

Capacity, Supported Decision-Making,
Abuse Response, Therapy Rights, and ADA

TRAINING



Thomas F. Coleman speaks at conferences, seminars, and workshops on **guardianship** and **conservatorship** issues, including how to enhance legal **capacity** through **supported decision-making** and how to achieve meaningful participation in such proceedings through accommodations under the **ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act). He also speaks on legal issues involving disability and **abuse** as well as the right of people with disabilities to **mental health therapy**. He is available to speak to lawyers and mental health professionals as well as self and family advocates. Coleman also offers trainings on these issues for disability services organizations and protective services agencies. In addition to [seminars](#) on developing ADA-compliant legal services in guardianship or conservatorship proceedings, some of his presentations have included:

- * A [workshop](#) conducted in 2020 (with continuing education credit) for members of the Long Beach Bar Association on how to effectively represent clients when issues of legal capacity arise in legal proceedings.
- * A [lecture](#) in 2019 at Stanford Law School on “California Probate Conservatorships: Bridging the Gap Between *Theory* and *Reality*.” In 2020 he submitted a [written presentation](#) on “Autism and Conservatorships: Protecting Civil Rights and Providing Access to Justice.” to a UCLA neurodiversity class.
- * A plenary presentation on guardianship reform and a [workshop](#) on supported decision-making at the World Congress on Adult Guardianship held in 2018 in Seoul, South Korea.
- * Presentations at an autism [conference](#) in 2019 in Savannah on: “Guardianship, the ADA, and Access to Justice for People with Disabilities” and “Safe and Legal [Supported Decision-Making](#) as an Alternative to Guardianship.” He spoke on the latter topic in 2017 at the Public Policy Conference of the Arc of California. He presented at a national conference for guardianship reform advocates in Tampa in 2019 on “[Accountability: The Key to Guardianship Reform](#).” He gave a keynote [presentation](#) on how public officials can reduce the risk of abuse in guardianships at the Arc of Missouri’s [victimization conference](#) in 2017.

Coleman has published [educational materials](#) for adult protective services professionals on the assessment of capacity to consent to sex. He has also published [training materials](#) for attorneys on how to effectively advocate for clients in probate conservatorship proceedings. Coleman is the author of a [policy statement](#) affirming the right of people with developmental disabilities to a full range of mental health therapies. He has compiled comprehensive bibliographies of [books](#) and [articles](#) on therapies being used with this population. He is the primary author of a major [report](#) on abuse of people with disabilities.

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