



Zoë Brennan-Krohn
Biography
Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Program
American Civil Liberties Union

For a Hearing on
Toxic Conservatorships: The Need for Reform

Zoë Brennan-Krohn (she/her) is a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union Disability Rights Program, based in San Francisco. She holds a Bachelor's Degree with honors from Brown University and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School.

Zoë grew up on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. After high school, she lived and worked for two years in a Camphill Community in rural Ireland, providing direct support to children with significant disabilities. Her undergraduate history thesis about the history of disability in the United Kingdom, with a focus on the history of Camphill Communities, was published as a monograph. In 2009, Zoë graduated with honors from Brown University, and received a Fulbright grant to teach English in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she lived for two years.

After her first year of law school, Zoë paused her studies to spend a year clerking for President Theodor Meron at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, in The Hague. In 2015, she graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. In 2016-2017, she clerked for the Honorable Judith W. Rogers of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Zoë has been an attorney at the ACLU Disability Rights Program for five years. She has worked extensively to help people with disabilities avoid guardianship and use supported decision-making, and to expand public understanding of the risks and civil liberties harms of guardianship and the potential of alternatives. She has developed plain language resources, documents, and templates that people can use to avoid losing their rights through guardianship and to explore and use supported decision-making. Zoë has represented and advised people seeking to get out of guardianships, and drafted and argued an *amicus* brief in the Britney Spears case, joined by more than 20 disability and civil rights organizations. The Spears *amicus* highlighted the disability rights and Constitutional aspects of Spears' case and urged the Court to allow Spears to select the lawyer of her choice.

In addition to work on guardianship and conservatorship at the ACLU, Zoë litigates cases on behalf of people with disabilities in jails and prisons, with the aim of using disability rights laws to reduce overincarceration of disabled people in the criminal legal system and to reduce mass incarceration.