

THE GUARDIAN REPORTER

Newsletter of **The Guardianship Project**, a demonstration project of the Vera Institute of Justice • **June 2013**

CESAR'S NEW WORLD

By Ashish Kapoor

While much of The Guardianship Project's focus is on elderly clients with some form of dementia, we also have younger clients with developmental disabilities that prevent them from living independently. Cesar* is one of those clients.

Cesar was diagnosed as having mild mental retardation shortly after his birth. His mother wanted to protect him from the difficulties of school and bullying. Before Cesar was set to start the 7th grade, she permanently removed him from school. Between the ages of 12 and 30, Cesar remained in his mother's apartment with little to do but watch television. His developmental disability, coupled with his extreme social isolation, prevented him from building friendships or gaining skills. His apartment and his mother became his whole world.

Last summer, that all changed. Cesar and his mother were evicted from their Bronx apartment of 30 years for nonpayment of rent. Soon after, his mother was hospitalized with end-stage colon cancer. For months, Cesar stayed in her hospital room as her illness worsened.

When Cesar's mother passed away last fall, he was left

alone with no place to live and no one to take care of him. Hospital staff who had taken an interest in his plight reached out to New York group homes in an attempt to find Cesar a place to live. Before he could make the transition, however, he needed a guardian to act on his behalf. A spot had opened up in a Harlem-based group home, and time was of the essence.

The hospital petitioned for guardianship. The court referred the case to us. We stepped in quickly and, drawing on our expertise in maximizing clients' independence within community settings, concluded that The Guardianship Project was well suited to take the case.

After meeting with Cesar and getting a thorough picture of his needs, our team met with the gracious and dedicated group home staff and toured his prospective living quarters. The Guardianship team was impressed with the facility and approved Cesar's admission.

Cesar entered the group home traumatized by his mother's death and generally unsocialized to human interactions.

continued on page 6

KEEPING CLIENTS AT HOME, DESPITE THE ODDS

By Ashish Kapoor and Laura Negrón

"They don't want me going outside or talking to anyone," Jan whispered. "They said they'd burn the house down and put me in a nursing home if I did." So began Jan's first conversation with a caseworker from The Guardianship Project after the court appointed us as her legal guardian.

Jan, a shy, kind woman in her mid-50s, was born with a developmental disability. She was speaking about Blakely and Watts, two alleged relatives who had duped her now-deceased mother into transferring to them two-thirds ownership of the multi-unit building where Jan had lived since birth. Although Jan retained a fractional interest in the building as one of two heirs to the estate, Blakely and Watts confined her to the most rundown apartment.

The agency that commenced the guardianship case

learned that Blakely and Watts were controlling Jan's very limited finances, emotionally abusing her, and using her money for renovations and utilities while she lived in abject poverty without as much as a winter coat and only a few cans of soup in the cupboard. Members of the community often saw her panhandling and sifting through the trash behind a local supermarket in search of more to eat. Even Jan's aides were afraid to ask Blakeley and Watts for anything more than the weekly pittance for food.

Once appointed, The Guardianship Project's first order of business was to make sure that Jan was protected from unscrupulous forces, and that she would be able to remain in her home. By court order, we gained control of her finances, using them to pay her utilities and arrears, buy her a winter

continued on page 4

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



This marks our second newsletter in my tenure at The Guardianship Project, and I have many exciting new developments to report since we last published. I'd like to thank the staff and trustees of the Vera Institute of Justice, our numerous partners and funders, the generosity of friends, and the commitment of our dedicated staff, all of whom are integral to our efforts to implement and expand our

cost-beneficial guardianship model in New York. In early December, we took an important step in our expansion by opening a new office in the Queens County Supreme Court building. Thanks to the support of the court personnel and our funding partners, it will be just a matter of time before our Queens work rivals our Manhattan and Brooklyn caseload. With our expansion this past year we also added several new staff members, including our first paralegal, a senior case manager, and another staff attorney, among others.

We continue to work hard to serve both elderly and younger clients who have been adjudicated as incapacitated by the courts or who have consented to a guardianship. Through our comprehensive and unique combination of case management, property, legal and financial services, we are able to support and protect an indigent and highly vulnerable population, and allow them to live with independence and dignity. In this issue, we highlight a sampling of cases that offer a glimpse into The Guardianship Project's multifaceted work and its transformative potential.

