



The Court Visitor

Special Interest Resources:

- Information and support for In-home dementia caregivers:
<http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/education/dementia-caregivers/index.asp>
- BiFocal a journal of the ABA on Law & Aging:
http://www.americanbar.org/publications/bifocal/vol_35/issue_3_feb2014.html
- Safety in the Golden Years: Virtual Conference on Understanding, Addressing and Preventing Crimes Against Seniors
<http://engage.vevent.com/index.jsp?eventId=2155&seid=268>

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Program Expansion

The Court Visitor Program is continuously expanding. Most recently, auditor services have extended from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th District to the entire State of Utah. This is an exciting step because by increasing the number of cases reviewed by auditors, we improve the likelihood that incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation will be reduced. Dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable adults, our volunteers are utilizing their time and efforts to truly make a difference in the world of this underserved population.

A Moment with Judge Connor's

Judge Connor's smiled as he shared that one of his favorite hobbies is being his wife's, Cori Connors, Roadie. Proudly outlining her many accomplishments as both a performer and a writer, he provided an opportunity to catch a glimpse into the life of an incredibly accomplished 2nd District Judge. As the father of 4 children and the grandfather of 9 grandchildren his ability to balance work and family is evident. Spending free time with his family, fly fishing and golfing has not hindered his ability to give back to the community in any way. On the contrary,

his resume contains an extensive list of public service commitments, including serving as the Mayor of Farmington City from 2002 until 2006.

As we inquired about his experience with the Court Visitor Volunteer Program he recounted having been involved with it since its inception. "I applaud the Visitors' willingness to be involved. They do a wonderful job" he said. "It's a critical role".

Having observed Judge Connor's on the bench, we can attest to the fact that he renders his decisions with compassion,

understanding and firmness. Judge Connors is also a committed member of the WINGS initiative that deals with guardianship on the policy level.

Having the opportunity to work with someone who possesses such integrity and commitment to serving vulnerable adults is just one of the many rewards experienced by Court Visitors.



Upcoming Training – Cultural Competency



“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”
~Marcus Garvey~

“Ethnicity,” in its broadest sense, is not just where you hail from but is much deeper - including your attitudes, actions, ethics, and how one sees the world. My DNA profile is shown below, but how much does it really tell you about me?
DNA; Ethnicity;
REGION
APPROXIMATE AMOUNT:
Europe 100%, Great Britain 80%, Europe West 8%, Europe East 6%, Finland/Northwest Russia 3%
Scandinavia 2%
Ireland 1%, Iberian Peninsula 1%.

Probably the best this data set can tell you is who I am not. I am not of African heritage or of Asian origin, as an example. But it leaves out a great amount of information that you could probably use if

you were to interview me. And it does not specify a location in Great Britain either. Am I more English or more Scottish? Perhaps I come from Wales. Are all the people of the British Isles the same? Do you remember the story line of “My Fair Lady?”

Our training in Cultural Competency will help you adapt more easily to the people you are assigned to interview because it will help you understand them more fully. But to do that, you must first take a more thorough look at yourself. What is your person ethnicity and have you ever measured it?
We will look at about 30 measures of your ethnicity to help you locate yourself in your

society. Then it will be much easier to locate the people you will be called on to deal with. Some of them may not readily match this society as you know it; they may not speak the prevailing language or understand the “normal” customs that you find comfort in. They might dress funny, worship funny, or have odd religious ideas (as seen through your eyes). But remember: you are just as weird to them as they are to you!
If we have time, we will also take a look at age differences (age cohorts) which set differing expectations. Gender differences can also be profitable to study (do men and women actually speak the same language?).

Article Author and Presenter

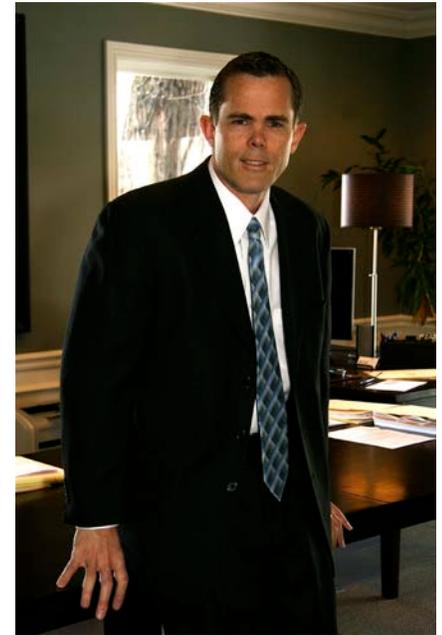
Dwight Adams is one of your fellow volunteers. Having graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in Sociology, he spent many years as an educator with the University of Utah, Weber State University, Salt Lake Community College and Columbia College. His areas of expertise include Sociology, Gerontology, Social Research and Social Statistics. As if that were not enough, he worked for a decade as an Optician, over a decade as a Webmaster and for 21 years as a Retirement Planner. I myself am looking forward to learning about the critical topic of Cultural Competency and look forward to see you all there. The date of this training is yet to be determined and you will be notified shortly.

