member, Wilhelmina Rolark, to provide funding for representation of parents and children in neglect proceedings in the Superior Court. The bill is entitled the Neglect Representation Equity Act, and has been assigned the number 5-356. It has been co-sponsored by Mrs. Shackleton, Mrs. Kane, Mrs. Mason and Mr. Ray.

The problem which this legislation addresses is severe. In our view, the bill is both a substantial step toward solving a legal problem and a benefit to the members of the Bar. We would like to support the legislation at the round-table discussion and in testimony, should that become appropriate. So that the members of the Board of Governors may comprehend the dimensions of the problem, I enclose a copy of the proposed legislation and a fact sheet prepared by the Association of Abuse and Neglect attorneys.

Since I am well aware of the restrictions on taking public positions, I would of course be most careful to preface any remarks with the standard disclaimer to the effect that the views expressed are those of Division 9, Family Law, and not those of the District of Columbia Bar. I hope that Mary Patricia Toups, Esq., a Division 9 member