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February 18, 2008

Judge Szumowski  
San Diego Superior Court

Re: Diana Napolis

Dear Judge Szumowski,

This letter is to provide information for the motion to terminate probation hearing for Diana Napolis on February 19, 2008.

In January, 2008, Ms. Napolis submitted, under the pseudonym Ellen Leykus, to the Vice Chancellor of University of California- Davis (UC-Davis) a 53-page critique of the research study: Goodman, G.S., Qin, J., Bottoms, B.L. & Shaver (1994). *Characteristics and sources of allegations of ritualistic child abuse: Final report to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect*.

I have also reviewed the Goodman et al. study and am of the opinion that there are many irregularities within it. I have significant expertise in the subject of Goodman et al's paper. I have three publications in the subject area, one in press, one in pre-publication, one published in 2006.

Ms Napolis has now informed me that the Vice Chancellor responded to Ms. Napolis, stating that they had determined that she is the party who submitted the critique, that he did not believe that no academic misconduct had occurred, that he had counseled Gail Goodman not to attempt to contact Ms. Napolis, and finally, that the UC Davis campus authorities had been notified, apparently implying that campus security or police had been notified.

I consider it unethical to notify campus security or police in response to an academic critique. Every campus has procedures and bodies in place that permit citizens to raise questions about the writing and research associated with it's faculty to ensure the quality, accuracy, and integrity of the faculty's work. Notifying security and police in response to a written critique is a form of coercive censorship that violates academic freedom and freedom of speech.

The critique by Ms. Napolis, which I have seen, is not a personal attack and contains no personal threats. It is simply a critique of a study for the purpose of arriving at academic truth. She was acting within her legal rights and should not suffer any threats or repercussions for doing so.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Diego California on February 18, 2008.

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February 18, 2008

The Honorable David Szumowski  
San Diego Superior Court

**RE: Ms. Diana Napolis**

Dear Judge Szumowski:

This letter is in support of Ms. Diana Napolis and her petition to terminate her probation which is scheduled for your review on February 19, 2008.

Ms. Napolis is a scholar and researcher who has been accumulating and disseminating data relevant to the exploitation of children over the course of the past several years. She recently brought to the attention of the Vice Chancellor of the University of California, Davis Campus, questions regarding the validity of some data reported by faculty affiliated with that school. She submitted her inquiry using a pseudonym because she was concerned about her own anonymity and because she did not wish for her recently acquired controversial status to detract from her legitimate concerns.

It is the duty of every researcher to scrutinize the work of other researchers in order to assure to as much as possible the integrity of the foundations on which they build future theories. Ms. Napolis noted discrepancies in the material put forth by faculty at UC Davis and brought it to the attention of the Chancellor in the hopes that an ensuing investigation would help to clarify the study's integrity and value to future research. It was not her intention to create a hostile environment that would result in stifling academic freedom and this and future research efforts.

Every university provides for academic and ethical oversight of research produced by its affiliates and Ms. Napolis has every right to bring her concerns to the attention of this body. It is, in fact, the responsibility of researchers to examine the due diligence of one another's work in order to maintain the highest possible standards in the field. It appears that for whatever reason, the university is responding to Ms. Napolis' inquiries in an inappropriate and punitive manner. It is our hope that Your Honor will not permit this response from the University of California at Davis to negatively impact on Ms. Napolis' request for termination of her period of probation and that you will restore her to her status as a citizen with full rights and privileges.

Respectfully yours,