

**From:** [Andrea Amato <andrea.amato@americanbar.org>](mailto:andrea.amato@americanbar.org)  
**To:** [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
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Dear Subscriber:

The February 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.

And, don't forget the upcoming deadline for submitting a speaker proposal to the National Aging and Law Conference--proposals are due 3/15!

## What's inside this issue?

### Commission Research

#### [Restoration of Rights for Adults Under Guardianship](#)

In 2013-2014, The Commission undertook a pioneering study on adult guardianship restoration law and practice in the United States. The purpose of the study was to gain a better understanding of the state of restoration through an initial examination of statutes and case law, as well as stakeholder experiences. This summary is drawn from an upcoming article outlining the study methodology, findings, and policy and practical issues surrounding the practice of restoration.

### Featured Articles

#### [Developing Dementia-Friendly Communities and Dementia-Capable Professionals](#)

By David M. Godfrey

An overview of the recent Commission training series in Hawaii and the resources presented.

#### [First Hearing of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging](#)

By Lori Stiegel

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held its first hearing of the 114th Congress on February 4, 2015. Signifying the importance and timeliness of elder abuse, the Committee chose "Broken Trust: Combating Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Seniors" as its topic.

#### [Beyond Brooke: Brooke Astor and the Cause of Elder Justice](#)

By Philip C. Marshall

Philip Marshall spoke movingly but briefly about his grandmother's financial exploitation by his father at the recent U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing on that topic. In this article, he provides information about the civil and criminal cases that stemmed from his father's exploitative acts and imparts the emotional effect those actions had on his grandmother, her friends, her caregivers, and himself and explains why he has been spurred to advocate for other victims of elder abuse.

#### [A New Face for the National Legal Resource Center](#)

By David M. Godfrey

The National Legal Resource Center (NLRC) website, now at [www.NLRC.ACL.gov](http://www.NLRC.ACL.gov), has a new URL, new focus, and new design.

#### [Dispute Resolution and Aging: What Is the Nexus and Where Do We Stand?](#)

By Erica F. Wood

What makes conflict resolution in the context of aging different from any other conflict resolution? You might say that the number of birthdays of the parties should not necessarily affect the kinds of conflicts, the dispute resolution skills needed, or the process of resolution. But actually, there are some key differences. This column will highlight the differences, trace the history as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and aging have "come of age," and profile some current activities in the burgeoning field.

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

A speaker proposal template is available on the Conference website. Speaker proposals are due March 15.

### News

[New Commission Guardianship Resources](#)

[Commission's Spring Extern](#)

[Planning for April 16th's National Healthcare Decisions Day](#)

[The 2015-2016 Borchard Fellowship in Law & Aging](#)

Applications are due on April 15, 2015.

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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