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Subject: A Hard Act to Follow

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Gerald McIntyre a Hard Act to Follow

Last month, Directing Attorney Gerald (Jerry) McIntyre “retired” after 22 years with Justice in Aging, meaning he’s no longer working full time, but is staying on as Special Counsel. We’re all fortunate that he’ll continue to be involved in litigation, our advocacy with the Social Security Administration, and will make his encyclopedic knowledge of SSI issues available to our economic security team. Jerry is known for using both his head and his heart to champion the rights of the people who need help the most over used his 40+ years in legal services advocacy. We will miss seeing him every day.

Jerry will never be replaced, but we are excited to be on the verge of announcing a new hire for the position of Directing Attorney of the Economic Security Team. **Stay tuned!**

Strengthening Transition Protections in Medicare Part D Plans

When Medicare Part D beneficiaries change plans or when their plans change which drugs are covered, beneficiaries run the risk of life-threatening disruptions in medications. Low-income dual eligible beneficiaries are especially at risk of sudden plan changes and the resulting disruption in their drug

benefits. We have been working with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure beneficiaries have certain protections to ensure continuity in medication coverage. A number of transition rights apply and CMS is serious about dealing with violations. In January, we released the fact sheet, [Medicare Part D-2016 Transition Rights](#), to inform advocates of CMS's requirements and help advocates solve transition issues their clients may experience. At Justice in Aging, we bring a low-income voice to Medicare advocacy and seek to ensure the program works well for those most in need including minority beneficiaries, people with limited proficiency in English, and LGBT seniors. [See all of our Medicare resources.](#)

When Older Americans Need Help Managing their Benefits

Currently, more than ten million older adults rely exclusively on Social Security benefits as their primary source of income. As the population ages and the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments increases, greater numbers of older adults will need to rely on individuals known as **Representative Payees** to receive their benefits and manage their finances. It is important that advocates understand how to protect those seniors from exploitation and interruptions in their benefits. With the support of a fellowship grant from the Borchard Foundation on Law and Aging, Justice in Aging will be producing a series of materials to educate advocates about the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Representative Payee Program. The first of those materials is [a basic fact sheet on the SSA's Representative Payee Program](#). We're currently working on a consumer-focused version of this piece for seniors and caregivers.

Addressing the Chronic Care Needs of Medicare Beneficiaries

With 6.4 million older adults living in poverty and 90% of all older adults living with at least one chronic condition, Justice in Aging is particularly concerned about the millions of poor seniors struggling to manage multiple chronic conditions. Last month, [Justice in Aging submitted comments](#) to the Bipartisan Chronic Care Working Group of the Senate Finance Committee, responding to a range of policy options to increase care coordination, incentivize the appropriate level of care, and facilitate higher quality care. Justice in Aging urged the Committee to consider improvements to both traditional [Medicare](#) and Medicare Advantage, and to apply the lessons learned from current [integration demonstrations](#) to future proposals.

The American Society on Aging Welcomes Kevin Prindiville to its Board of Directors

In late March, Kevin will begin a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the [American Society on Aging](#) (ASA). Kevin currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the organization's journal, *Generations*. "I'm excited to work with my colleagues to help the ASA prepare its members to tackle the growing need for effective advocacy, scholarship, and services for older Americans, especially those with limited resources," said Kevin. Founded in 1954 as the Western Gerontological Society, the American Society on Aging is an association of diverse individuals bound by a common goal: to support the commitment and enhance the knowledge and skills of those who seek to improve the quality of life for older adults and

their families. The ASA membership is multidisciplinary and inclusive of professionals who are concerned with the physical, emotional, social, economic, and spiritual aspects of aging.

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