

# APPLICATION FOR GUARDIAN AD LITEM REGISTRY

## Guardianship/Probate/Trust - Title 11

Mail or deliver the completed application, with all attachments, to:

Kitsap County Superior Court Administrator  
614 Division Street, MS-24  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Name: Deborah L. Cochelin  
Business Name or Firm: Law Office of Deborah L. Cochelin, PLLC  
Business Address: P. O. Box 16675  
City and State: Seattle, WA Zip Code: 98116  
Business Phone: (206) 937-4771 Fax: (206) 938-4284  
Email Address: dcochelin@aol.com

- Non-Attorney
- Attorney - WSBA or Washington State Certification No: 17998
- I am willing to serve as a Guardian ad Litem for Guardianships at public expense.  
2-3 per year
- I have no pending investigations or action against me involving felony allegations, professional certification or license suspension and/or revocation.
- I agree to advise the court immediately in the event of any complaint, investigation or action being commenced which could lead to professional discipline, or the suspension or revocation of my professional license, or to the filing of criminal charges for felony or crime involving allegations of theft, dishonesty or moral turpitude.
- I have read and agree to be bound by the Kitsap County Superior Court Guardian ad Litem Registry Code of Conduct.

Summary of my experiences as a GAL including years of experience and number of appointments.

I have served as a probate/guardianship GAL since 1994.  
County: King - 65; Kitsap - 25. I have served as a minor settlement  
GAL since 1997. County - Island - 2; King - 150; Kitsap - 1; Mason - 1;  
Pierce - 1; Skagit - 2; Snohomish - 18. I have served as a litigation GAL  
in 5 cases in King County.

Number of times serving as a Guardian ad Litem that I have been removed for failure to perform my duties as a Guardian ad Litem: None

I include the following with my application (please check all applicable boxes):

- Curriculum vitae, showing work and professional or personal experience in or related to the field that would assist in the performance and completion of Guardian ad Litem duties.
- Completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History.
- Signed release of information directed to all professional regulatory bodies which have licensed or supervised the applicant within the last ten years.
- Description of nature, status and outcome of any professional complaints, investigations or disciplinary actions, lawsuits or professional liability claims, and any order for removal of the Guardian ad Litem prior to completion of the Guardian ad Litem's duties. *See attached*
- Description of any claims or litigation that has been commenced, involving allegations of improper fee charges, charges of fraud, theft or other forms of dishonesty or professional malpractice or misconduct. *None*
- Copy of fee schedule. *9 200 per hour - 8 225 per hour*
- Certificate of Qualification/Training for Guardian ad Litem seeking appointment under RCW Title 11.
- OR
- I am currently on the Guardian ad Litem Registry and have included a certificate of updated training taken within the last year.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 24 day of May, 2011, at Seattle, Washington.

Deborah L. Cochelin  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

PRINT NAME: Deborah L. Cochelin

**DEBORAH L. COCHELIN**

P.O. Box 16675

3211 California Avenue SW

Seattle, Washington 98116

Phone: (206) 937-4771; Fax: (206) 938-4284

E-Mail: [dcochelin@aol.com](mailto:dcochelin@aol.com)

**Practice Areas:**

Probate, Guardianship, Guardian ad Litem for Minors & Elders, Minor Settlement Guardian ad Litem (Personal Injury), Estate Planning, Personal Injury, Trust & Probate Litigation, Elder Law.

**Additional Law-Related Abilities**

*Other Areas of Practice:*

Commercial Litigation, Criminal, Maritime, Civil Rights, Family Law, Child Sexual Abuse, Real Property, & Construction Liens.

**Educational Background:**

- University of South Carolina School of Law, 1986 - J.D.
- College of Charleston, 1974 - B.A., French (Minor in Education)

**Additional Educational Background:**

- University of Washington School of Law - Mediation Certificate, 2005
- Cornell - Coastal & Oceanic Law & Policy, 1984
- University of South Carolina - Coastal Zone Management, 1984
- Citadel - Graduate Business Courses, 1980-1981
- East Carolina University - Graduate Business Courses - 1979

**Legal Experience:**

- Law Office of Deborah L. Cochelin, PLLC - 1994 - present
- Coombs & Cochelin, PLLC - 1999 - 2003
- Contract Attorney for Numerous Law Firms & Of Counsel
- King County Superior Court - Probate/Guardianship Calendar Reviewer
- Lucas & Lucas - Associate, 1992-1994
- King County Superior Court - Judicial Law Clerk - 1988, 1991 - 1992
- East, Lagerquist, McConnell & McDonough - Associate, 1990
- King County Prosecutor's Office - Special Prosecutor, 1989
- U.S. District Attorney's Office - Law Clerk, 1982-1984 (South Carolina)

**Additional Experience:**

- General Dynamics - Bilingual Administrative Assistant to Director of Operations, Vevey Engineering, 1975-1977 (South Carolina)
- The Mason School - French Teacher, 1974-1975 (South Carolina)

