



ICARED

Improved Court Access & Reform for Elders & Dependent Adults



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FREE SPEECH
ONLINE

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CAMPAIGN

Welcome

Elder abuse in California is a public crisis escalating at an alarming rate. Just consider the following facts:

- “One of every 20 elderly Californians is a victim of neglect or physical, psychological, or financial abuse.” (California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General)
- Estimates of the incidence of elder abuse that are based on officially reported cases do not reflect the true magnitude of the problem because reported cases of elder abuse represent “only the tip of a much larger unidentified and unreported problem.” (National Center on Elder Abuse’s *National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*)
- Due to the aging of the baby boom population in the United States, the surging number of elderly Californians (age 60 and over) will more than double from 4.9 million in 2000 to approximately 11.4 million in 2030. (California Department of Aging)
- The percentage of Californians who are elderly will explode to approximately 20 percent by 2010. (California Department of Aging)
- Because of the explosive growth in the elderly population in California, the incidence (i.e., the number of new cases) of elder abuse will sharply increase unless California quickly addresses this growing public crisis. (California attorney general’s Crime and Violence Prevention Center)
- When California victims of financial elder abuse become impoverished and cannot pay their necessary health care and long-term care costs, Medi-Cal—California’s publicly funded health insurance program for the indigent, elderly, and disabled—must pay these costs.
- California Health and Human Services Agency, which oversees the Medi-Cal program, accounts for the

“When...I discovered that my mother’s life savings had been stolen by a relative, my life changed in an instant. For the next five years...my life’s work was protecting her and what remained of her estate from a determined, cunning, and resourceful predator...I emerged from the five-year ordeal profoundly disappointed and disillusioned with our judicial system.”

—Glenn R. Ackerman,
Ex-LAPD captain and
co-founder of LAPD’s
Elder Abuse Unit

Report
Judicial
Misconduct

Judge
Robert Letteau
Admonished

Probate Judge
Censured and
Barred



oversees the Medi-Cal program, accounts for the second-largest California General Fund expenditure. (California Health and Human Services Agency)

- California General Fund expenditures for the California Health and Human Services Agency surged from \$16.1 billion (27.8 percent) of the 1998–99 budget to \$24.6 billion (32.3 percent) of the 2004–05 budget. (*2004–2005 Budget Proposal Summary* by the California Health and Human Services Agency)

What are the different types of elder abuse?

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse's *National Elder Abuse Incidence Study*, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in domestic (i.e., noninstitutionalized) settings include the following categories: (1) physical abuse, (2) sexual abuse, (3) emotional or psychological abuse, (4) neglect, (5) abandonment, (6) financial or material exploitation, and (7) self-neglect.

Many California probate court judges contribute to elder abuse

This website finally exposes the dirty little secret about probate court judges, receiving taxpayer-funded salaries to protect vulnerable seniors from elder abuse, who are themselves directly and indirectly responsible for physical, psychological, and financial elder abuse.

This website uncovers the truth about probate judges who spend little time on elder abuse cases, unless they involve wealthy victims and lawyers, and instead continually reschedule hearings to avoid working late and making decisions that may be reversed on appeal. Abusing the essential private judging system that California pioneered, near-retiring judges often use the public courts to cherry-pick the big-money cases to tout themselves as private “rent-a-judges” who earn up to \$10,000 a day to resolve disputes in out-of-court settings for corporations, celebrities, and other high-paying litigants.

According to Martin Kasindorf's "[Rent-a-Judges Forced Out of California Courts.](#)" in the April 24, 2003 *USA Today*, California Chief Justice Ronald George was disturbed by moonlighting judges who were using the public courts to promote themselves for highly lucrative private judging. As a result, George [announced](#) in July 2002 a rule that bars retired judges working on temporary assignment from serving simultaneously as public and private judges.



serving simultaneously as public and private judges.

