Comment: The following news stories about adult guardianship or conservatorship are being circulated by the Disability and Guardianship Project of Spectrum Institute to persons interested in guardianship and conservatorship reform. The stories are extracted from the Newsfeed of the organization’s Disability and Abuse Project. Many thanks to Debra J. Stemmler for her research and to Dr. Nora J. Baladerian for funding the Newsfeed service.

– Thomas F. Coleman, Legal Director

“Ex-judge’s wife Betsy Savitt kicked off county’s guardianship registry” - For the first time since The Palm Beach Post exposed the vast conflict of interest between Savitt and her husband, Martin Colin — who at the time sat as a guardianship judge — the former tennis instructor no longer can be appointed new cases. – Palm Beach Post – September 22, 2108 – (Florida) - https://is.gd/VXIlkR

“Estate planning: A guide to avoiding the terrors of the guardianship system | Opinion” - After writing an overview of Florida’s Guardianship laws, I was overcome with emails asking what measures can be taken to ensure one doesn’t fall victim to an inescapable situation. – Tallahassee Democrat – September 23, 2018 – (Florida) - https://is.gd/enzqn0

“Concern at Rise in Guardianship Orders” - The majority of guardianships are for people with a learning disability (45%) and dementia or Alzheimer's disease (41%). – BBC News – September 27, 2018 – (Scotland) - https://is.gd/urJxFu

“Guardianship Orders on The Rise in Scotland” - New figures published today by the Mental Welfare Commission show a continued rise in the use of guardianship orders in Scotland, with the majority being made for people with learning disabilities and those with dementia. – Scottish Legal News – September 27, 2018 – (Scotland) - https://is.gd/4IXCho

“Texas Supreme Court to Weigh Ethics of Lawyer's Role in Elderly Woman's Guardianship Case” - The Texas Supreme Court will soon decide whether a lawyer should be disqualified from a contested guardianship case involving an 88-year-old woman. – https://is.gd/410h9L
old woman because he helped his legal assistant get a $350,000 loan from the woman, wrote her will, and later helped his employee be appointed as her guardian. – Texas Lawyer – September 26, 2018 – (Texas) - [https://is.gd/SKNhx5](https://is.gd/SKNhx5)

“Report: Savitt involved with ‘corruption, collusion of judges’” - “Corruption and collusion of judges and lawyers in Delray Beach for financial gain” centered around dubious professional guardian Elizabeth “Betsy” Savitt and her husband, former Circuit Judge Martin Colin, according to a report never before made public by Palm Beach County’s guardianship watchdog. – My Palm Beach Post – September 8, 2018 – (Florida) - [https://is.gd/nownot](https://is.gd/nownot)

“Guardianship abuse focus of new documentary” - The Guardians is directed by independent filmmaker Billie Mintz and he focuses on some of the same victims and families we talked to. Mintz says his film goes even deeper, into more details that "...allowed corrupt court-appointed guardians to take total control over people's health care and financial decisions." – Channel 13 News – September 8, 2018 – (Nevada) - [https://is.gd/IOHPjv](https://is.gd/IOHPjv)

“Local family faced with financial obstacle to keep guardianship of daughter with autism” - Once teens with disabilities turn 18, their parents are required to apply for continued guardianship to stay in charge of their child's decisions.- Everything Lubbock – September 10, 2018 – (Texas) - [https://is.gd/gAU267](https://is.gd/gAU267)

“Florida complaint says judge’s ‘invisible hand’ helped wife, a professional guardian for seniors” - A Florida woman who the state has charged with abusing her role as a professional guardian received an early boost into the lucrative field from her then-circuit court judge husband, a report said. – World Tribune – September 3, 2018 – Florida - [https://is.gd/0ExTOF](https://is.gd/0ExTOF)

“Stiehl restores elderly woman’s desire to live independently, dissolving guardianship move by daughter” - Newly appointed St. Clair County Circuit Judge William Stiehl ruled that Margaret Ashmann, 85, whose daughter won approval from two previous judges to act as her guardian, should return to her home in Fairview Heights and run her own life. – Madison – St. Clair Record – September 4, 2018 – Illinois - [https://is.gd/JnHVK1](https://is.gd/JnHVK1)