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**#FREE NICHELLE**

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# PRESS RELEASE

## Important Conservatorship Hearing Ahead for Star Trek Legend and Civil Rights Icon Nichelle Nichols

*Many #FreeBritney advocates have shifted focus to #FreeNichelle, with a rally planned outside the courthouse during her hearing*

**LOS ANGELES, January 7, 2022** — Nichelle Nichols, known for her groundbreaking role as Lt. Uhura on Star Trek, is a Civil Rights icon who's civil rights and freedoms have been stripped away since 2018 when she was forced into a conservatorship by her estranged son. Supporters will rally outside Stanley Mosk Courthouse during her next conservatorship hearing, Monday, January 10, at 1:30 PM Pacific Time.

"As we've seen from Britney Spears's case, conservatorships are often used to benefit the conservator - NOT the conservatee they are designed to protect," a statement on [FreeNichelle.com](http://FreeNichelle.com) reads. "Though Nichelle has developed some memory loss as she's aged, this is not a reason to strip her of her human and civil rights. In fact, conservatorship relies on the ableist notion that physical disability and/or mental disability justify the removal of civil rights and freedoms. They absolutely do not."

The fight for Nichelle's rights to be restored is ramping up. Here's how:

### **New Attorney Matthew Taylor**

Nichelle's longtime friend, [Angelique Fawcette](#) has been fighting Nichelle's conservatorship since its inception in 2018. Fawcette is a producer, CEO, activist, [Kasem Cares](#) board member, and member of the [NAACP](#). On January 10, the judge will hear her objections to the conservatorship's Second and Final Accounting in the State of California. To aid her in this fight, Angelique has hired a new attorney: [Matthew Taylor](#) from [Holmes, Taylor, Athey, Cowan & Jones, LLP](#). Taylor is an experienced litigator, having handled a wide variety of complex civil litigation throughout California in both state and federal court for more than two decades.

## **#FreeNichelle Rally**

[Touch of Rose Project](#) and [Free Britney L.A.](#) organizers are planning a rally outside Stanley Mosk Courthouse during the January 10 hearing. Touch of Rose Project will also be adding a “Free Nichelle: It’s a human rights movement” collection to its [Bonfire campaign](#), which funds efforts to stop conservatorship abuse. Britney Spears and fiancé Sam Asghari proudly wore the [#FreeBritney version of these shirts](#) ahead of her termination hearing.

### *Rally Details*

January 10, 2022

1:30 PM Pacific Time

Stanley Mosk Courthouse

(110 N. Grand Ave.)

Advocates who cannot join in person are encouraged to share Nichelle’s story online using the hashtags #FreeNichelle and #FreeNichelleNichols.

## **A Civil Rights Icon**

Nichelle’s impact on the Civil Rights movement was twofold. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told her that she “could not give up (her role)” because she was playing a vital role model for black women, black children and women in general across the country. Nichelle was also the first black woman on TV in a position of authority.

Secondly, Nichelle volunteered her time in a special project with NASA to recruit minority and female personnel for the space agency. Among those recruited were Dr. Sally Ride, the first American female astronaut, and United States Air Force Colonel Guion Bluford, the first African American astronaut.

## **QUOTES**

*“Touch of Rose Project was born as a #FreeBritney initiative, and we are dedicated to keeping the pressure on those committing conservatorship abuse. Most people under conservatorship are not able to speak for themselves and it’s our responsibility to be their voice; to speak loudly and boldly about this injustice. It is time to take a stand for Nichelle.”*

- John Fernandes, Touch of Rose Project organizer

*“For someone who fought so hard for Civil Rights in this country to lose their own is a true miscarriage of justice. We freed Britney, but now we must free Nichelle, and the countless others trapped in this abusive system. #FreeBritney is not a one-off issue.”*

- Megan Radford, Free Britney L.A. organizer

*"Nichelle Nichols is the most complete representation of who is most victimized and preyed upon by conservatorship abuse. It is African Americans, women, the elderly and disabled who are trapped in abusive guardianships most often, according to the ACLU. Nichelle's case is emblematic of the majority of victims of conservatorship abuse. Secure Women calls for Nichelle's full human rights to be restored immediately and extends immense gratitude to Angelique Fawcette for her inspiring advocacy on behalf of Nichelle and others."*

- Amy Gdala, spokesperson for [Secure Women](#), an organization that exposes and fights financial crimes targeting women

*"In 2013, Nichelle Nichols asked me to 'have her back' and I continue to do so. After four years of fighting in Court for her Human and Civil Rights, Nichelle still has not been allowed to go to court. Her Son/Conservator has denied her of her life wishes, he sold the one and only home that she wanted to live and die in, denied her the ability to go to court, denied her access to her friends, and placed her on a retirement tour when she never wanted to retire. This case is the sad normal in our country, yet much like Britney's case, it has the ability to affect the hundreds of thousands of other abusive Conservatorships across this Country. How long will the powers that be allow the Elderly, the Disabled, and the Vulnerable to be stripped of their rights? I love Nichelle and I will fight for her rights until she gets them back."*

- Angelique Fawcette, Nichelle's beloved friend

*"When Angelique called Kasem Cares a few years ago regarding Nichelle Nichols, we didn't hesitate to help. After attending several court hearings and watching the tape made by Nichelle explaining exactly what she wanted, what I have seen are her explicit demands being ignored. I have also seen her friends being shooed away from her and yelled at. It seems as though there is isolation involved in this case, along with a complete disregard for what Nichelle wants and who she wants to take care of her. We stand behind Angelique, who only has Nichelle's best interests in mind."*

- Kerri Kasem, daughter of Casey Kasem and founder of Kasem Cares

For more information, visit [FreeNichelle.com](#) or follow [@FreeNichelle](#) on Instagram.

Angelique Fawcette, along with organizers from Free Britney L.A. and Touch of Rose Project are available for interviews upon request. Please email [freenichelle@gmail.com](mailto:freenichelle@gmail.com) to schedule.

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