Laura Negrón, Esq.
Director, The Guardianship Project

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION The Vera Institute of Justice is an independent nonprofit organization that combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety. Vera designed and established The Guardianship Project to ensure that New York's older adults and people with disabilities can live with the highest level of dignity and autonomy in the least restrictive environment, regardless of their economic status.

The project delivers legal, financial, and intensive case and property management services to individuals who have either been adjudicated by a court as legally incapacitated and have no family or friend able or willing to care for them, or have consented to the guardianship.

The Guardian Reporter is published by The Guardianship Project in collaboration with Vera's Communications Department.

CONTACT US The Guardianship Project • 360 Adams St., Room 646H, Brooklyn, NY 11202 • (347) 296-1874 • lanegron@courts.state.ny.us

STAFF

Laura Negrón
Director

Zachary Addison
Director of Case Management

Frances Adomako
Case Manager

Sarah Berkowitz
Case Manager

Macon Hollister
Case Manager

Carrie Goldberg
Associate Director of Legal Services

John Holt
Staff Attorney

Miguelino Joseph
Property Manager

Jillian Lamaj
Case Manager

Debbie Lightbody
Case Manager

Jennifer Medina
Financial Case Manager

Andrew Niekamp
Accounting Associate

Michele Rivera
Budget Officer

Kathiria Rodriguez
Paralegal

ADVISORY BOARD

Sia Arnason

Rose Mary Bailly

Leona Beane

Erica Berman

Karen Burstein

Jessica Cornfeld

Rebekah Diller

Toby Golick

Alice Herb

Michael Jacobson

Pat Kaufman

Diane Lutwak

Joseph McDonald

Joe Rosenberg

Debra Sacks

Pam Teaser

Ed Tetelman

Erica Wood

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW QUEENS OFFICE This fall, thanks to new funding awarded by the New York State Department of Health/Money Follows the Person Program, The Guardianship Project expanded its reach beyond Kings and New York counties to Queens. On December 3, we opened a new office in the Queens County Supreme Court building. The project will remain headquartered in the Kings County Supreme Court building, but our presence in Queens will allow us to serve additional clients under guardianship in that county. We would like to thank New York Unified Court system administrators and staff, who helped make this expansion possible. We look forward to collaborating with judges, court attorneys, and others to deliver holistic guardianship services to more clients in need.

CUNY LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP Laura Negrón, Guardianship's director, and Carrie Goldberg, associate director of legal services, spoke to students at CUNY School of Law's Main Street Legal Services Elder Law Clinic for the third consecutive year. They presented information about Article 81 guardianships to the clinic's students and conducted an interactive exercise focused on the importance of court evaluator reports. The presentation focused on medical decision making by guardians pursuant to the Family Health Care Decisions Act.

The Guardianship Project's partnership with CUNY Law School was further enriched by this event: two law students chose to work at The Guardianship Project for the remainder of the semester. These students were instrumental in achieving a court victory through a turnover proceeding, brought by the project, which resulted in our recovery of \$90,000 unlawfully withheld by a client's son following the sale of his father's business.

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP PRO BONO FAIR On November 15, 2012, The Guardianship Project had the opportunity to foster its long-standing relationship with Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP by participating in the firm's first Pro Bono Fair, an event facilitating Katten Muchin associates' connection with available pro bono projects. Guardianship's director and associate director of legal services represented the project, distributing summaries of case opportunities.

PRESENTATION AT THE WEST SIDE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE AGING On November 15, 2012, Zachary Addison, director of case management, and John Holt, staff attorney, presented on The Guardianship Project model to a gathering of adult service professionals at the West Side Inter-Agency Council for the Aging. They spoke to an audience that included social workers, hospital administrators, a massage therapist, and a bed-bug exterminator, among others, about the project's services and the role that guardianship could play in the lives of their respective programs' elderly clients.

STATE ADULT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS LEARN ABOUT THE GUARDIANSHIP PROJECT Last January, a team of Guardianship Project staff introduced the project's holistic model to a gathering of adult service professionals in Albany, N.Y. They focused on what a project like Guardianship can do to improve the quality of life for its clients—especially by keeping them in the community where possible—and on the project's cost-effectiveness in doing so.

