



Newsletters of Spectrum Institute are published quarterly. The next newsletter will be released in January 2023.



Annual Fundraising Drive

Help us meet our basic operating costs for 2023.

Spectrum Institute's projects and activities are primarily based on the generosity of volunteers who donate their time and talents to advance our mission. But we do have bills to pay. Insurance. Phone. Website Hosting and Security. Legal Research Database. Postage. Graphics Applications. Office Supplies. Etc.

Our annual budget for operating costs is modest, considering the magnitude of the work we do and the impact we have. \$5,000.

Please make a donation today to help us reach this fundraising goal. Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by federal law. Any funds we receive above \$5,000 will be designated to support [Capacity to Love](#), a project which we will launch next year.

Many thanks to our friends and associates for your continuing support.



Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

p.s. Donations may be made online or by check in the postal mail.
[Click here](#) for details.



ABC10-Sacramento Airs Series on Conservatorship Abuses

Investigative reporter [Andie Judson](#) spent more than a year digging deep into the complexities of the limited conservatorship system in California. She exposed abuses in individual cases as well as flaws in the system itself.

Limited conservatorships are used for adults with developmental disabilities. More than 50,000 such adults are currently living under an order of conservatorship with some 5,000 new petitions filed annually.

"Price of Care: Taken by the State" is an ABC10 Originals five-part investigation. Spectrum Institute's legal director Thomas F. Coleman and board member Barbara Imle were interviewed extensively by Andie Judson and appeared on screen during the series.

Each episode of the series is accessible through [this link](#). Spectrum Institute has offered [actions steps](#) that should be taken by various officials and public entities to address the problems identified in this series.

Also, Andie and Tom appeared on NPR to discuss the problems with the conservatorship system. To listen to the 23-minute segment of the show, [click here](#) and scroll down to "conservatorship investigation."



Spectrum Institute
Consulting
on Project in Missouri

Hulme Resources Inc. has engaged Spectrum Institute to provide consulting services on a new project funded by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

The Alternatives to Guardianship Project helps people with developmental disabilities avoid or terminate unnecessary [guardianships](#) by using safe and legal alternatives. It encourages and assists parents, educators, judges, lawyers, physicians, and other professionals to implement such alternatives whenever feasible. It promotes the adoption of public policies and systemic changes to protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities, ensuring equal rights and access to justice. These activities are accomplished through research, education, counseling, and advocacy.

Spectrum Institute's executive director, Thomas F. Coleman, is operating the [website](#) of the project and assisting Jennifer Hulme, CEO of Hulme Resources, to assess the current policies and practices in Missouri with respect to guardianship proceedings. He is also assisting her in reviewing improvements that have been made in other states to promote and use alternatives to guardianship whenever feasible. To read some of the current initiatives underway with the project, [click here](#).



Supreme Court of Missouri Asked about Status of ADA Complaint

The Alternatives to Guardianship Project has sent a letter to the Missouri Supreme Court inquiring into what actions, if any, it took in response to an ADA complaint filed by Spectrum Institute with the Court in 2017. The complaint alleged that the state's adult guardianship system was out of compliance with requirements of Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The court clerk acknowledged receipt of the complaint in 2018, indicating that it was "under review" by the Court. Despite a follow-up inquiry by Spectrum Institute in 2019, the organization never heard from the Court on the matter again. This outreach to the Court by the Project is part of its due diligence to determine what actions have been taken by any officials or public entities to improve the administration of justice in guardianship proceedings. To read the letter from the Project to the Court, [click here](#). To read the ADA complaint and related materials, [click here](#).

The Project received a reply from the general counsel to the Supreme Court on September 24. The Court indicated that it did not take any action in response to the ADA complaint from Spectrum Institute, explaining that it wanted to see how a new law would be implemented. However, the letter said that the Court is open to receiving additional materials for consideration on the subject. Spectrum Institute will be providing the Court with additional materials on the application of the ADA to adults in guardianship proceedings.

The Arc's National Convention

November 10 – 12, 2022

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO

Thomas F Coleman, executive director of Spectrum Institute, will fly to Denver in November to attend the national convention of The Arc of the United States. Coleman will distribute literature about our projects to attendees. People will be encouraged to collaborate with us in promoting mental health access and alternatives to guardianship for adults with developmental disabilities. We will also spread the word about [Capacity to Love](#), a project we will launch in 2023 to protect the freedom of intimate association for adults with mental or developmental disabilities. This trip was made possible by a generous donation from Richard W. Smith, Ph.D., a longtime benefactor of Spectrum Institute.

AB1663

#BeyondBritney

The Probate Conservatorship and Supported Decision-Making Act

reforms the probate conservatorship system
in four key areas to help people maintain
choice and control over their lives.



The California Legislature gave final approval on August 30 to a bill requiring alternatives to conservatorship to be seriously considered by petitioners and to be ruled out as unfeasible by the court. It will also strengthen the rights of adults living under an order of conservatorship.

Another part of the bill gives conservatees the right to petition for termination once a year and to have an attorney appointed to assist them if they inform the court of their desire to terminate.

