

MSBA ELDER LAW SECTION E-NEWSLETTER

May 3, 2021

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Communications Committee Chair: Lucas Spaeth

Editor in Chief: Maggie Cook

Web Coordinator: Lucas Spaeth

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ELDER LAW NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Call for Nominations!

We need you! The Governing Council of the Elder Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association needs your energy, your perspective, and your commitment to high quality Elder Law in Minnesota. Nominations are open for two-year terms on the Governing Council and for one-year officer terms for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer commencing on July 1, 2021. **Please nominate yourself** or others to fill these important positions.

Contact: Jeffrey W. Schmidt @ (651) 291-2405 or jschmidt@elderlaw123.com

Nominations to be included on the written slate for voting at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 18, 2021. Nominations may also be made on the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Contributed by Jack Austin

Please submit news articles and notes of interest to margaret.cook@wagnerlegalmn.com

SMRLS is seeking to fill an elder law attorney position!

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. (SMRLS) is a non-profit organization that provides free legal help to people in economic and social need across 33 Minnesota counties. SMRLS receives funding under Title III-B of the Older Americans Act to provide direct legal services and community legal education to older people.

The position will involve case responsibilities in SMRLS' metropolitan and southwest regions. The hired attorney may be officed in either SMRLS' St. Paul or Mankato locations. Link to job description and online application: <https://www.smrls.org/about-us/job-opportunities/elder-law-staff-attorney/>

Contributed by Emily Flesch

MAY CLE AND EVENTS

All MSBA programming is currently REMOTE-ONLY participation. There is NO in-person attendance.

For the MSBA statement on COVID-19 click [here](#). Thank you.

REMOTE ONLY: 2021 Minnesota World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center will be hosting the [2021 Minnesota World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference](#) virtually **June 14-16th, from 9am-noon** each day. The WEAAD conference elevates issues of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation and provides education on best practices for prevention and response. This year's keynote speaker is [Ai-jen Poo](#), best-selling author and an award-winning labor organizer. The conference registration cost is \$65 and provides access to all three days. CEU, CLE, POST credits and a general certificate of attendance are included. For the full conference schedule and details, [please visit the MEJC website](#).

REMOTE ONLY: Signing Nursing Home Admission Contracts for a Loved One

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 11:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

The Minnesota NAELA Chapter Education Committee invites you to join them for this CLE. Attendees will learn about potential liability and statutory protections for an individual signing a nursing home admission contract on behalf of another. Please mark your calendars and register in advance for this meeting here: [Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: MN NAELA Chapter CLE | Signing Nursing Home Admission Contracts for a Loved One. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.](#)

This CLE is free for MSBA Elder Law Section members and members of the MN NAELA Chapter.

Presenters

Evan Nelson, Maslon LLP

Please submit upcoming CLEs to margaret.cook@wagnerlegalmn.com.

ELDER LAW SECTION ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY SUPPORT COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Support Committee meets at the offices of Long, Reher, Hanson & Price. Telephone participation is available. Please contact committee chair Laura Zdychnec at lzdychnec@mnelderlaw.com for call-in instructions or more information.

Upcoming meeting dates to be announced.

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

The Awards Committee Chair is appointed by the incoming Council Chair after the Council Chair takes office each year. The current Committee Chair is Julian J. Zweber. Members of the Committee are appointed each year by the Council Chair on recommendation by the Committee Chair as approved or modified by the Council Chair. The Committee usually meets from July to October of each year, at the call of the Committee Chair. The Committee solicits nominations from Section members for Section Awards and determines what Awards should be presented at the next Elder Law Institute sponsored by MN CLE, usually in October of each year. For more information, please contact Julian J. Zweber at 651-646-4354 or julianzweber@qwestoffice.net.

The Awards Committee will not meet again until after the new Council takes office in late June.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

The Communications Committee oversees the monthly Elder Law E-Newsletter and the Elder Law Section website. The committee is composed of the e-newsletter editor, web editor, associate editors, contributors, and any other interested section members. Meetings are to be held every other month to review issues related to the e-newsletter and the website, and to conduct an annual member survey. Upcoming meetings for the Communications Committee are as follows:

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting will be arranged by video chat on Zoom or Microsoft Teams. The meeting link will be emailed to all committee members. Anyone interested in joining the meeting should email Lucas Spaeth at lucas.spaeth@voamn.org for a link to the meeting.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee or suggesting ideas for the newsletter or website may contact Communications Committee chair Lucas Spaeth at lucas.spaeth@voamn.org or (612) 676-6302.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:

Meetings will be held via teleconference on the second Tuesday of every month from 9:30-10:15 am.