CLIENT HIGHLIGHT: COMBATING EXPLOITATION We are grateful to the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Project for assisting us, pro bono, on a case involving five legal actions related to fraud and financial exploitation of an elderly Brooklyn resident that threaten him with eviction and permanent institutionalization without medical necessity. To date, our litigation team has successfully avoided an unfavorable settlement regarding the property and continues to advocate for the client's interests in the pending fraud and foreclosure actions.

FUNDING PARTNERS We acknowledge several government and private funders who help make our work possible, including the New York State Unified Court System/Judiciary Civil Legal Services Fund; New York State Department of Health; New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; FJC; the Isaac Tuttle Fund; an anonymous family foundation; the David Berg Foundation; and the Charina Endowment Fund.

coat, and re-hire her former, trusted in-home aide.

Recently, we found that Blakely and Watts wanted to sell the building, which would have displaced her. And with Jan's bare-bones income, her options for remaining independent were bleak. After numerous meetings and court appearances, however, we negotiated for the execution of a 99-year lease, allowing Jan to remain in her home, and locked in at a \$300-per-month rental rate for the rest of her life. The lease, drafted with input from pro bono counsel, can only be terminated upon court order or Jan's death and survives all sales. The house is currently under contract, and The Guardianship Project and Jan are both excited that Blakely and Watts will

Institutionalization is often the path of least resistance and can be easier for the guardian, but it is most likely neither the least restrictive option nor what the client wants.

no longer be involved in Jan's living situation. Through creative lawyering and intensive case management services, we thus worked to diminish the exploitative forces in Jan's life, and continue to strive to keep her healthy and living at home.

The Guardianship Project works on behalf of a wide range of clients. Jan

belongs to one particularly vulnerable group: those who are born with developmental disabilities and have been cared for by their parents. When their parents die, these clients can be especially at risk of varying types of exploitation. This may occur at a younger age, as was the case with Cesar, (see article, page 1), or later in their life, as was the case with Jan.

Jan's story exemplifies The Guardianship Project's priorities: keeping clients in their homes and communities whenever possible. It is an option that the majority of our clients prefer. Familiar surroundings and recognizable faces can be counterbalances to the challenges of declining health and the onset of dementia. Moreover, a home or community setting is generally the least restrictive environment—a principal tenet of New York State's guardianship statute, Mental Hygiene Law Article 81.

Keeping our clients at home is no easy feat, however. By virtue of the fact that they have entered the guardianship court system and have been found by a judge to need a guardian, most clients, like Jan, are in crisis. They face evic-

tions, foreclosures, dilapidated properties, medical issues, and often financial exploitation or abuse. Because of their varying mental health impairments, they may exhibit difficult behaviors, poor judgment, or simply be unable to independently manage their decisions and finances. Clients for whom The Guardianship Project is appointed usually have no available or suitable family member or friend to assist them, and many—if not most—are isolated, with limited resources. These are typically the clients for whom courts have difficulty finding a willing guardian.

The Guardianship Project welcomes the chance to tackle even the most difficult obstacles, especially when the goal is helping a client to live safely and independently in the community. Institutionalization is often the path of least resistance and can be easier for the guardian, but it is most likely neither the least restrictive option nor what the client wants. As with Jan, the clients' stories that follow underscore the fact that intensive case and financial management and creative legal strategies along with a passionate commitment to the work are critical to achieving this important goal in guardianship practice.

The plight of Beatrice, in her 80s when we became her guardian, illustrates yet another form of exploitation that can befall those who are vulnerable and result in needless institutionalization. A Fordham graduate, Beatrice worked as a nurse for Con Edison and never married. She lived in a small studio in upper Manhattan that she'd owned for many years. In 2004, her sister fell while visiting the apartment and was admitted to a nursing home. Beatrice blamed herself for the injury and became suspicious that the nursing home was holding her sister against her will. Beatrice was ultimately admitted to the same nursing home after passionately arguing for her sister's discharge. She remained there against her wishes for seven years.

