

Guardianship News

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Court-appointed conservator accused of stealing from incapacitated persons she was supposed to protect. Andria Beauvais was so deeply embedded in the Colorado Springs fiduciary practice for which she worked that its owners chose her to take over when they retired. Trusting her “like family,” her bosses literally handed her blank checks to pay bills for at least 10 incapacitated persons whose assets the practice oversaw. But over a five-year period, Beauvais, 49, of Colorado Springs, fleeced those clients of more than \$400,000. Colorado Springs Indy (Colorado) April 29, 2020. [Link](#).

Trained observers will watch probate cases involving elders. Michigan’s Elder Abuse Task Force may begin working with law students in a developing effort to ensure fair treatment for elders in probate court. The program would place volunteers in hearings concerning petitions for guardianship and conservatorship. Court watchers would check that all interested parties were given a chance to speak, note if the ward was present or represented by counsel and see if there were any noticeable language barriers that were unaddressed or any other signs of concern. Potential participants would include law school students and volunteers from AARP and other organizations. They would be trained, but specifics concerning the training curriculum are still in development. While the program would be a first for Michigan probate courts, it wouldn’t be the first of its kind in the state. In 2004, Renee Beeker of Milford founded the National Family Court Watch Project as a way to collect data on problems with family courts. Spartan Newsroom (Michigan) April 17, 2020. [Link](#).