



The Court Visitor

Special Interest Resources:

<http://leaving-well.org>

The Leaving Well Coalition exists to ensure every person in Utah has the opportunity to live well to the end of life by sharing the conversation about their values, making their wishes known and receiving the end-of-life care they desire

<http://healthinsight.org>

HealthInsight is a private, non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving health and health care, that is composed of locally governed organizations in three western states: Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

www.seniorsbluebook.com

Resources on professional networking events, activities for seniors, services and resources.

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Court Visitor Volunteer Program Case Management in October-November 2014

Many of you are likely curious about the number and types of case assignments being assigned. Those numbers change drastically from month to month so in order to keep you informed we will begin to provide a portion of our monthly assignment report in the newsletter. So far we had around 300 case assignments and almost 65 volunteers. These cases are dispersed amongst you based on district, experience, availability and case type preference. The numbers being reported to you are based on the month a case was assigned, however cases frequently remain open into the subsequent month.

The numbers for October 2014 were slightly lower

than they have been in previous months with a total of nine cases. Only one audit case was assigned and it originated from Utah County. Excuse the respondent from the hearing cases kept many of you busy in Salt Lake County, as there were six of these case types assigned. accompany volunteers on visits and to manage cases. The numbers for well-being/circumstances and whereabouts reports were fairly low. There was one well-being/circumstances case assigned and it was from Davis County. The only whereabouts case assigned for October was from Salt Lake City.

We are only half way through the month of November and the

numbers are much different with thirteen cases so far. Although we have not had any audit requests in November, there have been seven whereabouts cases out of Weber County, one of which has already been located. Someone in second District must be looking for guardians as we had two additional whereabouts assignments from Davis County. We are expecting the numbers of excuse the respondent from the hearing cases to increase before the month is over, so far we have two assignments from Salt Lake City. We don't receive requests very often from Tooele but this month we have one well-being case from there and one from Salt Lake City.

WINGS update

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) latest efforts have been focused on establishing communication routes and information exchange policies between the Courts and Social Security Administration. Utah WINGS representatives have been participating in weekly conference calls to create an all-inclusive training package that SSA could provide the State WINGS members on representative payee topics.

List of topics suggested for the WINGS Training Guide include: Disclosure, Conserved Funds with Public Administrators, Terminology, Data Exchange between SSA and Courts, Fee for Services, Fraud Reporting, Oversight of Representative Payees and Organizational Payees, Representative Payee Accounting, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from SSA and Courts. www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/GC/wings

A Judicial Profile – Judge Todd M. Shaughnessy



“Seeing people during what is often the worst time in their lives and being able to help them through that process is incredibly rewarding.”

~Judge Shaughnessy~

Currently serving as the probate Judge, many of you may recognize Judge Shaughnessy from your recent court appearances as court visitors. Appointed to the Third District Court in 2011, Judge Shaughnessy spent over 17 years in private practice at Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy and Snell and Wilmer. As an attorney he represented businesses in both Federal and State Courts. Prior to that he worked as a Clerk for Justice Durum and obtained his law degree from the University of Utah.

Finding his present position to be “endlessly interesting”, Judge Shaughnessy explains that he has always had an incredible amount of respect for Judges and the Court System. He credits much of his success in the field to the encouragement he received from friends and colleagues over the years. His hope is to “give back to a profession that has always been good to him”.

When asked about the challenges and rewards he experiences as a Judge he thoughtfully

responded that it can be difficult to ensure the rights of pro se litigants are protected. In his position he cannot function as an advocate and has to remain objective which can be challenging. On the other hand he shared his passion for helping people. Seeing people during what is often the worst time in their lives and being able to help them through that process is incredibly rewarding.

Judge Shaughnessy has a life outside of the bench that we don’t often see. The father of two daughters, one who is attending the University of Utah and one who is attending the University of Montana, Judge Shaughnessy loves to spend time with his wife and children. Frequently traveling to their cabin in Southern Utah, he is an outdoorsman who enjoys riding motorcycles, skiing and snowboarding.

A huge supporter of the Court Visitor Program, Judge Shaughnessy commented on how valuable a service we provide. The Court Visitor’s provide a “perspective this is

otherwise extremely difficult to get”. As a Judge he is provided with limited information on which to base his decisions. He knows how important it is to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation so that he can make sound decisions and believes the Court Visitor Program helps to provide exactly that.

All Judges can benefit from knowledge about the program, even those who do not deal regularly with probate matters. As Judges become more and more aware of the programs existence expansion is inevitable as he thinks all Judges will appreciate the services that are provided.

Volunteer Spotlight on Mary Aa



Her father a Harvard graduate and her mother a graduate of the North Texas Women's College, Mary was inspired by their example. "My father always encouraged higher education to become a better person", - Mary earnestly shared. It was at the University of Utah where she herself earned her Bachelor's degree, majoring in European history with a dual minor of English and political science. Subsequently she was awarded a scholarship with the Dean of Women's Office with the University of Utah where she spent a year focusing on education administration.

