

Addendum: Advocacy in Michigan

I re-read the book, from start to finish, about a week after it was released. This caused me to reflect on what I had written. Questions started to arise. Had I written too much? Too little? Was it too serious? Should I have included more about the fun I had in Ferndale as a child? Did I leave an impression that after I moved from Michigan to California that I never looked back – that I abandoned my home town and home state?

Having mulled these questions over for a few more days, I decided to write this addendum to include some additional memories and retrospective observations, especially about my subsequent civil rights advocacy in Michigan. The stories about those advocacy efforts involve several key people in my life: Daniel R. Sivil, Rudy Serra, “The Coleman Sisters” (Cathy Coleman, Carolyn Skalneek, and Diane Coleman Rogers), and a teenager I will refer to as “Emma.”

Daniel R. Sivil *Sexual Civil Liberties*



Dan Sivil (upper left) and members of ASP

Dan Sivil was a resident of Oakland County. He lived in Troy. I met Dan in the late 1970s when I was the co-chair of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. The committee was a group of lawyers, lay advocates, and scholars from various academic disciplines who worked together to repeal or invalidate state laws criminalizing private sexual conduct between consenting adults. Although he was neither a lawyer or a professor, Dan joined the National Committee in his capacity as a lay advocate for sexual civil liberties.

At the time I met Dan, Michigan had criminal laws prohibiting sodomy as well as three “gross indecency” statutes – outlawing oral sex between males, between females, and between a male and a female. There was also a law criminalizing cohabitation between an unmarried man and an

unmarried woman. In addition to their use in criminal prosecutions, these laws were sometimes cited as a rationale to deny employment to government employees, housing to tenants, professional licenses, and to deny or restrict visitation or child custody to gay, lesbian, or unmarried parents.

Dan was the president of the Association of Suburban People in the late 1970s and early 1980s. ASP

was an association of gay men who lived in suburban Detroit. The group held social events, some of which had an educational component. Dan was also involved with the Michigan Organization for Human Rights – a statewide organization advocating for the civil and constitutional rights of the LGBT community. In 1979, Dan arranged for me to speak at a MOHR conference in Southfield. My topic was “Consenting Adults: The Need for Law Reform.” The following year, Dan set up a speaking engagement for me on a radio talk show at WDET-FM to discuss the “Status of Sexual Civil Liberties in Michigan.”



Jay Kohorn Hands Award to Tom Coleman

In 1981, Dan organized a sexual civil liberties conference which was held on the campus of Wayne State University. I had just been appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Governor’s Commission on Personal Privacy in California. The conference brought together members of the National Committee and members of the Privacy Commission to discuss strategies for advancing sexual privacy rights through advocacy with legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. The strategies would help advocates in Michigan and the other 49 states.

The National Committee held an awards banquet during the conference. Many of my family members who lived in Michigan attended and witnessed me receiving the Mathew O. Tobriner Civil Liberties Award “In recognition of outstanding work and in evidence of high achievement in the areas of civil

liberties and personal privacy.” The award was named after a California Supreme Court justice who had written many opinions protecting and expanding civil liberties, including sexual civil liberties. He gave his blessing to the use of his name for this honor – an award that was presented to me by my friend and colleague Jay Kohorn.

In response to his invitation as president of the group, I spoke at a meeting of ASP in Troy in 1982. My presentation focused on the “Importance of Privacy as a Strategy in the 1980s.”

The comradery I developed with Dan through the National Committee, and his willingness to include me in these activities in Michigan, provided an opportunity for me to use my ever expanding advocacy skills and professional networks to advance the cause of civil liberties in my home state.

Rudy Serra

Privacy and Marital Status

Rudy Serra was born at Selfridge Airforce Base in Mt. Clemens Michigan. He attended Taft Elementary School and St. James Junior High School in Ferndale and graduated with honors from Ferndale High School.



Rudy Serra, Tom Coleman, and Mary Jiordano at book signing event in Ferndale

Although Rudy lived only two blocks from my family's home, I did not know him when I was growing up in Ferndale. He knew of the Coleman family because one of my sisters sometimes went to his house to play with his sister. But Rudy and I did not interact during that era.