Website guides the media, legislators, judiciary, and public to evidence of judicial misconduct

This website provides detailed, unpublished evidence, including actual court filings and transcripts, of probate judges supervising elder abuse cases who:

- Instruct victims' attorneys to [settle out of court](#) with elder abusers so that judges do not have to spend the time that is necessary to protect victims.
- Refuse to spend the time to hear oral testimony and argument substantiating elder abuse claims.
- Refuse to spend the time to read court papers filed by attorneys on behalf of abused seniors.
- Deny or dismiss unread petitions filed by attorneys on behalf of abused seniors.
- [Dismiss elder abuse lawsuits](#) filed by attorneys on behalf of abused seniors without any notice to the parties, any hearing, or due process of law.
- [Fail to issue](#) or enforce protective orders restraining elder abusers from continuing to harm victims.
- [Fail to hold](#) elder abusers in contempt of court when they repeatedly defy court orders.
- Allow litigious elder abusers to drag out costly court proceedings, wear down victims' attorneys and conservators, and impoverish victims.
- Continue court hearings frequently, giving elder abusers more time to harm victims and evade punishment.
- [Slash the fees](#) awarded to elder abuse victims' attorneys, conservators, and indispensable forensic experts (e.g., psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and accountants) to deter them from tying up judges' calendars with time-consuming elder abuse cases.
- Try to silence and [retaliate](#) against elder law attorneys who blow the whistle on these court practices.



Probate judges' misconduct seems unbelievable until you've experienced it

“Probate judges have the immense power and legal duty to stop perpetrators from continuing to abuse elderly victims, so I know it seems shocking and unbelievable that many of these judges are actually contributing to elder abuse,” said Glenn Ackerman, a retired Los Angeles Police Department captain who co-founded LAPD’s elder abuse unit. “If anyone had told me five years ago how broken and corrupt the California probate court system is and how it abandons elder abuse victims to the predators, I would have thought the person was insane or a liar. But after spending five years trying to protect my elderly, disabled mother and her remaining estate from a determined, cunning, and resourceful predator, I emerged from the five-year ordeal profoundly disappointed and disillusioned with our judicial system.”

We are dedicated to reforming the broken and inefficient probate court system

ICARED (Improved Court Access & Reform for Elders & Dependent Adults) is a public-interest advocacy group of elder care advocates, providers, family members, health care personnel, and legal professionals who are steadfastly dedicated to strengthening and reforming the civil protections guaranteed to California’s vulnerable seniors and dependent adults. ICARED is committed to this reform through public education, legislative action, and judicial reforms.

ICARED’s website provides valuable information and resources

ICARED’s website provides the media, legislators, judiciary, and public with the following information and resources:

- Evidence of powerful probate judges who fail to stop predators from abusing vulnerable seniors and dependent adults
- Evidence of vindictive and biased probate judges who [abuse their power](#) and try to blackball whistleblowers
- ICARED-proposed bills in the California Legislature that are designed to reform the broken and inefficient probate court system
- Public policy changes recommended by ICARED



- Evidence of vindictive and biased probate judges who [abuse their power](#) and try to blackball whistleblowers
- ICARED-proposed bills in the California Legislature that are designed to reform the broken and inefficient probate court system
- Public policy changes recommended by ICARED
- Firsthand personal and professional experiences about actual abuse victims
- California legislators committed to protecting abuse victims
- Influential media writers, editors, and reporters who have covered or are interested in state government, politics, legislation, the courts, the judiciary, lawyers, legal and senior issues, elder law, or elder abuse
- News articles on elder abuse, elder law, and the courts
- Late-breaking legislative alerts
- ICARED's [public message board](#), where you can freely discuss probate judges who fail to protect abused seniors and dependent adults
- Further information about ICARED, its mission, and its membership
- ICARED press releases

We hope that you find the information and resources on our website helpful and that you take just a moment to [share your comments](#) with us and our visitors from around the world.

Thank you very much for stopping by the ICARED website and for returning soon for our continual updates.



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