

From: [Andrea Amato <andrea.amato@americanbar.org>](mailto:andrea.amato@americanbar.org)
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 9/15/2016 3:17:14 PM
Subject: New Bifocal: Medical-legal partnerships, key OAA changes, sampling of state advance directive registries, 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

[Medical-Legal Partnerships: Six Situations in Which Elder Law Attorneys and Physicians Caring for Older Patients Need Each Other](#)
by Marshall B. Kapp, Shenifa M. Taite, Gregory Turner

There are many situations in which an older person needs the services of both an attorney and a physician and communication and collaboration between members of those two professions would be highly advantageous to the older patient/client's well-being.

Featured Articles

[Key Changes of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016](#)

by Teresa Yao

On April 19, 2016, President Obama signed the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2016 into law to further improve access and quality of comprehensive services to older adults in our country. Originally, the Older Americans Act of 1965 was enacted by Congress during the Johnson Administration, with the goal of providing a diverse range of services for older Americans with the greatest social or economic need. Here are a few of the key changes to the OAA in the 2016 reauthorization, which will be effective from FY 2017 to FY 2019.

[Commission on Law & Aging Research: A Tour of State Advance Directive Registries](#)

by Preston Holmes

Health-care advance directive registries have been authorized by statute in a dozen states since Louisiana became the first state to establish a registry in 1991. The intended purpose of registries is to enable secure storage and quick access to one's advance directive by health care providers or by anyone given access to the registry by the maker of the advance directive. The summary in this article provides thumbnail descriptions of state advance directive registries, as of July 2016, based solely on a review of state law and state registry web pages.

[Edward D. Spurgeon: Key Innovator in Law and Aging](#)

Edward D. "Ned" Spurgeon is the recipient of this year's American Bar Association Senior Lawyers Division's John H. Pickering Achievement Award, which honors the life and accomplishments of John H. Pickering, an outstanding lawyer who was involved in various pro bono activities and law-related societal issues affecting older people. Ned Spurgeon's unparalleled efforts in addressing the law-related needs of older persons crossed numerous domains: legal education, scholarly research, the delivery of legal services, innovative programming, and policy development.

[CFPB and Meals on Wheels Partner to Offer Elder Fraud Avoidance Placemats](#)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) launched a campaign in May to celebrate Older Americans Month and help prevent elder fraud and exploitation. They created a placemat with simple tips for avoiding common predatory consumer scams. Now, the placemat is available in Spanish. And, Meals on Wheels America is helping to distribute these consumer protection placemats on meal trays nationwide.

[Nationwide Victim-Service Data-Collection Efforts Underway](#)

The National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP) and the National Survey of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP) are nationwide data collection efforts designed by and to be implemented by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in collaboration with the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

Inside the Commission

[2016-2017 Commission on Law and Aging](#)

Each September 1, a new roster of commissioners is appointed by the ABA president. Most commissioners serve for multiple years

with a handful of new faces starting in any given year. This year, we have four new commissioners; you will find them to be a diverse and highly expert group in their individual disciplines.

[Commission Resource Updates](#)

Resource and social media updates from the Commission.

[Understanding the Four C's of Elder Law Ethics](#)

This consumer-friendly brochure explains the “Four C’s” of elder law ethics—client identification, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and competency. It helps family members understand the relationship between a lawyer and an older client.

Events and CLE

[2016 National Aging and Law Conference](#)

[Free Archived CLE Webinar Now Available—Finding Options Less Restrictive Than Guardianship: A New Tool for Lawyers](#)

A free webinar held June 28 featured the ABA's PRACTICAL Tool; an archived version of the webinar is now available 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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