

## *The Freedom Files – A Pursuit of Justice Podcast*

Hosted by Attorney Thomas F. Coleman

### *Confirmed Guests for Podcast Episodes*

<https://pursuitofjusticepodcast.com/>

#### **Rosalind Alexander-Kasperik ✓**

A conversation about her relationship with David Rector; his medical crisis; the need for a conservatorship; abuses of the conservatorship system; the loss of David's voting rights; the depletion of his assets; finding a virtual voice again through a comic book (*Recall and Given*), finding a real voice again (technology); having David's right to vote restored; David passes on; her advice to reform advocates.

#### **Dr. Sam Sugar ✓**

His adventures as a guardianship reform advocate; becoming a magnet for victims and their families; creation of AAAPG; ongoing advocacy for legal reform; publication of his book; attempts to create a national reform network; his decision to disband AAAPG; his advice to victims of abusive guardianships; his advice to reform advocates.

#### **Thomas Lee Wright ✓**

A conversation about his book on elder abuse, what effect it has had on him and others; the production of the Oscar-nominated documentary film *Edith + Eddie* with director Laura Checkoway and what reactions it has received from audiences and critics; his observations of the guardianship reform movement; his opinion on why it has had such little success so far.

#### **Evan Nelson ✓**

A conversation about his experiences in representing family members of an elderly woman caught up in conservatorship litigation in Alameda County; his decision to file a major civil rights lawsuit against the court and all of the players in the conservatorship case as a way to create accountability for illegal practices depriving the woman of her statutory and constitutional rights; what can be done to change the practices of judges who preside in these cases and the lawyers who make their living on them.

#### **Rick and Terri Black ✓**

A conversation about their experiences with the guardianship of Terri's father; a decision to devote their lives to guardianship reform; the patterns they have discovered by investigating countless guardianship cases;

Rick's disappointing experiences with the U.S. Dept. of Justice; a ray of hope in Nevada for good lawyering.

#### **Barbara Imle ✓**

A conversation about her survey of regional centers in California to determine what standards and practices they use when they evaluate a client for a potential conservatorship. The lack of uniform practices and the need for guidance from, and monitoring by, the state Department of Developmental Services.



### **Miranda Spencer ✓**

A conversation about her recent article for *Mad In America* about how “archaic legal and practical barriers to voting are arbitrarily enforced to disenfranchise people judged ‘mentally incompetent.’” She has been a journalist, media critic, and book editor for three decades, with an emphasis on mental health issues and with a perspective grounded in her own experiences.

### **Lanny Davis ✓**

A conversation with a media savvy advocacy attorney; how he has been working with a team of lawyers to help Brad Lund, the grandson of the late Walt Disney, challenge inherent biases of a judge in Los Angeles – discriminatory attitudes which have deprived Brad from receiving his inheritance. State appeals, a federal lawsuit, a complaint to the Judicial Council, and an ethics challenge were all used.

### **William C. Gaventa ✓**

A conversation with the author of *Disability and Spirituality* about spirituality in the lives of individuals with disabilities, their families, those providing care, their friends and extended relationships, and the communities in which they live. This writer and author was editor of the *Journal of Religion, Disability, and Health* from 1996-2010.

### **Lisa MacCarley ✓**

A conversation with a lawyer who has handled cases in Southern California’s probate courts for three decades; the systematic violation of rights she has seen; the failure of appointed counsel to vigorously advocate for proposed conservatees; the lack of oversight and accountability; the need for judicial education.

### **Harold “Hackie” Reitman, M.D. ✓**

A conversation with the founder of *Different Brains*, an organization encouraging the understanding and acceptance of individuals with variations in brain functions and social behaviors known as neurodiversity. Hackie is an author, filmmaker, and retired orthopedic surgeon. Why did he create this organization? What are its goals? Will it broaden its agenda to include advocacy for equal rights and justice for neurodiverse individuals?

### **Barbara Buckley ✓**

A conversation with the executive director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada about their advocacy and defense program for seniors and people with disabilities who become involuntary litigants in guardianship proceedings. What do their attorneys do? How are they trained? What is the advocacy philosophy of the legal aid center? How is the guardianship defense program funded?

### **Sharon Holmes & Theresa Jankowski ✓**

A conversation about the conservatorship case against Theresa; Sharon helping her resist it; a judge denying Theresa the right to have her chosen attorney; appointment of an attorney who refused to defend her rights; the attempt of the attorneys, with the judge’s approval, to “extort” money from Theresa to pay their fees in exchange for a dismissal of the conservatorship petition and freeing her from court control.

### **Billie Mintz ✓**

A conversation with a filmmaker about *The Guardians*, why the film was made, where it has been shown, and how audiences have responded to it. What is he doing now to promote guardianship reform.

### **Carli Friedman, Ph.D. ✓**

A conversation with a professional who supervises the research projects of *The Council on Quality and Leadership* (CQL) about the responses of 35 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to the question: “What needs to change so that people [with IDD] can exercise sexual self-advocacy?” How can this information be used by policy makers and administrators to ensure that sexual rights are respected while also reducing unwanted risks. Betsy Burns, a Quality Enhancement Specialist with CQL, will also join us on the podcast.

### **Erik Kramer ✓**

A conversation with the former NFL quarterback about his experiences being in the clutches of a conservatorship in California and how he was taken advantage of by lawyer after lawyer who he says failed to advocate for him while at the same time financially exploiting him. What reforms to the conservatorship system would he like to see implemented? Anna Dergan, Erik’s friend and reform advocate, also will join us for this episode.



To suggest a topic or a guest, please contact me at the following email address:

[attorneythomascoleman@gmail.com](mailto:attorneythomascoleman@gmail.com)