



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 23, 2018

DATE: Wednesday, December 13, 2017

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mary Herzik, Family Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court (775) 328-3299, mary.herzik@washoecourts.us

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

SUBJECT: Acknowledge a bequest of [\$9,500], from the estate of Deborah Lee Lumkes, Deceased to the CASA Program of the Second Judicial District Court, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The CASA Program of the Second Judicial District Court (Court) has received funds totaling \$9,500 from the Estate of Deborah Lee Lumkes, Deceased. Ms. Lumkes was a prominent local attorney practicing primarily in family law. In 1992, she was hired as the first female Court Master in Washoe County. Additionally, Ms. Lumkes served as a Judge Pro Tem in the Reno Justice Court, and a Judge Pro Tem in the Reno Municipal Court. In 2006, Ms. Lumkes was awarded the Child Advocate Attorney of the Year Award. The distribution to the CASA Program from the estate of Ms. Lumkes will be used to expand and strengthen volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children who are in need of a safe, permanent home.

County Priority supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates is an organization of volunteer advocates who speak up for abused and neglected children in court and help them achieve the goal of a safe, permanent home. The CASA Program of the Second Judicial District Court started in 1989 and is part of a national network of 979 state and local CASA programs operating in 49 states. These programs recruit and train community volunteers to be independent fact finders for the Court. The core responsibilities of the CASA are to speak on behalf of the child's best interest in the courtroom, act as a watchdog for the

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child for the duration of the case, and ensure the Court has all the relevant facts and up to date information about the child. In a typical year, more than 900 children in Washoe County go through the juvenile court system because their family is in crisis. The presence of a trained advocate ensures the best interests of the child are at the center of decision-making and the Court has the most important and up to date information about the child. In 2016, 191 children had a CASA appointed to their case. To ensure more children in Washoe County have the benefit of a CASA volunteer, the bequest from the estate of Ms. Lumkes will be used to train more volunteers and create a greater awareness of the needs of abused and neglected children in our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bequest to the CASA Program has been deposited to Internal Order 20450. Should the board acknowledge these funds, the adopted budget will be amended in the following accounts:

Internal Order	G/L Account	Amount
20450	484195	\$9,500
20450	710100	\$9,500

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge a bequest of [\$9,500], from the estate of Deborah Lee Lumkes, Deceased to the CASA Program of the Second Judicial District Court, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the Second Judicial District Court's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to acknowledge a bequest of [\$9,500], from the estate of Deborah Lee Lumkes, Deceased to the CASA Program of the Second Judicial District Court, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.