It was not until 1993 that I was referred to attorney Rudy Serra by a colleague – probably Dan Sivil. I was looking for a Michigan attorney who would sponsor a brief I was writing in two cases pending in the Michigan Supreme Court. *People v. Lino* and *People v. Brashier* provided an opportunity to argue that Michigan laws criminalizing private sex between consenting adults were unconstitutional. I contacted Rudy and he agreed to sign onto the brief as co-counsel. We jointly filed the brief on

behalf of Spectrum Institute, the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, and the Triangle Foundation. Even though these cases presented the court with an opportunity to make private consenting adult sexual conduct off limits to prosecution, a majority of the justices sidestepped the issue. Since only three justices would have declared the statute unconstitutional as applied to consenting adult behavior, our hopes for judicial invalidation of the law were dashed.

Criminal penalties for consenting sex would remain in place in Michigan for another decade. In 2003, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that states lacked authority to criminalize such consenting adult behavior. It took the nation's highest court to protect the privacy rights of Michigan residents.

Five years later, I invited Rudy to be co-counsel on a brief I wanted to file with the Michigan Supreme Court. The case of *Biaz v. Hoffius* involved a landlord who used his religious beliefs against unmarried cohabitation as an excuse to deny a rental application from an unmarried heterosexual couple. Although Michigan had a statute that prohibited marital status discrimination in housing, the landlord claimed a "religious freedom" exemption from the fair housing statute. Citing the "free exercise" clause of the federal Constitution, the landlord argued that he could not be forced by the state to rent to people whom he believed would be committing sin in the rental unit. To rent to an unmarried couple, the landlord argued, would involve him in the facilitation of sin.

I had previously been involved in similar litigation and had won that case in the California Supreme Court. In a 4 to 3 decision, a majority of the justices had ruled that landlords could not use their religious beliefs as a reason to deny housing to an unmarried couple. The court ruled that the state had authority to prohibit marital status discrimination by for-profit business owners, including landlords. I wanted to work with Rudy to achieve a similar precedent in Michigan. We filed a brief on behalf of Spectrum Institute and the Triangle Foundation. In a split decision, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled for the tenants. However, before the case was final, a rehearing was granted after one justice left the bench and was replaced by another. The new justice sided with the dissenters and formed a new majority, sending the case back down to the trial court for further

review. Our victorious precedent was erased and the issue was left unresolved. Kicking the can down the road seems to be something the Michigan Supreme Court is fond of doing.



In 1995, Rudy arranged for me to speak to the legal committee of the Triangle Foundation. I made suggestions for law reform activities to be included in their strategies to advance the legal rights of the LGBT community.

In 2009, I published “The Domino Effect: How strategic moves for gay rights, singles’ rights, and family diversity have touched the lives of millions.” When I sent a copy to Rudy, he suggested that I do a book signing at the Just 4 Us bookstore. He also put me in contact with folks at Wayne State University. I did the book signing event in Ferndale which Rudy and my St. James classmate Mary Jiordano attended. I spoke at the law school on “The Future of Gay Rights, Singles’s Rights and Family Diversity in Michigan.” In June 2016, as soon as I finished my new book – *Growing Up in Ferndale* – I contacted Rudy, knowing that he still lives in Ferndale and has many connections there. As usual, Rudy has been very helpful. He gave me some good suggestions for distribution of the book.

I am grateful to my friend and colleague, attorney Rudy Serra, for collaborating with me on civil liberties cases and projects in Michigan. With his collaboration, I have been able to apply some of the knowledge and advocacy skills I have developed over the years to promote the protection and preservation of civil liberties in my state of origin.

The Coleman Sisters ***AASP and Unmarried America***



Front (left): Diane, Carolyn, Mom, Cathy, Maryann
Back: (left): Tom, Dan, Gary, Michael, Larry

Three of my sisters – Cathy Coleman, Carolyn Skalnek, and Diane Coleman Rogers – live in Oakland County. Although I moved to California several decades ago, I have remained in contact with my siblings, five of whom live in Michigan and three of whom live in Arizona.

Soon after the Supreme Court sent the Hoffius case back to the trial court for reconsideration of whether the landlord’s religious freedom claim would trump the tenant’s statutory claim of marital status discrimination, a legislator decided

to introduce a bill that invoked a “nuclear option.” It defined “marital status” in a way that excluded legal protection for unmarried couples in any context, be it employment, housing or other business practices. If a bill were enacted to strip unmarried couples of their civil rights protections, then the issue of a religious exemption would be moot. Landlords, employers, and other businesses would be able to legally discriminate against anyone living in an unmarried relationship. This bill – HB 4258 – was the most radical assault on the civil rights of unmarried Americans I had ever seen.



