

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 08-11**

**(Pilot for Nonlawyer Guardians in Probate)**

**WHEREAS**, the Probate Division of the Superior Court is responsible for monitoring the well-being of persons who have been found incapacitated and have become wards of the Court; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to discharge this responsibility, the Probate Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court appoints limited and permanent guardians from the Probate Fiduciary Panel list of guardians; and

**WHEREAS**, although others may be qualified to serve as guardians, currently only members of the District of Columbia Bar are appointed; and

**WHEREAS**, wards in intervention cases suffer from physical, mental, and developmental conditions and frequently require assistance obtaining housing and other placements, medical and mental health care and social services; and

**WHEREAS**, professionals who are not lawyers but are qualified in specialized fields such as nursing, occupational therapy, and geriatric social work are well-suited to address the needs of the Court's wards; and

**WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia Guardianship Group – a consortium of organizations and individuals with knowledge and expertise in issues associated with aging, the elderly and the disabled\* – has identified a group of fourteen licensed geriatric social workers, advanced practice nurses, and occupational therapists who are private practitioners, contractors or retired professionals and are able to make the time commitments required of guardians; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division has reviewed the qualifications of the professionals recommended by the Guardianship Group and finds that their services would benefit the wards of the Court; and

**WHEREAS**, inclusion of the identified professionals as members of the Probate Fiduciary Panel eligible for appointment as Guardians, on a pilot basis, and subsequent review of the pilot program would enable the Court to determine whether inclusion of non-legal professionals on the guardian list of the Probate Fiduciary Panel on a permanent basis would protect and benefit wards of the Court;

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\* \* Representatives of the following organizations are members of the Steering Committee of the District of Columbia Guardianship Group: Iona Senior Services, the ABA Commission on Law and the Aging, District of Columbia Adult Protective Services; the D.C. Bar Estates, Trusts, and Probate Section, and the ABA Public Policy Institute.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is by the Court,

**ORDERED** that the following professionals are hereby appointed to the Probate Fiduciary Panel for a period of one year from September 1, 2008, eligible, at the discretion of the appointing judge, to receive appointments as Guardians in intervention cases:

**Social Workers**

Carrie Brown Duncan, LICSW  
Gladys Walton Hall, Ph.D., MSW, LICSW  
Ubax A. Hussen, LCSW, MPH (fluent in Spanish)  
Laurie T. Nakamoto, MSW, ACSW, LICSW  
Mary L. Durso, LICSW, LPC  
Sharon R. Cascone, LICSW, LCSW  
Janice Colbert, LICSW  
Shelma Middleton Grant, Ph.D., LCSW-C, LICSW, ACSW  
Shirley L. Tabb, LICSW  
LaRhonda S. Gough, LICSW, LCSW-C  
Suzan F. Wynne, LICSW, LCSW-C

**Registered Nurses/Nurse Practitioner**

Lois Ann Wessel, RN, CFNP  
Anita L. Massengale, RN, BA, JD

**Occupational Therapist**

Orit Simhoni, Ph.D.

and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the aforementioned professionals appointed as Guardians pursuant to this Administrative Order shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for their services, upon approval by the Court, and shall be paid from the assets of the wards for whom they serve as Guardians or from the Guardianship Fund, as appropriate, pursuant to D. C. Code §21 – 2060 and Super. Ct. R. PD 308; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that no later than September 1, 2009, the Probate Division, along with the Steering Committee of the District of Columbia Guardianship Group, shall begin an evaluation of the pilot project established by this ORDER, said evaluation to be

completed no later than October 15, 2009, and shall report the results of said evaluation to the Chief Judge of the Superior Court promptly thereafter.

**SO ORDERED.**

**BY THE COURT**

**August 25, 2008**

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**Rufus G. King, III**  
**Chief Judge**

**Copies to:**

**Judges**  
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