The creation of the Berlin Wall was an event in history that had a devastating impact for her she shared. Affecting her world view, the message its development conveyed to her was "what difference can one person make?" Taking time from her studies during this pivotal time, Mary met a young European man whom she eventually married. A year and a half after their union she gave birth to a son and choose to stay home for a year and care for him before returning to her professional life.

Mary's career was diverse. Her first position, following her return

to the work world, was as a junior high school teacher with Bonneville high teaching English and journalism. Not long after she took that position her husband was offered a job in St. Croix located in the Virgin Islands. Soon she was whisked off to the Caribbean where she continued her experience as an educator at a private Episcopalian school. There she taught 7th & 8th grade science and high school biology. Traveling, however, was in Mary's blood so it was not long before she and her husband decided that the Virgin Islands was not where they wanted to put down roots and instead headed to Australia. In an eye opening experience there, Mary worked for 2 years as an educator in a maximum security reformatory with delinquent boys between the ages of 12 and 18. Although intimidating at first, Mary came to truly appreciate this experience and found it very rewarding.

Eventually Mary returned to school and completed an adjusted MBA that provided "social work" types of experiences. This led her to employment with the Salt Lake County, Human Services Department. Responsible for the oversight of many programs there including the Department of Aging, the Detention Center for juveniles, Mental Health, the County Kitchen and a nursing home facility, Mary kept incredibly busy. Over the years she went on to hold various positions. She remarked that during this point in her career she perceived that "being a woman in that time was limiting". Despite her

observation, Mary was very successful and remained with Human Services for about 15 years. A key value she learned through her experiences there was to "always acknowledge the contribution of others".

She returned to her role as an educator for awhile before retiring to take care of her mother whose health was fading and required full time supervision. Six years later, after her mother turned 96, her needs demanded that she be relocated to a nursing home. Mary stayed actively involved with her mother, visiting daily and caring for her home, until her passing at age 99.

Remaining incredibly active, Mary participates in her neighborhood association, has served as chair on the Board of the East Central Community Council and is involved with the Salt Lake Abuse Later in Life Program. It was actually through this program that she became involved in the Court Visitor Program. Having witnessed firsthand, the impact financial exploitation can have, she feels passionately about the cause. After her life experiences, she identifies with how vulnerable elderly woman can be and her focus remains on preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation of women.

"Humor and light heartedness coupled with getting the job done, really works" Mary says. She is thrilled to be a part of the Court Visitor Program and looks forward to remaining involved in her community and making a difference.

Court Visitor Program

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(801) 578-3843

E-MAIL:
visitor@utcourts.gov

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.utcourts.gov/visitor

Upcoming Events

Center for Alzheimer's Care Imaging and Research (CACIR):

Online calendar of lectures:

<http://uuhsc.utah.edu/cacir/news.html>

Neurology Grand Rounds, Wednesdays at 9:00am
Contact: 801-585-6546

Utah Coalition for Caregiver Support (UCCS)

All who are interested in issues related to caregiving are invited and welcome. Our members are interested in making the world a better place for caregivers. The expectation of membership involves active participation in meetings and other Coalition activities.

Location: Department of Human Services 195 North 1950 West, Salt

Lake City, UT

Date: 12/03/2014, every first Wednesday

Time: 12:00pm - 02:00pm
Simone Black, 801-680-0883, simone@jenkins-soffe.com

Money Smart for Older Adults

a financial education program offered by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/olderadult.html

Caregiver Lunch Bunch

Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services offers The Caregiver Lunch Bunch. Caregivers get together for a short break from the challenges of caregiving and share experiences, laugh, relax and exchange knowledge and resources. Caregivers purchase their own lunch.

Location: A different restaurant in Salt Lake County each month.

Date: 12/11/2014
Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm
Contact: Kathy at 385-468-3281, or ksnelson@slco.org

Medicare 101

Class includes information on when to enroll in Medicare and what the different Medicare benefits are. Sponsored by Davis County Senior Services.

Date: 11/19/2014
Location: 1912 W. 1900 S, Syracuse, UT, and Centerville Library 45 S. 400 W. Centerville, UT
Time: 06:30pm-07:30pm
Contact: Marie Jorgensen, 801-525-5086, mjorgensen@daviscountytah.gov

Welcome to the new volunteer visitors!

Salt Lake City training on October 27-29-31, 2014:

Letitia Buroker
Zane Christensen
Marylynn Ehrengard
Cameron Hill
Patricia Hinkley
Cathy Howick
Lori Nielson
Betsy Slayton
Stefeni Warner

Price, Utah training on September 19, 2014

Thomas Mullins

St. George, Utah training on September 5-6, 2014:

Carol Fletcher
Karen Goff
Gayle Haas
Debbie Skinner