Prior to the guardianship, and facing the onset of dementia, Beatrice had given her co-op building's doorman power of attorney. The doorman liquidated Beatrice's assets, stealing a total of \$467,000 from her accounts, which represented most of her savings. The doorman then bought a one-way ticket to Central America and never returned. As a result of these transfers, Beatrice owed nearly \$160,000 in capital gains tax to the IRS. Her failure to pay the taxes arising from the doorman's transactions led to an IRS judgment freezing her accounts. To add to her misfortune, her co-op sued her in landlord/tenant court for failure to pay her maintenance arrears.

To make matters worse, in 2006 the nursing home sued

Beatrice for roughly \$500,000 in unpaid charges. The judge questioned why the nursing home had waited so long to collect the debt and noted that the management had made an unsuccessful attempt to be appointed as Beatrice's guardian. Shortly thereafter, the court appointed us as her guardian. We learned that the nursing home had petitioned for guardianship to recoup its debt, after unsuccessfully attempting to convince her to sell her co-op and pay the nursing home debts from the sale proceeds.

To resolve the \$160,000 in capital gains taxes, we worked with a pro bono law firm and an elder law attorney to prove to the IRS that Beatrice had been the victim of financial exploitation. Our efforts were successful: the IRS forgave her debt and unfroze her accounts. Next, we negotiated a settlement with the co-op to satisfy her maintenance arrears. Finally, we reached an agreement with the nursing home to collect on its debts only after Beatrice's death. Once we determined that she had resources available for her use, we had her apartment painted, purchased furnishings, arranged home care, and moved her back home. She was overjoyed to return.

Last year, Beatrice was diagnosed with advanced-stage lung cancer and a chronic inability to keep her food down. She passed away some months later, spending her final days in hospice care in the comfort of a home in which she had spent so much of her life. We believe that our multidisciplinary approach, fueled by our drive to help Beatrice realize her dream of living in her own apartment were key to achieving this goal, which many along the way thought unattainable. We also prevailed in a court application to use Beatrice's funds to pay for her indigent sister's burial in the family plot, next to one another, something we believe Beatrice would have wanted.

A third example, the case of Ms. J, is yet another instance where the project, through its holistic approach and unfettered determination, succeeded in keeping a very frail elderly woman in the comfort of her own home. This case, in which Ms. J's son petitioned for guardianship, also illustrates that even close familial bonds are sometimes inadequate to ensure proper care for vulnerable elderly people. Ms. J was in the later stages of dementia, mainly unresponsive, and confined to a bed in her rent-stabilized apartment. The court found that her son did not provide care during the off-hours and did not make proper arrangements for her care while visiting Europe. Ms. J's income was so low that it did not cover her rent, and her ability to remain in the home depended upon receiving public benefits, home care through Medicaid, and additional financial support from her son.

When the court appointed us as Ms. J's guardian, we assessed the quality of home care through random home visits and began regularly calling to ensure that the aide was present. Unfortunately, the son—who originally commenced the guardianship proceeding identifying himself as the most appropriate guardian—was extremely evasive, usually responding to the Guardianship Project's requests for information and vital documents with the excuse that he was "in Europe on business." Without informing the guardian, the son stopped paying his portion of his mother's rent, causing Ms. J to accrue thousands of dollars of rent debt and be sued for nonpayment. Through our interventions, which included demands for the son's appearances in court, we delayed the eviction proceeding, held the son accountable for his irresponsible behavior, and made sure that she lived out her final months at home.

These stories are just a small sampling of the daily, exhaustive efforts of our legal, financial, property, and case management teams to keep clients at home. We pride ourselves on knowing that we do everything possible to maximize our clients' dignity and autonomy, and to ensure that they are treated with the respect and care that they deserve.

Intensive case and financial management and creative legal strategies, along with a passionate commitment to the work, are critical to helping a client live safely and independently in the community.

Keeping People at Home is Cost-Effective to Taxpayers

Keeping clients at home can generate significant taxpayer savings. In New York City in 2012, 24-hour Medicaid community home care was, on average, about 30 percent less costly to Medicaid than the average cost of nursing home care. Last year, by maintaining close to 40% of our clients in deinstitutionalized settings, The Guardianship Project generated over \$2.7 million in Medicaid savings. As the project expands, these savings will likely increase substantially.