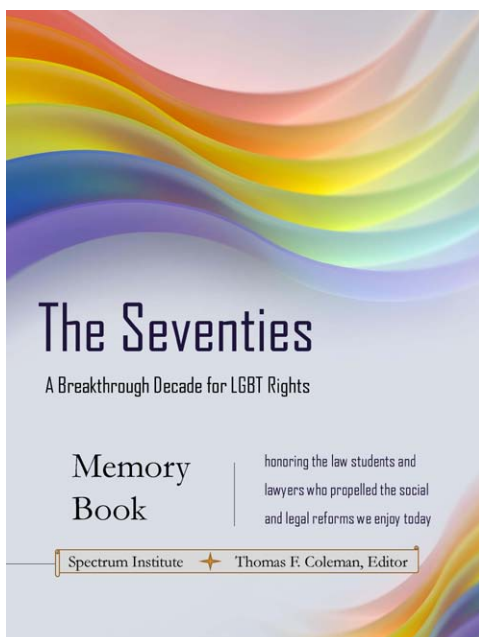
After an appropriation of funds by the legislature, courts will be required to operate self-help centers to explain and help petitioners explore less restrictive alternatives such as supported decision-making and powers of attorney.

There were no dissenting votes in either the Senate or Assembly. Once the governor signs the bill, it will take effect on January 1, 2023. To read the Assembly Floor Analysis of the bill, [click here](#).



Birds of a Feather

The [Birds of a Feather Project](#) will engage in a series of activities during LGBT History Month in October 2022. A webinar, memory book, and [videos](#) will honor the law students and lawyers of the 1970s who advocated for justice and equal rights for LGBT individuals, couples, and families during that decade and beyond. Students at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles also will host a series of events. More information about these activities is found below.



A book of LGBT legal history was released on October 1, 2022. It contains background information of gay and lesbian rights in the 1950s and 1960s, biographies of more than 80 law students who were involved in gay and lesbian rights in the 1970s, and 40 lawyers who graduated in prior years and were actively involved in gay and lesbian rights advocacy in the 1970s. A paperback version is available through Amazon.com and a pdf version on our [website](#).



The Seventies

A Breakthrough Decade for LGBT Rights

Birds of a Feather Webinar by Spectrum Institute, The Williams Institute, and [Others](#)

Webinar ★ **Noon (Pacific Time)** ★ **October 11, 2022**



Brad Sears
Williams Institute



Tom Coleman
Spectrum Institute



David Reichard
Historian



Maria Reyes Olmedo
Loyola Law Student

Brad Sears opens and closes as host. As moderator, Tom Coleman introduces speakers and provides historical commentary. Professor David Reichard discusses gay student organizing in the 1960s and 1970s. Five LGBT law students and lawyers from the 1970s share their experiences of coming out and advocating in their own way for equal rights. Maria Reyes Olmedo speaks on the emergence of nonbinary, transgender, and law students of color as LGBTQ+ activists. Q & A session follows. Join us for this one-hour event and receive a free pdf copy of a 350-page *Memory Book* with chapters on the 1950s through 1970s as well as biographies of 125 individuals who were pioneering law students and lawyers in the 1970s.



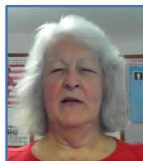
Steve Lachs
Gay lawyer
and judge



Mary Stevens
Bisexual
law student



George Raya
Gay law student
and lobbyist



Phyllis Frye
Transgender law student,
lawyer, and judge

Barbara Kritchevsky
Lesbian law student
and law professor



A webinar will be held at noon (Pacific Time) on October 11, 2022. It is produced by Spectrum Institute and hosted by the Williams Institute of UCLA Law School. A history professor will discuss the emergence of gay law student organizations in the 1970s. Several trailblazers from that era will make video presentations and be present for the Q&A session. A law student will make a presentation on how and when “out” transgender, nonbinary, and law students of color eventually emerged as advocates for LGBT rights. Those who attend the webinar will receive a complimentary pdf copy of the *Memory Book*. To register for the free webinar, [click here](#).



Students at Loyola Law School Will Host a Series of Events for "OutLaw History Week"

The LGBT law student association at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles will hold a series of events during the week of October 17. A video of "1972" -- a presentation by Thomas F. Coleman about the breakthrough events occurring that year -- will be shown on October 17. Coleman will participate in an online panel discussion with other LGBT alumni on October 18. Copies of the paperback edition of the Memory Book will be available for purchase at a mixer at [Zebulon](#) Cafe Concert venue in Silverlake on October 20. (Photo: Zebulon)

| Monday, October 17 th | Tuesday, October 18 th | Wednesday, October 19 th | Thursday, October 20 th | Friday, October 21 st |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Spectrum Presentation: 1972 | OutLaw Alumni Panel | Diversity Fair | Alumni Mixer at Zebulon | Closing Remarks through Email |

Please show your support for our work by making a donation. Since we are an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, donations are tax-deductible as allowed by federal law. Donors can designate a donation for a specific project or campaign. Otherwise they will be used for general organizational support.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

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