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Date: 3/8/2016 11:04:22 AM
Subject: New Bifocal: Intern Ethics, Effective Caregiver Agreements, SSA Rep Payee Program

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

[Ethical Challenges of Using Law Student Interns/Externs to Expand Services to Low-Income Older Adults](#)

By Alaina Anderson, Eleanor Crosby Lanier, Keith Morris

The ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar recently strengthened its rules regarding experiential learning and law school accreditation and in response to these changes, many law schools will be searching for ways to provide additional practice opportunities to their students through course work or pro bono initiatives. These changes make it a great time to consider including law students in your current elder law practice, and planning for ethical dilemmas will assure that any collaboration protects your practice, your clients, and your student workers.

Featured Articles

[Creating Effective Agreements for Payment of Family Caregivers](#)

By Kerry R. Peck

When lapses in memory or physical issues start to affect activities of a loved one's daily living, such as cooking, eating, bathing, or paying bills, it's time to evaluate their needs and living situation. As the affected loved one's care needs increase, attorneys can assist with drafting caregiving/personal care agreements.

[The Social Security Administration's Representative Payee Program](#)

By Shana Wynn

To ensure that all beneficiaries can receive their payments and make proper use of funds, Congress has granted the Social Security Administration (SSA) the authority to appoint third parties, known as representative payees, to receive and manage payments when the beneficiary is unable to do so. With Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments on the rise, more seniors find themselves unable to manage their own benefits. SSA is currently exploring additional ways to identify seniors who may be in need of a representative payee. When working with seniors or caring for loved ones, please be aware of the following information about the rep payee program to help identify seniors in need.

[Performance Data on Emeritus Pro Bono Practice Rules](#)

By David M. Godfrey

Emeritus pro bono practice rules can be effective tools for recruiting volunteer attorneys. Specifically, by reducing some of the licensing burdens for attorneys who agree to limit practice to pro bono only, these rules are designed to encourage pro bono service. Whether these rules are actually effective in encouraging pro bono service, however, is an empirical question. To answer that question, a short online survey was done in 2014 returning modest data. In 2015 the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service—in collaboration with the ABA Commission on Law and Aging—launched a project to collect more complete data on participation, the number of hours, and what recruitment methods appear to be most successful.

[The 2016-2017 Borchard Fellowship in Law & Aging](#)

Applications are due on April 15, 2016.

Inside the Commission

[New Commission Guardianship Resources](#)

Four new state-by-state charts available online.

[Spring Commission Interns](#)

Events and CLE

2016 National Aging and Law Conference

Save the Date! October 27-28; Panel Proposals due 3/25!

Commission CLE Webinar on 5@55: The 5 Essential Legal Documents You Need By Age 55

This webinar will demonstrate the need for mid-life advance directive and estate/trust planning by age 55 and highlight the importance of making age 55 the deadline for achieving the goal of completing the 5 essential planning documents.

National Healthcare Decisions Day

Mark your calendar for 4/16!

Events and CLE

3rd Annual National Voices of Medicare Summit and Senator Jay Rockefeller Lecture; ASA's Aging in America Conference

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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