About the same time HB 4258 was introduced, I was launching a civil rights venture for unmarried Americans. A businessman who believed in equal rights for single people asked me to help him create a new national organization. Just like there was AARP for seniors, there would be an AASP for single people. The term “single” was defined as anyone who was not married, regardless of whether they lived alone or with a roommate or relatives, or whether they had children or not. The American Association for Single People – later renamed Unmarried America – would advocate for all unmarried people, whether single, divorced, or widowed. At the time, there were 80 million such adults. In addition to an educational nonprofit that people could join, we formed a companion Equal Rights Campaign to advocate for and against legislation affecting the rights of this unmarried constituency.

Because I had never done anything like this before, I turned to my three sisters in Michigan for advice and assistance. Each of them had various talents that would be helpful. Cathy was unmarried at the time, so I hoped she would participate as a civil rights advocate for single people. Although Carolyn and Diane were both married, they were supportive when I approached them for help. Carolyn was good with accounting. She agreed to serve as treasurer of the association. Diane had experience in advertising and marketing. She agreed to help with those aspects of the project.

One of the most immediate projects was to deal with HB 4258. I wrote a lengthy legal memo analyzing the bill and exposing the ramifications it would have on more than 3 million adults in Michigan, including 350,000 single parents, 300,000 unrelated adults who live together, and thousands of seniors and people with disabilities who cohabit because they would be penalized by pension plans and government benefit programs if they were to marry.

Cathy agreed to serve as the President of the Michigan Chapter of the Equal Rights Campaign. We issued a news advisory on March 8, 1999, advising the media that Cathy and I would be appearing the next day at the hearing on the bill in the House Judiciary Committee. We did appear and testified against the bill. We also gave interviews to print and broadcast media after the hearing.

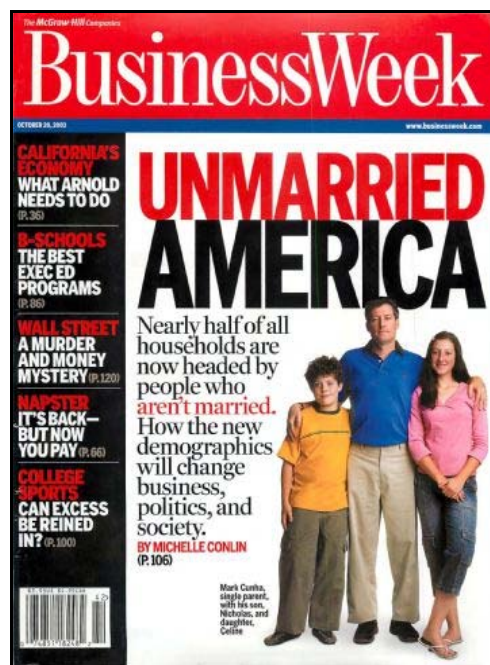
The next day, a story ran in the Detroit Free Press titled “House Debates Redefining ‘Marital Status’.” The story summarized my testimony, explaining that the ramifications of the bill went way beyond the issue of housing. “Coleman said the new definition of marital status would apply to all other civil rights protections. He said the changes would strip away protections unmarried couples have in their jobs, in schools and access to public services.” The story quoted me as saying: “This is the worst assault on the rights of single people that I have seen in the entire United States.” “It is

using a meat cleaver to perform constitutional surgery.” It also quoted what the author of the bill had to say about our testimony in opposition to the bill. “We kind of got beat up in there,” Rep. Clark Bisbee(R-Jackson) told the newspaper.

When the committee declined to bring the bill up for a vote, the author quietly dropped the measure. I later received a letter of thanks from Representative Elizabeth Brater, a Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. “The written materials provided by the American Association for Single People (AASP) . . . were extremely helpful,” she said. The letter explained that AASP had played a pivotal role in defeating the bill. I had my three sisters to thank, especially Cathy who personally advocated with me in Lansing, for this legislative victory for our new AASP.

A few years later, AASP morphed into Unmarried America, although the advocacy mission remained the same. Carolyn continued to volunteer as a board member and treasurer for several years. Diane provided her skills as a graphics artist in helping AASP develop newspaper advertisements and other promotional materials, including for special events.

One of those events was a gathering of Unmarried America supporters in Washington, D.C. in September 2003. We held an informational briefing for members of Congress and their staffers in the Rayburn Office Building. We also walked the halls of the House and the Senate office buildings to deliver materials to all Senators and Representatives – including those from Michigan – informing them of what the federal government can do to protect the rights of single and unmarried Americans.



