

Guardianship News

from Spectrum Institute

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“San Antonio lawyer again sued by State Bar” – For the second time in six months, San Antonio lawyer Phil Ross has been sued in state district court by the State Bar of Texas for alleged serial misconduct in a guardianship case involving an elderly person. According to the bar’s recent suit, Ross’s misbehavior included “habitual and intentional disregard for court orders, misrepresentations to the court, fraud upon the court, conflicts of interest, dishonesty and deceit.” San Antonio Express-News (Texas) – March 31, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Netflix's Dirty Money Dives Into the Tragic World of Guardianship Scams” – Netflix's investigative docuseries Dirty Money, which examines financial misdeeds, is back for a second season. And one of the show's most shocking new episodes, "Guardians, Inc.," tackles abuses in the world of elder guardianship, a system that controls the lives of an estimated 1.5 million adults with estates worth more than \$250 billion—and that is rife with financial fraud and elder abuse. Esquire – March 21, 2020 – [Link](#).

“How Britney Spears Is Pushing Back On Her Conservatorship” – Britney Spears is attempting her best to set boundaries against her highly-suspect conservatorship, which sees her father, Jamie Spears, control her multi-million dollar estate, any personal affairs and day-to-day tasks since 2008. iHeartRadio – March 12, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Protections for vulnerable Pa. seniors lag, reforms to guardianship system ‘stuck’” – More than five years ago, Pennsylvania identified widespread problems with its system of appointing and overseeing guardians — the legal decision-makers, chosen by judges, who manage the affairs of adults who are unable to care for themselves. In response, the state Supreme Court established an office to oversee the implementation of 130 sweeping recommendations made by experts in the field. An update from 2019 noted significant progress, marking more than half as “accomplished.” But a Spotlight PA review found the report paints an overly rosy

picture of the situation. Experts say that critical changes needed to better protect vulnerable seniors lack funding, are incomplete, or are stuck in limbo in the state legislature. The Inquirer (Pennsylvania) – March 12, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Bill reforming Florida’s troubled guardianship program heads to governor” – Legislation that would fix flaws in Florida’s troubled guardianship program and provide protections for vulnerable adults is headed to Gov. Ron DeSantis’ desk after House lawmakers unanimously passed a bill Wednesday. The proposal pushed by Senate Majority Leader Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, would require guardians to get a judge’s approval before signing “do not resuscitate” orders on behalf of incapacitated clients, prohibit them from seeking their own appointment to specific cases and revise provisions related to conflicts of interest. Orlando Sentinel (Florida) – March 12, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Some 15,000 adult wards to cast votes in April general elections” – Seoul’s election body acknowledged adult wards’ right to vote, paving the way for voters under full guardianship to cast their ballot for the first time in the April 15 parliamentary elections, the Seoul city government said Wednesday. Seoul Social Welfare Public Interest Law Center, a city-affiliated institution, said it received the Seoul City Election Commission’s authoritative interpretation of the relevant law, recognizing voting rights of some 15,000 people under legal authority of guardians nationwide. The Korea Herald (South Korea) – March 11, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Lawmakers release compromise budget” – Lawmakers unanimously approved reforms to the state’s guardianship program in response to a report detailing VCU Health System’s practice of having its own attorneys appointed to represent the interests of low-income patients it wanted removed from expensive hospital beds. Virginia Mercury (Virginia) March 10, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Watchdog: In Courtroom, Senior Pleads With Judge for Guardian's Removal” – Eraida Miller is a Cuban immigrant who fled her native country for the U.S. more than 50 years ago on an initial quest for freedom. Now, she says she's again fighting for her freedom — this time from the state court system and her appointed professional guardian. Spectrum News 13 – (Florida) – March 9, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Disability And Fighting For The Right To Vote” – Many Americans are not allowed to vote - felons in some states, for one. And also, thousands of people with mental disabilities are banned from voting. Many of them lost that right when they were placed under guardianship. In order to get their voting rights back, they have had to appeal to a judge. That's what happened to Jack Vaile. He has cerebral

palsy. He uses an iPad to communicate and an electric wheelchair to move around. He's also really into politics. To tell us Jack's story, we've reached his father Lou Vaile in Oakland, Calif. – WXXI Radio News (New York) – March 8, 2020 – [Link](#).

“Former CFO Gets 20-Year Sentence in Guardianship Fraud Case” –

The former chief financial officer of a now-defunct nonprofit that provided guardianship services is going to prison in an \$11 million fraud scheme case in which one co--defendant awaits sentencing and two others are now fugitives on the run. A federal judge sentenced 64-year-old Sharon Moore to 20 years in prison on Monday and also issued arrest warrants for 73-year-old Susan Harris and 58-year-old William Harris after the Albuquerque married couple failed to appear for sentencing. U.S. News and World Report – March 4, 2020 – [Link](#).