

The Supreme Court  
State of Washington

BARBARA A. MADSEN  
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April 7, 2016

Thomas F. Coleman, Legal Director  
Spectrum Institute  
9420 Reseda Boulevard, #240  
Northridge, CA 91324

Re: Disability and Guardianship Project of Spectrum Institute

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I have received your letters regarding the state of Washington's disability and guardianship practices. The Supreme Court does indeed supervise the judicial branch as you mention in your letter. However, with regard to administrative matters, the court relies on the Administrative Office of the Courts. The administration of justice is complex and presents many issues which require staff and funding. Washington is a decentralized judiciary where local courts have some rule making authority and where most funding for court operations occur and as such the changes you propose cannot simply be made by a Supreme Court directive.

In Washington, we have created WINGS (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) in an effort to address the issues you mention in your letters. If you wish to learn more about the day-to-day handling of these cases, you may wish to address your concerns to Judge Harold Clarke of Spokane, president of the Superior Court Judges' Association, the level of court which oversees guardianship cases. As chief justice, I appreciate your concerns and, I assure you, will continue to work on these issues through the collaborative efforts we have established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Madsen".

Barbara A. Madsen  
Chief Justice

c: Washington Supreme Court Justices  
Hon. Harold Clarke, SCJA Pres. Judge  
Callie Dietz, AOC  
Shirley Bondon, AOC