Public Participation & Outreach – WINGS Forum Backgrounder

**Objective:** Enable WINGS to seek public input on guardianship reform; and involve public in WINGS efforts at guardianship reform, promotion of less restrictive options and addressing guardianship abuse.

**Examples of WINGS Actions**

- Alaska – Outreach meetings with diverse participants prior to convening of WINGS
- Florida -- Co-hosting of two public hearings to gain input on ways to improve state guardianship process
- Florida – Distribution of 29-question survey statewide; analyzed 345 survey responses on improving guardianship process
- Massachusetts – Guardianship colloquia and conference
- Minnesota – Annual WINGS summits
- Oregon – Involvement of wide range of public participants in mapping project survey and focus groups
- Many WINGS – Development of websites

**Challenges & Questions – How Can WINGS:**

- Maximize use of websites; maintain sites
- Sponsor effective public hearings
- Seek public input and interest through statewide surveys
- Address concerns of aggrieved family members
- Best use/involve public members in stakeholder group – for example, family guardians, self-advocates, other interested public members
- Raise public visibility of WINGS
- Identify other ways to solicit public input
- Measure public participation in WINGS

**Resources**

- WINGS Forum State Fact Sheets
- ABA Commission WINGS website at [http://ambar.org/wings](http://ambar.org/wings)

---

This action tool is supported by grant No. 90EJIG0007- 01-00 from the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living or DHHS policy.

Under the ACL grant, the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging coordinates and provides technical assistance to establish, expand and enhance state Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS). The views expressed in this Action Tool have not been approved by the ABA House of Delegates or the Board of Governors and should not be construed as representing the policy of the American Bar Association.