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Date: 7/28/2016 11:49:27 AM
Subject: New Bifocal: New free attorney tool, law and caregiving, and more

Dear Subscriber:

The new 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?

Cover Story

[Resource for Lawyers Targets Options Less Restrictive than Guardianship](#)

A new resource guide from the Commission and three ABA partner entities aims to help lawyers identify and implement decision-making options for persons with disabilities that are less restrictive than guardianship.

Featured Articles

[Into the Matrix of Law and Caregiving](#)

by Charles P. Sabatino

Among the challenges faced by family caregivers is a tangled matrix of legal and financial issues that surround the practical care issues these caregivers cope with daily. The legal face of everyday caregiving can seem distant, obscure, or discomfiting. But, the key legal challenges are identifiable and manageable when one understands the basics.

[Legal Access for Elders: A Workable Court Model in Cook County, Illinois](#)

by Hon. Patricia Banks

The Cook County Elder Justice Center ("Center") is a vibrant part of the Division, which also includes multiple elder protection courts. Judges assigned to the elder protection courts hear cases involving abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of seniors, and routinely rely on the support services of the Center.

["Stepping in When Help is Needed" An interactive training video for family guardians](#)

by John J. Ford

Since the 1980s in Massachusetts, advocates of seniors and of people with disabilities have been engaged in the daunting campaign to reform the state's guardianship laws and procedures. As one of the original 13 colonies, the state is long burdened with archaic legal notions of how to address the needs of mentally or intellectually incapacitated persons. "Stepping In When Help is Needed" is a guardianship training video that tells the story of Dolores Mendez, a hospital patient recovering from surgery to repair a fractured hip.

Inside the Commission

[New Commission Resources](#)

A new chart and list on guardianship and decision-making.

[The Commission's Summer 2016 Interns](#)

The Commission hosts two interns this summer in Washington, DC.

Events and CLE

[Core Essentials Track at the 2016 National Aging and Law Conference: Elder Law Essentials](#)

New this year on the agenda for the National Aging and Law Conference (NALC) is a track labeled "Core Essentials." This track was developed to accommodate a special request from the new Elder Justice AmeriCorps program.

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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