



CENTER FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

**For Immediate Release:
March 31, 2011**

**Contact: Kathleen Russell
Cell: 415-250-1180**

Evaluator Janelle Burrill May Have State License Revoked

SACRAMENTO – Controversial custody evaluator Janelle Burrill is accused of committing “gross negligence” in family court proceedings and she may have her Clinical Social Worker license revoked by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board). Previously, multiple parents in Sacramento and Placer Counties have filed criminal and consumer complaints against Burrill. These parents have alleged serious misconduct by Burrill in their family court cases.

On March 17, 2011, Kim Madsen, Executive Officer of the Board, filed an accusation in conjunction with Attorney General Kamala Harris’ office, against Burrill. Madsen recommended that the full board hold a hearing concerning this accusation and revoke or suspend Burrill’s license. Madsen stated that Burrill misrepresented herself on a renewal application to the American Board of Examiners for Clinical Social Workers (ABE). ABE revoked Burrill’s certification as a “Board Certified Diplomate” because Burrill falsely claimed on her application that she had no pending complaints against her. In fact, the Board had at least two pending complaints filed against Burrill at the time of her ABE application.

Madsen continued that Burrill “falsely stated” to the Placer County Superior Court that a pending Board complaint was dismissed – in fact it was not dismissed and it is still pending. Coupled with repeated misrepresentations to the court and peer organizations, Madsen wrote that these actions amounted to a low standard of professional conduct and were negligent acts.

“The Board needs to act swiftly and approve the recommendation by its own Executive Officer to revoke Burrill’s state license. Appointees like Burrill have operated far too long with little or no oversight. The state needs to ensure the rights of children and their parents are protected to the fullest extent of the law,” said Kathleen Russell, the Executive Director of the Center for Judicial Excellence.

Earlier this year, the California State Auditor’s office noted in their family court audit that court appointees didn’t meet basic training requirements or qualifications and the Marin and Sacramento courts failed to have established processes for handling complaints against an appointee.

###