In his first months there, he said very little. His responses to staff questions were limited to a single word or a shrug of his shoulders. When his case manager, Debbie, visited him, she gave him her card, urging him to “[c]all me anytime you need anything.” He again shrugged his shoulders and looked down at the floor. “I don’t know how to use a phone,” he responded.

Now, nearly a year after he was admitted into the home, Cesar has a lot more to say. He reads, paints, speaks more openly and comfortably in groups, interacts with his roommates, and is showing increasing signs of understanding both himself and others. Ms. R, assistant director of residential services, explained that Cesar is currently classified as a “Level II resident,” meaning he is learning basic life skills such as handling money, personal hygiene, and personal and job-related responsibilities. He still needs 24-hour supervision, but he is on track to move to Level III, which would allow him to move into a facility with eight hours of staffing a day.

Now, nearly a year after he was admitted into the home, Cesar reads, paints, speaks more openly and comfortably in groups, interacts with his roommates, and is showing increasing signs of understanding both himself and others.

Cesar, who has a few gray hairs, told staff members recently that he wants to dye his hair black. During one of Debbie’s site visits, he even offered her a seat, impressing everyone with his manners. And, perhaps most tellingly, the once painfully shy and introverted young man took to the dance floor and showed off some moves at the group home’s annual Christmas party.

Cesar now uses a phone, listens to the latest popular music on his mp3 player, and watches his favorite action movies on a TV in his room. The group home, in conjunction with a nonprofit organization, has connected him with a job delivering meals to the elderly through the Meals-on-Wheels program. He receives a stipend to help him develop personal and financial responsibility. And since being in the group home, Cesar has also developed a strong inter-

est in reading. He now has a library card so that he can save money while continuing to read. One evening, after returning a book late, he had to dip into his personal savings to pay the fine.

When Cesar entered the group home, he had never played any sports or traveled outside of the Bronx. Now, his weekends are spent playing sports and seeing the city. He and his housemates go on six outings a month. They recently went on a weekend retreat to Lake George, where they enjoyed a steamboat cruise, seafood, and barbecuing. Cesar has learned how to play basketball and has painted in an art competition. Last summer, he swam in the Special Olympics. When I asked him about his experience competing, he flashed a proud grin and displayed the two medals that he had won.

While his road to socialization and independence has only just begun, Cesar has come a long way in just one year. The Guardianship Project is proud to serve as his guardian and help guide him along his exciting and challenging new journey.

* “Cesar” and other client names used in this newsletter are pseudonyms.

CLIENT HIGHLIGHT: BACK HOME IN PUERTO RICO



A beach in Isabela, Puerto Rico, close to Mr. L’s new residence

When The Guardianship Project was appointed as temporary guardian for 84-year-old Mr. L, he was residing in the locked ward of a psychiatric facility in New York City because of severe Parkinson’s symptoms and dementia. Through months of hearings and in partnership with Mr. L’s brother, The Guardianship Project facilitated Mr. L’s return to his native Puerto Rico. He lives in a facility close enough to his brother’s family to allow for weekly visits. Mr. L is benefiting from proximity to family and the mild weather, and has expressed his delight in being able to once again enjoy the local food.

EXPLOITATION CASES: ON THE RISE?

The Guardianship Project has noticed an increase in new guardianship appointments involving moderate to severe financial exploitation and abuse. While exploitation and abuse is not unique to guardianship in New York State—studies by the federal Government Accountability Office have found instances of such crimes across the country—it is a pernicious problem for people who require our help.

One such case involves an indigent elderly homeowner with dementia, whose daughter tricked him into creating a limited liability corporation. She transferred title to his home into it, then stripped the property of its equity through a series of fraudulent mortgages, leaving her father at the brink of foreclosure and facing four lawsuits.

In another case, a woman with mental illness suffered botched surgery for a minor ailment, from which she awoke as a paraplegic. When she returned home, her abusive partner isolated her, drained her assets, and, we believe, physically abused her. In other cases, family members have stolen money, home care aides have forged or garnered signatures on checks before fleeing, and drug-using adult children have taken out reverse mortgages on their elderly mother's home, resulting in tax liens approaching foreclosure. An egregious example involves a woman with cerebral palsy whose attorney

hired a private investigator to follow her after he was disqualified as counsel. He paid himself approximately \$100,000 in legal fees and is believed to have tampered with her accessibility devices.