**Selected Programs & Seminars:**

- "The Lawyer's Toolbox, The Nuts and Bolts Series, Estate Planning" presented at a CLE sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association from 1999 - 2005
- "The Role of the Guardian ad Litem in Washington State vs. South Carolina" presented at the annual South Carolina Chapter NAELA Conference, 2003
- Guardianship issues presented as part of a public forum at Seattle Central Community College regarding persons with epilepsy

**Selected Professional Organizations & Activities:**

- Washington State Bar Association
- South Carolina State Bar Association
- Washington State Bar Elder Law Section
- South Carolina Elder Law Section, Guardianship/Conservatorship Sub-Committee
- Chair, Washington State Bar Court Improvement Committee, 1998-1999
- Chair, Washington State Bar Court Improvement Committee, Technology Subcommittee, 1997-1998
- King County Bar Association, Model Guardianship Forms Committee
- King County Superior Court, Delinquency Calendar Reviewer (Probate/Guardianship)
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), Washington Chapter
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), South Carolina Chapter
- Judge, University of Washington Law School ABA -Sponsored Regional Mediation Competition

**Bar Admissions:**

- Washington, 1988      Admitted to Federal Western & Eastern District Courts.
- South Carolina, 1987      Admitted to Federal District Court.

**Selected Community Organizations:**

- Dispute Resolution Center of King County, Conciliator Volunteer, 2005 -2007
- Wallingford Boys & Girls Club, Board Member, 2001 - 2005
- CASA Volunteer for King County Superior Court, 1994 - 2002
- Senior Services of King County, Board Member, 1996 - 1999
- Cornish College of the Arts, Preparatory Dance Program, Parent Volunteer, 2000 to present
- Spectrum Dance Theater, Board of Directors, Vice-President - current
- Northwest Hospital, Tandem Bike Captain Volunteer for Pedaling for Parkinson's Disease - pilot program - current

# Certificate of Completion



This certifies that

Deborah Cochelin

attended the

**Kitsap County Superior Court  
RCW Title 11 Guardian ad Litem Update Training**

on May 18, 2011



*Certified by the Superior Court of Kitsap County as the statutorily required  
RCW 11.88.090 Guardianship GAL Registry Update Training*

HONORABLE ANNA M. LAURIE  
Kitsap County Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge



## Web Search No Record Found Report

Washington State Patrol  
Identification and Criminal History Section  
P.O. Box 42633  
Olympia, Washington 98504-2633  
Telephone (360) 534-2000

**THE FOLLOWING WEB SEARCH NO MATCH FOUND REPORT  
IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This report was generated from a transaction run on 05/24/2011 at 09:36  
Conviction Criminal History RCW 10.97.050(1)

Pursuant to the purpose of inquiry, NO RECORD was found in the Washington State Criminal History Repository based on the descriptors provided:

**COCHELIN,DEBORAH L**

This may mean that the person you searched for has no criminal conviction record OR that your search criteria did not match the spelling of the person's name or date of birth.

Positive identification or non-identification in the Washington State Patrol's database, can only be determined by fingerprint comparison.

I, Deborah L. Cochelin, declare as follows:

In 2008, a non-party to a guardianship action in King County filed a grievance alleging unethical conduct in my role as Guardian ad Litem as to 1) whether I had an ethical duty to inform the Washington State Bar Association that the petitioning attorney for the guardianship had allegedly forged and altered court documents; 2) whether I had participated in presenting an altered and/or forged document to the court; and 3) whether I had an ethical duty to inform the Washington State Bar Association as to the method by which the petitioning attorney for the guardianship had obtained the alleged incapacitated person's bank deposit slips and cash out tickets. After having reviewed the materials regarding the grievance, Review Committee III of the Disciplinary Board of the Washington State Bar Association made a finding that there was no evidence or insufficient evidence of unethical behavior to prove misconduct by a clear preponderance of the evidence. It was ordered that the grievance should be dismissed with no further action. (See attached)

In March 2010, the bank maintaining my IOLTA account notified me of a short-term overdraft. I quickly resolved the small overdraft, and in doing so, the bank, upon its own initiative, waived all associated fees due to my long-term, good standing with the bank since 2002. At the time of the overdraft, I no longer possessed any client funds, as it was my intention to close the trust account (The trust account was closed shortly thereafter and remains closed.) The bank reported the occurrence to the Washington State Bar Association, and a procedural investigation ensued. The grievance was dismissed. (See attached)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed at Seattle, Washington on May 24, 2011.