This message was especially timely, considering that census data released in 2003 showed that a majority of the nation’s households were headed by unmarried adults. In terms of households and living arrangements, we had become an “unmarried majority” nation, with Michigan being an “unmarried majority” state. We wanted our elected officials to be aware of this shift in demographics and to make legal and political adjustments to protect this new, and generally silent, majority. Our message was amplified when an October 2003 issue of BusinessWeek Magazine ran a cover story on Unmarried America. That story – which I had pitched to the magazine and nurtured for several months – put politicians and corporate executives on notice that policies and practices of the government and private enterprise would need a major revamp to accommodate this new demographic and the changing political reality. Policies premised on the assumption of a married majority would have to give way to the fact that most households no longer contained a

married couple. The “marriage gap” in voting patterns would also catch the attention of the Democratic Party which was fast becoming the choice of single and unmarried voters, especially female voters. We were entering uncharted political territory and I was leading an organization that was rallying the population through our educational and advocacy activities.

The Case of Emma

Abuse of Teenagers

After three years of full-time promotion of singles' rights through AASP and Unmarried America, my spouse and I moved to Hawaii in January 2003. We operated the organization from our home in Kona as an online information and education service. In the late summer of 2004, we decided to move back to Los Angeles and to rent out the Hawaii home. As we were in the process of transitioning from Hawaii to California, our relocation activities were interrupted by a distress call regarding a teenage girl who lived in Oakland County, Michigan. My sister Diane called me from her cellphone in Canada where she and her husband and daughter were on vacation. That fateful call changed my life for the next two years.

The story about the rescue of "Emma" is worth retelling here since it is another example of my advocacy efforts in Michigan. I have told the story previously when I wrote my professional memoirs in *The Domino Effect* in 2009. Rather than rewriting the story from scratch in this book, I will simply "plagiarize" myself by taking a section from that book and repeating it here.

In August 2004, I flew back to the mainland for a family reunion. My mother and many of my siblings and their spouses and children lived in Michigan. After about a week of partying and family activities, it was time to return to Hawaii. I was scheduled to catch a plane from the Detroit airport very early the next morning, so I wanted to get to sleep by 10 p.m. Unfortunately, my bedtime plans were changed when my niece, Cameo, introduced me to her friend, Emma, and asked if I could speak with them privately. The three of us found a secluded place in the house and sat down for a chat. What a chat! Emma lived in an abusive home with a controlling father and a passive mother. For several years, her father had created a household filled with fear. Emma and her siblings would never know when their dad would become enraged. He would destroy furniture, yell and scream, and intimidate the family. Things had gotten so bad that Emma had attempted suicide on two occasions. She was depressed and afraid. Cameo wanted my advice as to what Emma should do.

Needless to say, I did not get to bed as scheduled that night. I arranged for Emma to spend the night at Cameo's house. My sister Diane called Emma's mother and asked for permission for Emma to stay at their house for a few days. My sister Carolyn lived next door to a clinical psychologist who provided counseling and therapy to children and teenagers. Carolyn called Dr. Vanessa who scheduled an appointment for Emma the next day. The game plan was that Emma would tell Vanessa about the ongoing abuse. Vanessa would then have a legal obligation to report the problem to the Child Protective Services agency. I called my friend, Nora Baladerian, to get her opinion on this strategy. Nora is a clinical psychologist who specializes in child abuse. Nora gave her OK.

I flew back to Hawaii. For the next few days, I would get updates on how things were progressing for Emma. She saw Dr. Vanessa three times. Vanessa interviewed Emma's sister who confirmed that ongoing abuse was happening. Vanessa reported the abuse to the county. The county called the parents in for an interview. Things were moving in the right direction. Emma, who was 16, returned to the school campus for a football game which occurred two days before Labor Day weekend. She was scheduled to start a new part-time job the next day. Cameo and her family were on a short vacation in Canada.



Diane and Cameo Ask Me to Help Emma

On the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, I picked up the phone and took a call from my sister Diane. She was concerned that something may have happened to Emma. Cameo had received a call on her cell phone, while they were still in Canada, from Aaron, a friend of Emma. No one had seen or heard from Emma since Thursday night after the sports event. She did not show up at work on Friday. Aaron had received a short text message from Emma on Saturday morning, "Help, I'm scared." My sister Diane called Emma's house. Emma's mother told Diane that they had sent Emma to a boarding school out of state. She

would not disclose the location of the school or its name. Calls then started flying back and forth among various friends of Emma. One of them finally confided to Cameo that Emma's mother had told her in confidence that Emma had been enrolled in Spring Creek Lodge in Montana and that she would not be home for a few months.

