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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

POLITICAL STRATEGIST SENTENCED FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On August 19, 2021 Nathan Ballard, age 52 was sentenced for misdemeanor Corporal Injury on an Intimate Partner and misdemeanor Child Abuse. The Honorable Scott R.L. Young presided over the sentencing in Napa Superior Court.

The convictions stem from a 2020 incident at the Carneros Inn where Mr. Ballard pushed his wife into a glass door injuring her head and held a pillow over the torso and head of his then four-year old daughter while calling the child derogatory names. The investigation in this matter was spearheaded by the Napa County Sheriff's Department and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kecia Lind. The plea agreement was entered into by the parties, with the approval of the adult victim Mara Reinhardt, in an effort to secure a six year no contact order protecting her children from the criminal defendant.

Mara Reinhardt appeared in court at the time of sentencing accompanied by her family members and members of the Napa County District Attorney's Office victim services team. She made a powerful victim impact statement at the time of sentencing explaining in part, "This is the first time I have been in the presence of my husband since that incident, 10 months ago. This is the first time I have spoken in public about that evening. This is the first time that I have allowed daylight into the dark corners of our relationship."

For those who know me, you know that being up here today is one of the most frightening things I have ever done. I am an incredibly shy, private, and guarded person...I am here today for my children. I am here for our safety and for our protection from Nathan Ballard. Nate's version is the convenient story of a powerful, extremely experienced public relations expert and trained attorney. It is terrifying because I am certain that Nate's privileged arrogance makes him confident that he is getting away with this.

Nate always makes sure that everyone knows that he is highly connected to powerful people: The Governor, The Vice President, various Congressmen and Women, Senators, Mayors, SF Police Chief, District Attorneys, many more people of influence in both the political and private world. He was written up as one of the 10 most powerful people in San Francisco. He never let me forget it. While I recoil being under

the spotlight, Nate lives for it. Nate's image is the only thing he genuinely cares about. Long after we leave here today, I know that Nate will spend his life trying to spin yet another story, to destroy me, the children, and most likely anyone associated with this case."

Deputy District Attorney Kecia Lind explains these sentiments aren't uncommon when a domestic abuser is prominent, carrying high prestige in a community, "The abuser uses their prominence to intimidate and further control their victims. By threatening to use their power to continue the abuse and assassination of character of the victims are features used to deflect personal responsibility and accountability for their wrongdoing. The Napa County District Attorney's Office amplifies the voices of survivors and this brave survivor refuses to be cowed by continued bullying or minimization of criminal behavior."

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence in the home, you have options. The Napa County District Attorney's Office in collaboration with the Monarch Justice Center is staffed with advocates who can be reached at www.monarchjusticecenter.org or 707-225-3807.