From: Margaret Lowery
To: RulesCommittee
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The proposal of 24-07 is misplaced. In order to get better results I would require minimum standards or the requirement of standardized reports in guardianships. While educational training is OK, it should be free. Next the worst possible thing to do is leave GAL and assignments up to presiding judges.

What occurs is the GAL system become a patronage system where minority attorneys and those not within the presiding judges favor are excluded from GAL appointment. The presiding judge uses the list to economically target minority attorneys and then support those who politically support the judge. That means the children and disabled individuals are not necessarily getting the best match for services as GAL. The Court needs to come up with state standards and then a master list which rotates. For instance, an attorney with a documented medical background should be sent out for a GAL guardianship involving a neurological issue, while an attorney with early development training would be great for a minor GAL appointment. That's what this rule misses, if you want to make a great GAL program, the list needs to assign GAL's based upon actual criteria, like an AI program.

Margaret J. Lowery
Attorney at Law
7122 S Sheridan Rd, Suite 1110
Tulsa, OK 74133-2748

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