



CITY OF ATLANTA

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DEPARTMENT OF LAW
Clifford E. Hardwick, IV
City Attorney

January 17, 1995

Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director
Spectrum Institute
P. O. Box 65756
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Coleman:

As we patiently await the Georgia Supreme Court's decision regarding the legality of the City of Atlanta's Domestic Partnership legislation, let me again thank you for your wonderful Amicus Brief written on the City's behalf. While we in the City Attorney's office are confronted with Home Rule issues regularly, applying the concept of Home Rule to the Domestic Partnership ordinances was a novel and extremely challenging project for us. The legal issues were difficult, and there were no attorneys in the office with experience in this area to whom the lawyers assigned to the case could turn for guidance.

As the attorney primarily responsible for writing the City's appeal briefs, I can tell you that your participation in our case and your Amicus Brief helped our office in a number of significant ways. First, the City's appeal briefs were confined to legal analysis only. Your brief was able to address facts about alternative living arrangements and other domestic partnership policies which provided a context and justified the need for the City's legislation. Second, your legal analysis was excellent. Your brief was a tremendous aid to me while writing my Reply Brief in that it clarified legal problems which I had been struggling to work through. Your brief and your comments also helped my colleague in his preparation for oral argument. Lastly, I believe that your brief will be an invaluable resource for the Court in determining the outcome of the case.

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While I do not know how the Court will rule, I can say without a doubt that your participation in our case greatly enhanced our chances of victory. I know that you spent numerous hours working on the case, and I am sincerely grateful. I hope that you continue to provide your services to other cities and counties who will unfortunately be faced with similar legal challenges to their domestic partnership legislation. Your participation is a great benefit to those of us working to overcome these legal challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robin Joy Shahar, Esq.", written in a cursive style.

Robin Joy Shahar, Esq.
Assistant City Attorney