



The Broken Conservatorship System

What Can I Do?

Reach out to the person who is “in charge” of the judicial branch – the Chief Justice. Tell her that the probate conservatorship system is badly broken and needs a major overhaul. Tell her that the problem lies mostly with the judges and the court-appointed attorneys and other agents of the court.

Judicial ethics are violated when judges appoint attorneys, train and coach them, and pay them. Judges should be deciding cases, not controlling the attorneys who appear before them in these cases.

Judges are authorizing excessive and unreasonable fees to attorneys in these cases. Attorney fees need to be regulated.

There should be statewide administrative oversight of this system – someone in the judicial branch should know what is going on. Right now, they don't.

The Americans with Disabilities Act should be applied in each and every conservatorship case – these litigants have significant disabilities.

The judicial council should support new legislation to protect the right to counsel for all conservatees. They should have a real advocacy attorney.

Pick one or more of these issues. Or add other issues. Be specific. Be direct.

Do not mention a specific case. Focus on systemic problems and policy issues. If a specific case is mentioned, the email will NOT be forwarded to the chief justice.

Address the communication as follows:

Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Chairperson
California Judicial Council

Attn: Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee
(Please forward to the Chief Justice.)

Send your communication to this email address: pmhac@jud.ca.gov
Send a copy to Spectrum Institute: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org