Diane called me with this information. Spring Creek Lodge? Montana? This did not sound right. Why would Emma disappear so abruptly? She was scheduled to attend her first day of classes on Tuesday. She was supposed to have started a new job. Could this have something to do with the fact that Emma's dad had been reported to the authorities for suspected child abuse? Emma was suicidal. She was in therapy with Dr. Vanessa. We checked with Vanessa and she confirmed that Emma was scheduled to see her on Tuesday afternoon after school got out. No one had consulted Vanessa about the effect of an abrupt move on Emma's fragile emotional condition.

I told Diane and Cameo that I would try to do some research on the Internet about Spring Creek Lodge and that I would report back to them as soon as I had any relevant information. In the process of doing my research, I came across the address and phone number of Spring Creek Lodge. So I called and asked to speak with the executive director. The assistant director got on the phone and we spoke. He would not confirm or deny whether Emma was there. I told him that she was suicidal and that her therapist wanted to call her to speak with her. "That is not going to happen," I was told.

When I hung up the phone, I got back on the Internet to find more information about Spring Creek Lodge. I found several news stories and other postings indicating that Spring Creek Lodge is more like a prison for juveniles who are held there against their will, deprived of all outside contact with the world, watched 24 hours a day by another teen inmate, disciplined by their teen-inmate-watchdog, sometimes isolated in an isolation hut, placed on a limited diet of bananas and beans, etc.

The Lodge was part of a larger affiliation of similar facilities, known as the World Wide Association of Speciality Programs (WWASP). WWASP was being investigated by a congressional subcommittee in Washington for abuse and neglect of teen inmates, had been referred to the Justice Department by a congressman for investigation, had some of its facilities closed by government agencies, had many facilities sued for abuse by parents, and had many other complaints against them for abuse and mistreatment of teens.

Emma was in deep trouble. I later learned that Emma had returned home about midnight on the day of her disappearance after having attended a party following the football game. She went to bed and then was abruptly awakened at 3 a.m. by a total stranger who forced her out of the house and flew her to Montana against her will. Emma's parents were aware of the situation.

I called Vanessa and brought her up to date on what had happened. I asked her to call the facility, inform them that she is Emma's treating psychologist, and request to speak with her. Vanessa later reported back to me that she made the call. She had a conversation with the "communications director" of the facility. Vanessa found out that the clinical director of the facility does not even have a professional degree. They would not allow her to speak to Emma.

I then had a long conversation with a child abuse prevention professional in New York. I was referred to him by Nora Baladerian. He was very concerned for Emma's welfare, especially considering her risk for suicide, the abduction, and her involuntary confinement in a non-therapeutic facility. He encouraged me to get more aggressive, to shift this to the legal arena, and to get as much publicity for this case as possible to make it high profile. He said that only such aggressive action would cause her release from confinement and her return to Michigan where she could get the therapy and support she needed. Failure to get aggressive might result in her death.



An Isolation Room at Spring Creek Lodge

I followed the advice and immediately placed two calls to child abuse hotlines, one in Montana and one in Michigan. I explained the situation about the abuse, the intervention of Child Protective Services in Michigan, Emma's suicidal risk, her abduction to Montana, the abrupt end of therapy, and the refusal of the facility in Montana to allow Emma to speak with her therapist in Michigan.

On September 8, I received an e-mail from the International Survivors Action Committee (ISAC), a nonprofit group run by individuals who have survived involuntary confinement in facilities like the one in which Emma was being held. This was in reply to my request for information about Spring Creek Lodge. She said that time was of the essence, since Child Protective Services would probably take more than two weeks to respond, and since the contract Emma's parents signed with Spring Creek Lodge authorized the staff there to transfer Emma to a facility in Jamaica if she is "resistant" to their orders. ISAC had been monitoring Spring Creek Lodge and similar facilities for years.

I forwarded the e-mail message, with my own cover note, to everyone I thought would be interested in having Emma freed from confinement, including government officials and advocacy groups in Michigan. My cover note said that if CPS or Michigan authorities did not have Emma returned to Michigan this week (at least for an interview with authorities), then aggressive legal, political, and media action would be taken by me. I then made phone calls to several nonprofit groups and several agency officials in Michigan.

On Wednesday afternoon, there was a breakthrough. I received a call from a supervisor with Child Protective Services in Michigan. They were preparing a petition to file with the Probate Court. They hoped to have it filed by Thursday morning at the latest.

