



The Court Visitor

Special Interest Resources:

- New York Time's Blog "New Old Age" <http://newoldagebl ogs.nytimes.com>
- "Money Smarts for Older Americans- Prevent Financial Exploitation", resource guide developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, June 2013, http://files.consu merfinance.gov/ f/201306_cfbp_ msoa- participant- guide-pdf

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The Protection of Vulnerable Adults

Aside from the Court Visitor Volunteer Program that started with the grant from State Justice Institute in summer 2011, the Utah State Courts is

working on a wide range of issues related to guardianship. Below is an update on our work in that area, so that you can have a

better idea of the Courts' efforts in the matter of protection of vulnerable adults and see where the Court Visitor Program fits in it.

Building Awareness

The Court Visitor Program has been working on raising awareness about abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults among the general public and court personnel. The Courts developed and offered training on guardianship and a guardianship monitoring program to court clerks and district court judges around the state. We also organized public film screening of "Last Will and

Embezzlement" on financial exploitation of the elderly and follow up panel discussions with participation of the Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services in Salt Lake City, Moab and Ogden.

In addition to that in spring 2013 the Administrative Office of the Courts received a seed grant from the National Guardianship Network to establish Working

Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS). WINGS is an innovative collective impact project and is a multi-disciplinary advisory body, focusing on guardianship issues from many different perspectives. Forming such a group was one of the recommendations from the Third National Guardianship Summit held in Salt Lake City in 2011.

WINGS

Initial WINGS effort is to invite participants from around the state to a Utah-focused summit on November 6, 2013 to identify issues facing the public, providers, law enforcement, the courts, the bar, etc., and recommend how to respond to those issues. Topics to be discussed at the summit include:

- ❖ advanced planning, guardianship planning and supported decision making
- ❖ medical and other evidence of incapacity and functional limitations
- ❖ coordination of agency information and services

WINGS are

committed to an interdisciplinary evaluation of the topics with the objective of providing for stakeholders - including guardians, protected persons and the public in general - the tools with which to make better decisions on behalf of protected persons.



"Wings are committed to an interdisciplinary evaluation of the topics"

Boost Your Health By Volunteering

Not only does it make you feel good emotionally, but a recent study also linked volunteering to better physical health.

Researchers tracked 1,654 older adults for four years and found that those who spent four hours a week volunteering were

forty percent less likely to develop high blood pressure compared with those who never volunteered.

Source: Psychology and Aging, June 2013



Continuing Education

We provided our first continuing education class on September 9, 2013. The class focused on simple basic principles and techniques to help volunteers stay or get out of harm's way, such as a potential or possible physical confrontation. The techniques utilized were in part taken from various martial

arts (aikido, jiu jitsu, judo, karate). This presentation was tailored to Court Visitor Volunteers and was two hours in duration. The instructor, Christiaan Koorring, holds a 3'd degree black belt in aikido, is and has been a self defense instructor at the Utah police Academy for over 20 years. He

has also served in law enforcement for 31 years. It was a small turn out of five volunteers. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we hope to have increased participation in the future continuing education opportunities.

Volunteer Spotlight on Kumar Shah

Kumar Shah is an active volunteer with the Court Visitor Program and has been since October 2012. He has chosen to volunteer as an interviewer, auditor and tracker and explains that he “wants to contribute to improve the circumstances of the vulnerable”. “My guiding principles are that the many resources I have been blessed with should be shared with others”. Kumar decided to volunteer for all roles so as to be as useful as possible to the program. He has always felt that vulnerable populations require care and attention. Additionally, he has an interest in learning the guardianship process so that he can prepare for his future.

Kumar received his Radio & Sound Engineering Diploma in India and his Master’s in Systems Engineering in the U.K. He immigrated

to the USA in 1970 with his wife Dr. Madhuri Shah and has been living and working in the United States ever since. He has extensive experience in his field, working as the Chief Engineer for Ward Leonard of Canada Limited from 1973 until 1978. From 1975 until 1978 he worked as Senior Design Engineer for Trench Electric in Ontario Canada and from 1978 until 1984 he worked as Managing Engineer of Acme Electric Corporation in Salt Lake City. Finally, in 1984 he assumed the position of Senior Staff Engineer for L-3 Communication West in Salt Lake City where he worked until his retirement in 2012. Throughout his career he has had an interest in management because it has allowed him to make a difference in the lives of his employees as well as providing him the opportunity to learn from them. His perspective is that

“things can always be improved upon”. Today Kumar enjoys volunteering. So far he has worked on auditing cases which is consistent with his background experiences. He hopes to take on some interviewing cases in the future. He also has aspirations to mentor other volunteers once he has acquired the experience to do so. “I want to be able to offer ideas and suggestions as the program expands” Kumar states.



“My guiding principles are that the many resources I have been blessed with should be shared with others”

Court Visitor Program

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.utcourts.gov/visitor/>

Upcoming Events of Interest

2013 NAMI Walk Utah

Saturday, October 19,
2013, check-
in: 9:00am, start
time: 10:00am,
distance: 5K
Liberty Park, Salt
Lake City, Utah
Contacts: Amanda
Simmons, 801-541-
7246,
walk@namiut.org

and theater
audiences across the
country have fallen in
love with its light-
hearted take on
growing older.

November 01, 2013,
07:00 PM - 09:00 PM
Peery's Egyptian
Theater, 2415
Washington Blvd,
Ogden, UT 84401
Contact: AARP,
(877) 926-8300,
utaarp@aarp.org

Provo Recreation
Center, Multi-Purpose
Room, 320 West 500
North, Provo, UT
84601
Contact: AARP,
(877) 926-8300,
utaarp@aarp.org

Free screening of the documentary

film "**Age of
Champions**" an
award-winning PBS
documentary
following five
competitors who
sprint, leap, and swim
for gold at the
National Senior
Olympics.

The *Washington
Post* called the film
"infectiously inspiring"

Staying Sharp /Fraud Forum/YEAS

Learn from the
nation's top brain
research
experts. Opening
session: Avoid
Becoming a Victim of
Fraud.

November 09, 2013,
09:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Welcome to Our New Volunteers:

1. Adams Dwight
2. Katherine Straten
3. Paolina Grubs
4. Sara Sherman
5. Stephanie Valencia
6. Gerald Scott
7. Annie Torgersen
8. Charles J Paoletti
9. Cindi Townsend
10. Evelyn Scott