  
Deborah L. Cochelin

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**  
Tamara Darst (Chair), Norma L. Ureña and Norris Hazelton  
**FINDING AND ORDER OF REVIEW COMMITTEE III**

**Respondent Lawyer: DEBORAH L. COCHELIN**      **W.S.B.A FILE NO.: 08-00058**

**Respondent's Counsel:**      **Grievant:**

Having reviewed the materials regarding the above captioned grievance, Review Committee III of the Disciplinary Board of the WSBA hereby makes the following findings, conclusions and order pursuant to the authority granted by Rules 2.4, 5.3, 5.6 and 8.2 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC):

- ( ) There is sufficient evidence of unethical behavior to take further action, and IT IS ORDERED: that a hearing should be held on the allegations of the grievance.  
( ) and consolidated with other grievances against this lawyer.
- There is no evidence or insufficient evidence of unethical behavior to prove misconduct by a clear preponderance of the evidence, and IT IS ORDERED: that the grievance should be dismissed with no further action. Should there be a judicial finding of impropriety, the grievant may request that the grievance be reopened.
- ( ) The allegations in the grievance do not constitute misconduct under the Rules of Professional Conduct. Hence, the WSBA does not have the authority to take further action, and IT IS ORDERED: that the grievance should be dismissed with no further action.
- ( ) The allegations in the grievance do not constitute a sufficient degree of misconduct which would warrant further action except IT IS ORDERED: that an admonition should be issued to the lawyer. (ELC 13.5)
- ( ) There is not sufficient evidence of unethical behavior to prove misconduct by a clear preponderance of the evidence, and it is ORDERED that the grievance is dismissed, but an advisory letter be sent to the lawyer pursuant to ELC 5.7 cautioning the lawyer regarding:

- 
- 
- ( ) There is a need for further information and IT IS ORDERED that further investigation be conducted in the area of: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ( ) There is pending civil or criminal action which involves substantially similar allegations and IT IS ORDERED that investigation and review of this grievance should be deferred pending resolution of the civil or criminal litigation.
  - ( ) IT IS ORDERED under ELC 5.3(f) that respondent lawyer pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in total costs and expenses in connection with his or her failure to cooperate with the disciplinary investigation(s), as documented in the Report to Review Committee.
  - ( ) and IT IS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008

The vote was 3/0

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Darst, Chairperson of Review Committee III



**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600 · Seattle, Washington 98101-2539  
Telephone: (206) 727-8280 · Fax: (206) 727-8314

**LARRY KUZNETZ**  
Chair of the Disciplinary Board

**NOTICE**

Attached is a copy of the Findings and Order of the Review Committee of the Disciplinary Board. Please note the appropriate section below for information on the findings, conclusions and order of your grievance:

**Dismissal**

If the review committee orders the grievance be dismissed with no further actions, the grievance will be dismissed. The decision of the Review Committee is not appealable.

**Advisory Letter**

When a Review Committee dismisses a grievance, it also may send the lawyer an advisory letter cautioning the lawyer about his or her conduct. An advisory letter is not a finding of misconduct, is not a disciplinary sanction, and is not public information. It is intended to warn and educate the lawyer about conduct that could result in similar grievances.

**Admonition**

If the Review Committee determined that there was sufficient misconduct under the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC) to warrant the issuance of an Admonition under Rule 13.5 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, a written Admonition will be issued shortly, and made a part of the lawyer's records with the Washington State Bar Association. An admonition is public information. ELC 3.1(b).

The respondent lawyer may file a protest of the Admonition within 30 days of service of the Admonition. Upon receipt of a timely protest, the Admonition is rescinded, and the grievance is considered to have been ordered to a public hearing by the Review Committee issuing the Admonition. The grievant will be notified if a protest is filed by the respondent lawyer. A grievant may not protest or appeal the issuance of an Admonition.

**Order to Hearing or for Further Investigation**

If the Review Committee has ordered a public hearing or returned for further investigation, and you have any questions, please contact the Disciplinary Counsel in charge of the file or the Office of Disciplinary Counsel at (206) 727-8207.

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please contact the Disciplinary Counsel in charge of the file or the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel at (206) 727-8207. The decision of the Review Committee is not appealable.

Date: 4/18/08

File Number: 08-00058

Mailed To: **DEBORAH L. COCHELIN, JANET CHRISTENSEN-O'BRIEN**



# WSBA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Marsha Matsumoto  
Senior Disciplinary Counsel

direct line: (206) 727-8233  
fax: (206) 727-8325

February 16, 2011

Kurt M. Bulmer  
Attorney at Law  
740 Belmont Pl E #3  
Seattle, WA 98102-4442

Re: WSBA Grievance Against Deborah L. Cochelin  
WSBA File No. 10-00553

Dear Mr. Bulmer:

We opened this grievance and sought your client's response because our office received an overdraft notice for Ms. Cochelin's trust account. Based on our investigation, the statements in Ms. Cochelin's February 15, 2011 letter, and the steps Ms. Cochelin has taken to address this matter, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel is exercising its discretion to dismiss this grievance. Under our rules, the file will be maintained in our confidential archives for a period of three years, and will be available for review by the Disciplinary Board should there be a problem with Ms. Cochelin's trust account in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Matsumoto".

Marsha Matsumoto  
Senior Disciplinary Counsel