About noon the next day I spoke by phone with a social worker who informed me that a judge had entered an order temporarily placing legal custody of Emma with the CPS and directing the CPS to have Emma returned from Montana to Michigan. The social worker was on her way back to her office to set in motion a process to have the local sheriff in Sanders County pick Emma up from Spring Creek Lodge and turn her over to the social worker who was planning to fly to Montana on Friday to bring Emma back. We were making progress, or so it seemed.

I called the social worker on her cell phone at 5 p.m. Hawaii time to check on her progress with officials in Montana. I was concerned because I had read information that Spring Creek Lodge, which housed up to 500 teenagers, was the largest employer in Sanders County. The facility had strong connections with local officials. I planned to leave her a message asking her to call me as soon as Emma was on the ground in Michigan. To my surprise, the social worker answered the phone even though it was 11 p.m. in Michigan. She sounded very upset and shaken. I was informed that the Sanders County sheriff was refusing to honor the court order from Michigan.



Emma's Case Evolved into a New Project

My adrenaline started to rush. I decided to call the Child Abuse Hotline in Montana again. They told me to call back in the morning. I then searched through the Web site of the attorney general's office in Montana. I found a telephone number for the Missing Persons Clearinghouse. I called the number and spoke with Tom. I informed him of the critical facts. We agreed that as I continued to make other calls, he would look through the attorney general's Web site and try to find names of people for me to contact in the morning. He promised to call me back a little later.

About 30 minutes later I received a call from an assistant attorney general in Montana. I was surprised because of the late hour there. I told him the story. He promised to make calls in the morning to key officials in Michigan to verify the facts. He would have them fax him the court order after which he would contact the district attorney and the sheriff to urge them to cooperate with Michigan authorities to implement the court order to return Emma to Michigan.

The assistant attorney general followed through as he had promised. He verified the facts and then put pressure on the Sanders County sheriff to honor the Michigan court order. The Michigan social worker flew to Montana with a deputy sheriff. Things in Montana had unfolded so strangely that they were not going to take any chances with anything going wrong when they were in Montana. Emma flew back to Michigan and was placed with her grandparents.

About a week later, Michael and I left Hawaii and returned to Los Angeles. This whole ordeal with Emma had happened at a very inopportune time for us. During Labor Day weekend and for the following week, we were packing our belongings since we had decided to rent out the house in Hawaii and to return to Los Angeles to live. With Michael assuming almost all of the duties associated with moving, I had been able to devote most of my time to the rescue of Emma.

I stayed in communication with the ISAC group and got updates on its activities. About a month after we returned to Los Angeles, I received a report that a teenage girl had committed suicide at Spring Creek Lodge. The institution had managed to keep the incident out of the media. But ISAC had its sources. I was saddened to hear of this tragedy, but glad it was not Emma. We had secured her release in the nick of time, or she might have used suicide as her only escape from imprisonment.

My involvement with Emma's case, and the connection with other abuse victims through the ISAC group, prompted involvement in yet another civil liberties cause. Nora and I started the Emancipation Project. For the next two years we devoted countless hours advocating for the closure of these despicable institutions. My spouse, Michael, participated in the project. In a special intervention, we went to the Utah State Capitol to "blow the whistle" on child abuse at Majestic Ranch – an institution similar to Spring Creek lodge but for children as young as eight. Our efforts, combined with the advocacy of others with similar interests – and with the help of some federal officials – eventually caused the closure of Spring Creek Lodge and led to the downfall of the entire "reprogramming" industry. My response to the call for help in Emma's case had ramifications well beyond protecting the rights and well being of one teenage girl in Michigan.

Final Words



Even though I moved from Ferndale to Detroit in 1967 and from Michigan to California in 1971, I have always retained an emotional connection to Ferndale and a close bond with Michigan. Those connections, when merged with my ongoing commitment to civil liberties, have kept me active from time to time in Michigan's legal and political affairs.

My association with Rudy Serra played a part in keeping my relationship with Ferndale active during the last two decades. Plus, staying in touch with my family members who live in Michigan, was an inspiration for me to visit the state on a regular basis. Those personal visits have had the added effect of reminding me of Michigan's geographic beauty.

Although my transition from Michigan to California occurred more than four decades ago – and I want to underscore that I dearly love California and consider it to be my home – the four sections of this Addendum demonstrate that I never lost touch with the state where I was born and raised.

In terms of my relationship with "The Wolverine State," I guess the situation can be wrapped up best by saying: "You can take the boy out of Michigan, but you can't take Michigan out of the boy."