



You're invited !

## THE ABA & NCPJ

*have a proposal for you!*

NCPJ has received a \$2000 grant to work with the ABA to do a study on guardianship monitoring. It includes a survey about investigators and volunteers. The outcome will tell a lot about guardianships and how they work in this country. We will keep you informed on the website about what we would like to know from your court. We believe this will provide an effective tool for you when you approach your funding agency for money.

It will take very little time and will reap enormous benefits for the court system, for the guardians who serve in your court and could be very helpful to you as you seek funding for what you do.

## **Building a Volunteer Guardian Assistance Program: A Win for Courts and Families**

The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging is pleased to have the collaboration of the National College of Probate Judges and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in a groundbreaking project on volunteer guardian assistance and monitoring.

The project will: (1) help courts by fostering the development of trained volunteers to bolster court monitoring in a cost-effective manner, and (2) help guardians by promoting a structured system of court outreach through volunteers that can offer information, assistance, and connections to court staff and the judge.

To achieve these goals, the project will: (1) establish a multi-disciplinary advisory committee of experts on guardianship (including two NCPJ representatives), (2) collaborate with the DC Probate Court to study its “Guardianship Assistance Program,” (3) survey NCPJ members on staff investigators and volunteer guardian monitoring assistance, (4) update and adapt a volunteer guardianship monitoring program manual originally compiled by AARP 18 years ago, (5) assist to two courts to pilot the Manual, and (6) make the Manual available to courts electronically on the Web, and engage in broad based judicial outreach.

This project has the potential to trigger volunteer guardian monitoring and assistance projects in many courts. It could be a real step ahead for court oversight in adult guardianship cases. It will be a “win” for both courts and guardians, especially family guardians.

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