



## **Mandatory PVP Training Program**

**Conducted by L.A. County Bar**

**November 12, 2016**

About 80 attorneys attended a training program on November 12, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The training was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association. The Los Angeles Superior Court mandates that attorneys who are on the Probate Volunteer Panel (PVP) attend such a training at least once every three years in order to be eligible for appointments to represent respondents in limited conservatorship proceedings. Respondents in these cases are adults with developmental disabilities who have been served with a petition to place them into a conservatorship.

Thomas F. Coleman, legal director of the Disability and Guardianship Project of Spectrum Institute attended the training in order to audit some of the presentations. His goal was to determine whether presenters were educating attorneys to perform services that would give their clients access to justice as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. His audit noted information that was included as well as information that was omitted. Coleman distributed a brochure about a White Paper on ADA-compliant performance standards for court-appointed attorneys in conservatorship cases as well as information about new court rules being considered by the Judicial Council that are based on the White Paper.



Hon. David Cowan

Judge David Cowan and attorney Jeff Marvan were speakers in the first presentation that was audited. Their remarks focused on the PVP report that is filed with the court by an attorney appointed to represent the proposed limited conservatee. Several comments made during the allotted 60 minutes raised serious concerns by the judge about whether the county will continue to have the judges run the PVP attorney system. [Click here](#) for an analysis of this presentation.



Laura Conti

The presentation by attorney Laura Conti focused on the role of the PVP attorney. Her remarks and written materials included the duty to investigate thoroughly, to talk to the client's doctor, teacher, and service coordinator, to maintain confidentiality, to consider potential abuse, and the applicability of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She provided attorneys with a checklist of services that should be performed as well as references to resource materials, including the website of Spectrum Institute. The allotted 20 minutes was insufficient. [Click here](#) for a transcript of this presentation.