Guardianship Project attorneys use the tools at their disposal to combat this egregious conduct. They investigate and litigate such matters, securing restraining orders and eviction stays, bringing turnover proceedings, creating trusts to safeguard client funds, and referring cases to district attorneys. Our finance team prepares forensic analyses of bank transactions to inform courts and obtain protective relief. Temporary orders issued by some guardianship judges at the time of our appointment are particularly helpful in confronting these abuses, because they enable the guardian to immediately intervene on the client's behalf. While Guardianship Project staff are vigilant in their response to exploitation and abuse of our clients, the problems warrant further research on causes and preventive strategies, given the enormous risks and consequences to this highly vulnerable population.

NEW COLLABORATION WITH CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL'S GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC

In order to contribute to the quality of life of New York's elderly and people with disabilities under guardianship, The Guardianship Project delivers training and information sessions that help inform future lawyers, case workers, and lay guardians about ways to participate in the guardianship process. Cardozo Law School's Guardianship Clinic shares our commitment to guardianship reform through education and advocacy. Since the opening of the clinic last January, the project and clinic faculty have collaborated both through policy discussions and in bringing new, urgent case matters into the court system.

On March 20, 2013, Carrie Goldberg, associate director of legal services, and Laura Negrón, Guardianship's director, had the privilege of expanding the collaboration by delivering an interactive workshop-style presentation to a class of law students currently participating in the clinic. During the two hour session, Goldberg and Negrón described the current

legal landscape of guardianship in New York State, articulated The Guardianship Project's mission and goals, and provided students with case studies. The case studies segment involved groups of students in an interactive exercise in which they identified legal issues and recommended legal strategies to specific problems in accordance with Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law. This workshop provided an opportunity for students to think critically about the fiduciary duties of a guardian and to strategize about ways to maximize the dignity, autonomy, and well-being of guardianship clients in future cases. Both Goldberg and Negrón were inspired by this talented group of students, two of whom are currently working with us on a policy project concerning elder abuse. The Guardianship Project looks forward to future collaborations and an enduring partnership with the Guardianship Clinic in addressing policy and practice matters.

CONTENTS

- 1 CESAR'S NEW WORLD
- 1 KEEPING CLIENTS AT HOME, DESPITE THE ODDS
- 2 LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 3 NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 7 EXPLOITATION CASES: ON THE RISE?
- 7 NEW COLLABORATION WITH CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL

NATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP NETWORK AWARDS GUARDIANSHIP IMPROVEMENT GRANT TO NEW YORK STATE

In June 2013, the National Guardianship Network announced the award of incentive and technical assistance guardianship improvement grants to the highest courts in four states, including New York, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. These grants will catalyze the planning and establishment of a state-wide guardianship task force in each state to help improve judicial processes in guardianship, help protect individual rights, address funding issues, and assure guardian performance and accountability. These state-wide groups, entitled Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS), will be consensus-driven collaborations involving the court system, state agencies, advocates, and other stakeholders, who will assess needs, identify priorities, set goals, and undertake both short-term and long-term reform initiatives to improve the best practices in guardianship. The New York State Office of Court Administration, working with the Vera Institute of Justice Guardianship Project, will lead a steering committee that will design and implement the broad-based WINGS group in New York State. Funding for these grants is generously provided by the State Justice Institute and the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging.

SUPPORT THE GUARDIANSHIP PROJECT

I would like to support The Guardianship Project with a gift of: \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 Other _____

NAME(S) • as you would like it to appear in donor recognition (if paying by credit card, list name as it appears on card) My gift is anonymous.

ADDRESS (if paying by credit card, list billing address)

CITY • STATE • ZIP CODE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

MC Visa AmEx Discover

SECURITY CODE

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

Please make checks payable to the Vera Institute of Justice, The Guardianship Project, 233 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10279. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, call (212) 376-3003.

Prefer to give online? Visit Vera's website at <http://www.vera.org/support> to donate securely. Please include the words "Guardianship Project" in the notes field.