

ACLU



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

TOMORROW: Disability Rights Experts and Advocates Testify Before Senate Subcommittee on Conservatorship Reform

CONTACT: Aaron Madrid Aksoz, ACLU, media@aclu.org, 303-829-4000

WHAT:

The Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution will host disability rights experts and impacted individuals for a hearing tomorrow on “Toxic Conservatorships: The Need for Reform.”

At the hearing, American Civil Liberties Union disability rights attorney Zoë Brennan-Krohn, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities legal director Morgan Whitlatch, and Indiana Disability Rights client Nick Clouse will address the committee to discuss the impact of conservatorships and guardianships on the civil liberties of people with disabilities and the need for reform.

The hearing comes as civil and disability rights groups have been sounding the alarm in recent months on the devastating impact of conservatorships and guardianships on people with disabilities who wish to live self-directed lives and make decisions for themselves.

The ACLU, joined by Quality Trust and more than 20 other disability and civil rights organizations, [filed an amicus brief](#) with the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in July urging the court to allow Britney Spears to select her own attorney to represent her in conservatorship proceedings. The court subsequently [allowed her](#) to select her own attorney, and most recently her father [filed a motion](#) to end the conservatorship.

Indiana Disability Rights, the state's Protection and Advocacy organization, has represented numerous people with disabilities seeking to get out of guardianship, including Nick Clouse. Clouse, who had been in guardianship for nearly 10 years following a traumatic brain injury, successfully terminated his guardianship this summer. Quality Trust is a nationally recognized expert in promoting the decision-making rights of people with disabilities, both within and outside the courtroom.

WHO:

- **Zoe Brennan-Krohn**, staff attorney with the ACLU's Disability Rights Program
- **Nick Clouse**, client of Indiana Disability Rights who recently terminated his guardianship after a years-long battle
- **Morgan Whitlatch**, legal director of Quality Trust for Individuals With Disabilities and the National Resource-Center for Supported Decision-Making

Others with medical and court experience in conservatorships and guardianships will also testify before the committee.

WHEN:

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. ET

WHERE:

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 326

Washington, D.C.

Hearing will also be livestreamed here: <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/toxic-conservatorships-the-need-for-reform>

INTERVIEW:

Brennan-Krohn, Whitlatch, and Clouse are available for print and broadcast interviews before and after the hearing.

Witnesses will distribute written statements to select reporters ahead of the hearing upon request. Please email media@aclu.org to schedule an interview or receive the written statement.