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October 7, 2005

The Honorable Gerald Van Woerkom
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Re: SB 379 Special Advocates

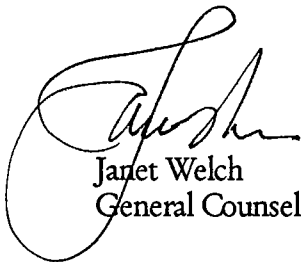
Dear Senator Van Woerkom:

At its September 21, 2005, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to **oppose in principle**¹ SB 379. While we recognize the great service performed by court-appointed special advocates, we received concerns about the scope of the responsibilities that would be accorded to volunteers, and the adequacy of the training requirements.

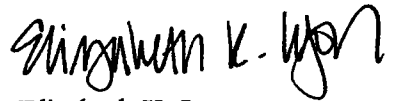
For your information, please find enclosed public policy reports from the State Bar of Michigan's Children's Law Section and Family Law Section. Please note that the views expressed by the Sections do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact Janet Welch directly at (517) 346-6375, jwelch@mail.michbar.org; or Elizabeth Lyon directly at (517) 346-6325, elyon@mail.michbar.org.

Sincerely,



Janet Welch
General Counsel



Elizabeth K. Lyon
Public Policy Program Analyst

CC. Thomas W. Cranmer, President
John T. Berry, Executive Director
Nell Kuhnmuensch, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.

¹ Definition of oppose in principle: Pending legislation that the State Bar opposes but is not the subject of active lobbying effort. The State Bar is on record on this position and will explain it upon request.