



Award winning investigative journalist Diane Dimond has never shied away from a controversial topic within her crime and justice genre. As a veteran of [radio, television and print](#) Diane tirelessly researches the issues that can affect every American – from street crime and pedophilia to more complex subjects like prison reform and the U.S. justice system.

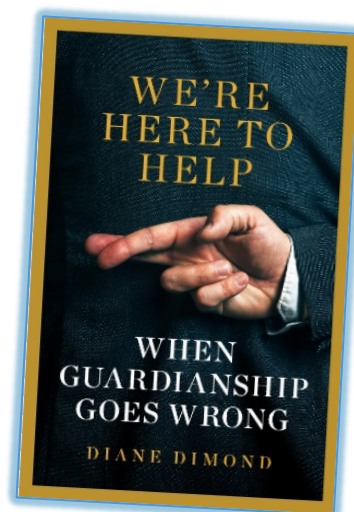
Dimond is the author of [four books](#), including [Be Careful Who You Love: Inside the Michael Jackson Case](#) (2005) which details her exclusive groundbreaking revelations regarding child molestation allegations against Jackson, and [We're Here to Help – When Guardianship Goes Wrong](#) (Sept. 2023) which explores the shadowy inner-working of a states-run system designed to “protect” the most vulnerable citizens. In reality, guardianship (called conservatorship in a few states) has become a \$50 billion dollar a year industry—largely unregulated, unsupervised and populated by unlicensed predators. The public has heard about Britney Spears, talk show host Wendy Williams and other celebrity guardianship cases but there is little understanding about how it all works. Dimond peels back the intrigue to reveal the oftentimes ugly truth of the system.

[The Backstory ...](#)

In 2015, Diane was contacted by a childhood friend from her hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico and told a harrowing story about how the friend's elderly father had been conscripted by the court into an unwanted guardianship. All his civil rights had been erased, his estate documents were ignored and all his assets were transferred into the name of strangers, a court appointed guardian and a conservator. It was an eye-opener! Soon, an eerily similar case involving an elderly woman in Lancaster, Pennsylvania came to Dimond's attention. After careful investigation she began writing about the issue in her Creators Syndicate weekly crime and justice column. As Dimond writes in the book, “The floodgates opened...” and cases of emotionally, physically and financially abused wards began to pour in.

After eight years of research Dimond's book was released offering the public the first detailed and truly unvarnished description of the system and its players, as well as the nationwide human toll guardianship has taken on both wards and their helpless family members. The unforgettable cases featured in the book will make the reader either sad or mad - and everyone will be left with the notion that this exploitative system must be reformed for the public good. With some 2 million Americans currently living under this strict court control it is the most under-discussed civil rights issue of our time.

For more information contact [Brandeis University Press](#) or [visit Diane's website](#).



EDITORIAL REVIEWS ...

“Dimond’s ambitious book *We’re Here to Help* uncovers the devastation caused by mercenary guardians and conservators who exploit their court-appointed powers over vulnerable people. . . . With elements of true crime and self-help, *We’re Here to Help* advocates for systemic reform as it diagrams the labyrinth of guardian and conservator legal proceedings via wrenching cautionary tales.” — **Foreword Reviews**

“This book provides clear evidence of the problems within the US guardianship and conservatorship system and how easily it can affect anyone at any time. Readers interested in law, civil rights, and stories about everyday people will be drawn in quickly, but it’s a book for everyone.” — **Library Journal**

“*We’re Here to Help* is very well written. The book is both easy to read and well documented. The author provides readers with a snapshot of the national landscape by telling stories of celebrities and ordinary citizens alike who have been victimized in state guardianship proceedings.” — **Thomas F. Coleman, the Spectrum Institute’s Quarterly E-Newsletter**

“*We’re Here to Help: When Guardianship Goes Wrong* is a rare and illuminating book about how guardianships and conservatorships are routinely mishandled in our courts. Dimond’s well researched case studies of how judges, lawyers, and guardians collude to profit from the fortunes of the elderly and the disabled are an eye-opener. *We’re Here to Help* is a testament to the immediate need for reform of our guardianship/conservatorship laws.” — **Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell (Ret.), author of Her Honor: My Life on the Bench. . . What Works, What’s Broken, How to Change It**

“Dimond has written a searing, insightful examination of guardianship that all too often fails those it is supposed to help. As Dimond reveals by close investigation of guardianships gone bad, it is too susceptible to exploitation and theft, and worse, abuse of the so-called ‘incapacitated’ person. Dimond identifies the need for adequate funding of oversight and supervision of guardians. The need is great. The time to act is now.” — **Lawrence A. Frolik, professor of law emeritus and distinguished professor of law, University of Pittsburgh School of Law**

“A tenacious reporter and skillful writer, Dimond uses compelling stories of real people to pull back the curtain on a guardianship system shrouded in secrecy where power, greed, and influence all too often intersect with devastating consequences for the people the system is intended to protect —and their loved ones. A powerful book.” — **Kent Walz, lawyer, journalist, and former editor-in-chief of The Albuquerque Journal**

“These stories will break your heart. Private stories and public, the pattern emerges: warring siblings or estranged spouses, a willingness to destroy a person’s waning years to pirate their sometimes substantial estates, all with regrettably minimal judicial oversight. Dimond reports fairly, giving competing versions of events equal space. If you read one book this year, *We’re Here to Help: When Guardianship Goes Wrong* should be it.” — **Jack Furlong, attorney at Furlong and Krasny, New Jersey**

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