



## Consumer Advocates for RCFE Reform

P O Box 82123 ● San Diego, CA 92138  
(619) 540-1648 ● [info@rcfereform.org](mailto:info@rcfereform.org)  
[www.rcfereform.org](http://www.rcfereform.org)

### FOUNDERS

Christina L Selder  
*President*

C M Murphy  
*Chief Operating Officer*

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. J. Anguera  
*California Commission  
on Aging*

Teri Christensen  
*Realtor, Berkshire  
Hathaway*

Cindy Hasz,  
*Grace Care  
Management*

Richard Shigley  
*Col., USMA Retired*

Daniel Shillito, Esq.  
*Consultant*

Susan Valoff  
*Vice President,  
Windward  
Life Care*

The Honorable Runston G. Maino  
San Diego Superior Court  
1100 Union Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

In Re: **People v. Bradley Thomas**  
San Diego Superior Court Case #SCD270176

Dear Honorable Judge Maino:

CARR (Consumer Advocates for RCFE<sup>1</sup> Reform) writes today to advocate for your imposition of the most stringent sentence for Bradley Thomas. Mr. Thomas has been found guilty of the crimes of raping two frail, elderly women - both cognitively impaired, diminished in capacity, and fully dependent on staff in an assisted living facility.

According to the 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures,<sup>2</sup> 42% of all residents living in the assisted living setting have Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias. In California, that translates to 80,000 residents living in assisted living, having diminished capacity, and who are at greater risk in the presence of predators like Mr. Thomas. Elder abuse crimes in long-term care settings is an invisible epidemic, and is largely unprosecuted.

Rape victims report long-lasting trauma from their experience, and have difficulty processing the violence against them. A 2017 article<sup>3</sup> summarizes study findings suggesting that trauma experienced by a rape victim suffering from Alzheimer's or other dementias may result in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In a cognitively-impaired person having limited or severe communications deficits, the PTSD may be manifested through "specific behavioral changes." This study suggests to us that the lasting harm to these two elder victims can be neither dismissed nor underestimated.

What is at stake is simply **elder justice**, at its most fundamental. The impact of the defendant's sentence in this case will cast a long shadow across the long-term care industry (assisted living, skilled nursing, hospice and intermediate care facilities) affecting how it hires, trains, and evaluates caregiver suitability for working with a population of largely vulnerable frail, ill, and cognitively impaired clientele.

8 August 2019