Volunteer Spotlight on Bill Heder

Adventurous, creative, nurturing and accomplished are just some of the adjectives that come to mind when I think of Bill Heder. Married to his high school sweetheart Lee Ann Muir for 28 years, they have not only built a full life together but they have also brought 6 wonderful children into the world with which to share it. While the youngest of these children, age 16 & 13, reside at home the older children have gone on to make their mark in the world. Their paths include being a middle linebacker with the BYU Cougars, being a medical student and pursuing dual degree in Chinese and business in China. An attorney and an artist, Bill has had great professional success himself and has been publicly recognized as a result. In 1998 he received the Utah Foundation Student Professional Responsibility Award and was also recognized on three separate occasions as the 'Legal Elite' in the Utah Business

Magazine. Joining his law school classmate, Paula MacArthur in 2003 they began a partnership which evolved in to a successful law firm, MacArthur, Heder & Metler, PLLC., specializing in Elder Law, Estate Planning, Probate and mediating those issues. Bill explained that he entered this area of law because of a "desire to help the cumulative good as this segment of the population was not represented very well". Despite his many obligations, Bill, whose undergraduate degree is in fine art, has not forgotten his love of the arts. Although it has been quite some time since he entered any of his pieces into art exhibits, the last time being in college, he is currently pursuing this goal and hopes to solidify some gallery contracts in the near future. So, where can you find Bill when he is not creating oil and water color paintings or practicing law? That is a difficult question to answer as

he is an avid mountain biker who has clocked over 4,000 hours biking in six different states across the US, Canada and Cambodia. He has also participated in the Leadville Trail 100 Run, frequently referred to as "a Race Across the Sky" which occurs on 100 miles of extreme Colorado terrain from elevations of 9,200 to 12,600 feet. With all this life experience we are certainly grateful for Bill's volunteer efforts which began here at the Court Visitor Program in July of 2012. According to Bill, he finds working on whereabouts cases to be very rewarding. "Usually guardians are well meaning but have not been filing their reports due to circumstances outside of their control". It's very interesting to listen to their stories he explains.



"I have a desire to help the cumulative good"

Court Visitor Program

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E-MAIL:
Visitor@UTCourts.gov

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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



Upcoming Events

NAMI Utah Bike Ride

The Gary Ludlow Memorial Ride (GLMR) is a 100 mile ride to raise an awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention.

Date: Jul 19 2014
Time: 7:15am -3:00pm
Location: 142 E 3450 N, Spanish Fork, UT
www.theqlmr.com

The 2014 NAMIWalk:

Location: Liberty Park, Rice Pavilion
Date: Saturday, September 6, 2014
Check-in: 8:30am
Start Time: 10:00am
Contact: 801-869-2882
<http://namiwalks.org>

AARP Staying Sharp/Fraud/Financial Security Forum offers information on brain fitness, memory issues, and financial security.

Date: May 31, 2014
Time: 09:30am -1:00pm
Location: Uintah County Library, 204 East 100 North, Vernal, UT
Contact: 877-926-8300,
utaarp@aarp.org

Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's disease

Date: May 2, 2014,
Time: 10:00 -11:30am
Location: Senior Center, 1300 E. 9310 S. Sandy
Contact: Autumn Donivan, 801-561-3265.

The Alzheimer's Association offers several free E-learning courses for families and other community members facing Alzheimer's and other dementias. Online classes available at: elearning.alz.org

Court Visitor Volunteer Training
Courts Visitor Program is offering training for new volunteers on: May 12-14-16, 9:00am -1:00pm at the Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City.

Training schedule link: www.utcourts.gov/visit/or/resources/#training

WINGS

Utah WINGS – Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders now has a listserve. It provides information on events and educational programs in the area of guardianship and related issues.

If you like to join listserve send an email to karolinaa@utcourts.gov.

Utah Court Visitor Program at the World Congress

You are famous! Utah Court Visitor Volunteer Program will be featured at the World Congress on Adult Guardianship in Virginia on May 28-30, 2014.

Together with representatives from Germany, Japan, and American Bar Association in Washington DC, Court Visitor Program Coordinator, Karolina Abuzyarova, will present at the panel "How Volunteers Can Strengthen the Guardianship System".

Registration and more information at: <http://worldcongressguardianship.org>.