



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
BILL LOCKYER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 10, 2002

Jenefer Duane, Executive Director
California Community Partnership
for the Prevention of Financial Abuse
1400 A Grant Avenue
Novato, CA 94945

Dear Ms. Duane:

I am writing to commend and support the California Community Partnership for the Prevention of Financial Abuse in its innovative efforts to protect the elderly from becoming victims of financial exploitation.

As you are aware, the California Department of Justice has been aggressively combating abuse and neglect in elder care facilities using the full spectrum of enforcement tools, including criminal prosecutions, civil lawsuits and surprise inspections. I am pleased to share that our efforts over the past few years have yielded not only the state's first criminal convictions and civil judgments against poor performing skilled nursing facilities, but also the recent honor of being selected as the nation's premiere elder abuse and health care fraud prosecutorial agency by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

However, aggressive enforcement action is but one component of any effective solution to the growing epidemic of elder abuse. The other critical components center on raising public awareness, galvanizing our citizenry to be proactive (e.g., reporting suspected abuse) and marshaling private and public resources in a collaborative manner so that limited resources can be leveraged to produce the maximum benefit. The California Community Partnership for the Prevention of Financial Abuse (CCPPFA) certainly has been a leader and an innovator in this arena.

The CCPPFA is a cutting-edge public/private collaborative dedicated to training employees of financial institutions to recognize and report suspected financial abuse of the elderly. Considering that financial institutions, from banks to credit unions, are in a unique

Jenefer Duane, Executive Director

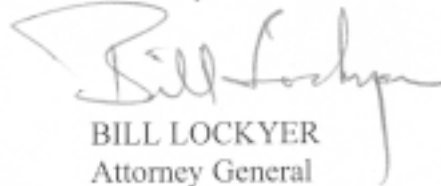
Page 2

position to detect unusual or suspicious activity involving the finances of their elderly clientele, enlisting their cooperation is a smart and effective approach.

Moreover, the CCPPFA has also raised community awareness of this rapidly growing crime through community education seminars and public awareness campaigns. Its work has been well praised in many counties, including Marin, El Dorado, Yolo, Siskiyou, Sonoma and San Francisco. My hope is that through efforts such as this, the public consciousness will be awakened to one of this millennium's fastest growing, yet most under-reported crimes.

As you endeavor to expand your successful approach throughout the state, please do not hesitate to share my endorsement of your organization's noble work. Should my office be able to assist you further, please do not hesitate to call Collin Wong of my staff at (916) 274-2994.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lockyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General