

From: Andrea Amato <andrea.amato@americanbar.org>
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Date: 7/22/2015 10:15:00 AM
Subject: New Issue of *Bifocal*: Hospital observation status, supported decision-making, extreme case management, and more

Dear Subscriber:

The June issue of *Bifocal*, e-Journal of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging is now available on the [Bifocal homepage](#).

You can read the issue online or download the pdf.

What's inside this issue?

[The "Hospital Observation Stay Crisis": A Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing](#)

by Hillary Anderson

On May 21, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing on the "Hospital Observation Stay Crisis." As a summer law intern with the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, I had an opportunity to attend. Here is my up-close report.

[Supported Decision-Making: Protecting Rights, Ensuring Choices](#)

By Jonathan G. Martinis

This article introduces Supported Decision-Making, an alternative to guardianship where people make their own decisions, without a guardian, while receiving the help they need and want to do so.

[Extreme Case Management for Serving Elders at Risk of Homelessness](#)

By JoHanna Flacks

Elders at risk of homelessness stand to benefit from a dementia-ready community. However they often require a level of service that exceeds these empowering supports. This article focuses on the population of Boston elders whose life story leads them to enter old age unbefriended, under-resourced, and at risk of homelessness--either because they've been homeless before and are at greater risk due to aging challenges, or because aging challenges like dementia have worn away their last buffers against homelessness.

[Working Together to Prevent Senior Financial Exploitation](#)

By Lynne Egan, Patricia Struck

A new initiative led by the North American Securities Administrators Association aims to protect seniors through model legislation, best practices, and education

[New Grant Awarded by Huguette Clark Family Fund for Protection of Elders](#)

The Huguette Clark Family Fund for Protection of Elders announced on June 15, 2015, that it has awarded a \$50,000 grant to develop model civil statutes to address elder financial exploitation. The project will be managed by the National Center for Victims of Crime under the guidance of Executive Director Mai Fernandez. Lori Stiegel of the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging will serve as a consultant on the project.

[The Americas Becomes First Region in the World to Have an Instrument for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Older Persons](#)

On June 15, 2015, the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons during the General Assembly of the institution, which was immediately signed by the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay at OAS headquarters in Washington, DC.

[Bring the WINGS of Change to your State](#)

The National Guardianship Network (NGN) has developed a new video introduction, "What is WINGS" by District of Columbia Chief Judge Eric Washington, to improve state adult guardianship practices through collaborative court-community partnerships.

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services May Finally Pay for Advance Care Planning](#)

On July 8, 2015, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced its proposed physician fee schedule for next year. Two new Advance Care Planning codes that had been recommended by the American Medical Association are included and are funded. Both codes apply to a physician or other qualified health professional providing advance care planning services. The comment period on the rule runs till September 8, 2015.

Inside the Commission

[ABA Applauds Bipartisan Passage of Older Americans Act in Senate](#)

The American Bar Association commends the bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

[New Commission Research and Resources](#)

"Summary of Health Care Decision Statutes Enacted in 2013-2014" and "Relationship Between Adult and Minor Guardianship Statutes"

[Summer Interns](#)

The Commission welcomes two summer interns.

[2015 National Aging and Law Conference Update](#)

Registration is open and the detailed Conference Program is online.

To subscribe to *Bifocal* or to submit news items or a manuscript for consideration, contact editor [Andrea Amato](#).

Bifocal is distributed six times a year to state and regional elder bar section and committee officers and members, legal services providers, elder law and other private practitioners, judges, court staff, advocates, policymakers, law schools and elder law clinics, law libraries, and to other professionals in the law and aging networks.

The mission of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging is to strengthen and secure the legal rights, dignity, autonomy, quality of life, and quality of care of elders. It carries out this mission through research, policy development, technical assistance, advocacy, education, and training on a wide range of law-related issues, including: legal services to older persons; health and long-term care; housing; professional ethical issues; Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public benefit programs; guardianship; elder abuse; health care decision-making; pain management and end-of-life care; dispute resolution; and court-related needs of older persons.

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