



# Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant  
Utah Supreme Court  
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

April 17, 2026

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.  
State Court Administrator  
Neira Siaperas  
Deputy State Court Administrator

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Judicial Council

**FROM:** Judge Coral Sanchez, WINGS Chair  
Shonna Thomas, Court Program Administrator – GRAMP

**RE:** WING Committee - Annual Report

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The Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) committee is a problem-solving body that relies on court-community partnerships to:

- Oversee guardianship practice in the Courts;
- Improve the handling of guardianship cases;
- Engage in outreach and public education; and
- Enhance the quality of care and quality of life of vulnerable individuals.

WINGS conducts business in agreement with UCJA Rule 3-421 and has been a standing committee of the Judicial Council since 2022. WINGS currently has 31 stakeholders.

### **WINGS 2025 Projects:**

- Recommended changes to Utah Code § 75-5-303 that were approved by the Court's Legislative Liaison Committee. Suggested changes included updating the statutory criteria to conform with current medical standards and clarifying language on the requirements for attorneys and court visitors in guardianship proceedings. The recommended changes were introduced in the 2025 Legislative Session and passed in full, going into effect in May 2025.
- Worked on resource materials, forms, and training related to a new guardianship case type, Severe Intellectual Disability, passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Updated and revised court forms related to guardianship and conservatorship, in partnership with the Forms Committee. In addition to addressing current forms, the committee created new forms for the emergency, temporary, and Adult-Child guardianship case types, which were approved by the Forms Committee in June and November 2025. Previously, petitioners interested in pursuing these types of guardianships had to use and modify the permanent guardianship forms.

- Presented at the Annual Judicial Conference in September 2025 on the topic of the new guardianship case type, Severe Intellectual Disability. The Presentation covered statutory differences with other case types, considerations for judges when petitions are received, and available resources to assist judges in making decisions on these cases.
- Conducted a Brown Bag training for judges in November 2025. The training covered general guardianship proceedings, statutory standards, including least restrictive alternatives, the use of attorneys and court visitors, and common challenges in guardianship cases.
- Completed work on major revisions to the Basic Guidelines to Serve as Guardian and Conservator of an Adult manual. In addition to bringing the manual up to date with Utah Code and rules, the committee used new court AI resources to ensure the content was at an appropriate reading level and accessible to court patrons. This was a multi-year project, culminating in final approval from the Judicial Council in December 2025. The committee will work on updating the guardianship qualifying exam in 2026.
- Worked on solutions to address the shortage of volunteer attorneys available to represent vulnerable adults in guardianship cases, WINGS provided support for a request to the Judicial Council to fund three attorneys to help the court meet the statutory obligations outlined in Utah Code § 75-5-303(2)(b), which was approved and included in court's requests to the Legislature during the 2026 session. This is an ongoing problem and need, and WINGS will continue to look toward additional possibilities and solutions.
- Developed a draft proposal to present to the Board of District Court Judges in pursuit of support to implement universal criminal background checks for prospective guardians and conservators. The committee will continue to work on this project in 2026.
- Participated in the national conversation surround guardianship and conservatorship to learn from national WINGS partners and share resources with others across the country.

**Upcoming Projects:**

- Building a partnership with the Utah Parent Center to produce updated and interactive training materials and resources to educate the public on alternatives to guardianship.
- Working with a coalition of attorneys experienced in guardianship law and procedure to update training materials for lawyers interested in volunteering for the Guardianship Signature Program, in conjunction with obtaining permission to offer CLE credits through the Utah Supreme Court's Board of Continuing Legal Education office.
- Creating forms and education resources for individuals pursuing guardianship of a minor, and improving the qualifying exams for adult and minor guardianship petitions.
- Working with the Education department to create an updated training presentation on guardianship and conservatorship for new judges.

WINGS would also like to formally express their gratitude to Judge Keith Kelly, who served as Chair of WINGS from September 2019 until his retirement from the Courts in September 2025. Judge Kelly’s investment and passion for improving guardianship processes and advocating for the rights of vulnerable individuals has been instrumental in helping WINGS support and advance the mission of the Court.

**WINGS Executive Committee:**

Coral Sanchez	Judge, WINGS Chair	Third District Court
Matthew Hansen	Judge, WINGS Vice Chair	Second District
Brant Christiansen	Attorney/Partner	Lewis Hansen Law Firm
Nels Holmgren	Director	Division of Adult and Aging Services
Wendy Naylor	Director	Adult Protective Services
Andrew Riggle	Public Policy Analyst	Disability Law Center
Keri Sargent	Deputy District Court Administrator	Administrative Office of the Courts
Shonna Thomas	Program Administrator - GRAMP	Administrative Office of the Courts
Holly Thorson	Court Visitor Program	Administrative Office of the Courts

**WINGS Steering Committee:**

Shane Bahr	District Court Administrator	Administrative Office of the Courts
Carole Baraldi	Professor, Geriatrics	University of Utah School of Medicine
Sarah Box	Attorney	Utah Courts - Self Help Center
Deborah Brown	Retired Professional Guardian	Guardianship & Conservator Services
Natasha Burningham	Education Project Coordinator	Utah Parent Center
Megan Connelly	Access to Justice Director	Utah State Bar
Katie Cox	Attorney	Disability Law Center
Rob Denton	Attorney	Attorney at Law
Rob Ence	Director	Utah Commission on Aging
Wendy Fayles	Criminal Justice / Mentor	National Alliance on Mental Illness
Leslie Francis	Attorney	University of Utah Law School
Ann Humpherys	LTC Ombudsman Program Manager	Dept. of Health and Human Services
Doug LeDoux	Court Visitor Program	Administrative Office of the Courts
Rachelle Johnson	Probate Clerk	Fourth District Court
Eve Larsen	Case Manager Senior Services	Davis County Health Department
Alan Ormsby	State Director	AARP
Tanya Schmidt	Director	Office of Public Guardian
Bree Spaulding	Staff Attorney	Utah Legal Services
Katie Thomson	Judicial Case Manager	Third District Court
James Toledo	Program Manager	Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Todd Weiler	Utah State Senator	Utah Legislature
Kaye Lynn Wootton	Assistant Attorney General	Medicaid Fraud Control Unit