Please contact Maya Missaghi at maya@mmlawservices.com if you would like to join!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Education Committee plans CLE seminars sponsored by the Elder Law Section and meets via conference call on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Subcommittees of the Education Committee include New Lawyers and Law Students.

The Education Committee will meet **May 13, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.**

If you would like to participate, please contact the committee chair, Laura Orr at laura.orr@smrls.org. Anyone is welcome to join the committee or simply attend a meeting.

GOVERNING COUNCIL:

The Elder Law Section Governing Council is chaired by Jack Austin and is currently meeting via Zoom. Meetings are currently scheduled for the following dates:

Friday, June 18, 2021 at 3:30 P.M. *Note that this is the Annual Elder Law Section Meeting, the Governing Council meeting will take place immediately after. Please contact Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org or Jack Austin at jack@hawkelawgroup.com to receive Zoom instructions to join the meeting.

LAW STUDENT COMMITTEE:

The Law Student Committee helps attract students to become the next generation of elder law attorneys. The committee meets as needed during the school year. Our goal for this bar year is to host a panel event at each local law school where students can ask questions about the practice of elder law. We are always looking for other ways to engage students, so please feel free to attend meetings and make suggestions.

If you have questions about the committee, contact John Kantke at john.kantke@voamn.org.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Elder Law Section's Legislative Committee monitors proposed legislation at the state and federal level affecting the Section's membership; reviews legislative proposals put forward by other Sections and Committees of the MSBA; reviews proposals from other groups, agencies and individuals; keeps Section membership informed of proposed legislation; provides comment and other responses to legislative proposals; makes recommendations concerning support of, or opposition to, legislative proposals; develops relationships with other organizations affected by legislation of interest to the Section; acts as a coordinator for the Section's legislative activities; develops legislative proposals for inclusion in the MSBA legislative agenda; provides witnesses and testimony in support of, or opposition to, legislative proposals; and in general supports the MSBA and the Section's legislative agendas. Members interested in joining the committee or

learning more about the legislative issues being reviewed by the committee may contact the Legislative Committee Chair, Suzy Scheller, at (763) 647-0042 or suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com; or Vice-Chair, Julian J. Zweber, at (651-646-4354) or julianzweber@qwestoffice.net.

Several Elder Law Section only proposals are in effect for the current legislative session. The Elder Law Section is currently supporting proposals to pass new legislation regarding medical assistance treatment of life estates and irrevocable trusts as well as opposing proposed language related to resident trusts. Please contact Suzy Scheller at suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com with questions or requests for further information.

Please contact Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org to be added to the Elder Law Section Community Forum.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:

The Medical Assistance Committee is a study group to analyze the members' questions and case studies and to discuss administrative policies and procedures in relation to Medical Assistance in Minnesota. For directions, or to attend by phone, please contact Callyn Bedker at 507-587-8766 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Topics for the meeting may be submitted to Callyn at callyn@bedkerlaw.com under the subject heading "MA Committee Topic".

The Medical Assistance (MA) Committee will not be meeting in May.

Please note, due to COVID-19, all meetings will be held remotely by telephone at this time.

To attend by telephone, call 1-800-226-9607 at the designated meeting time. When prompted, enter Conference Identification Number [or Participant Code] 8157976029# to be connected to the conference.

MA Committee members are invited to join the Medical Assistance Community forum at my.mnbar.org. Please contact Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org to be added to the community.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE:

Please contact Emily Flesch at emilyfleschlaw@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in this committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting date is to be announced. Questions may be directed to Committee Chair, Jack Austin, at jack@hawkelawgroup.com.

VULNERABLE ADULT COMMITTEE:

Contact Marit Peterson at marit.peterson@elderjusticemn.org or 651-440-9303, if you are interested in participating in this committee.

The MSBA Elder Law Section's [Website](#) contains information about section committees and leadership. It also contains useful practice resources.

You may email Lucas Spaeth at lucas.spaeth@voamn.org to suggest changes to website content.

Please send E-Newsletter contributions by 10 p.m. on the last day of each month to Maggie Cook at margaret.cook@wagnerlegalmn.com. The E-Newsletter is distributed on the first Monday of each month. If the first Monday occurs on a holiday, the E-Newsletter will be distributed on the following Monday.

If you do not wish to receive this E-Newsletter, send your request to be removed from the mailing list to Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org.

Current and prior E-Newsletters are posted on the website for the MSBA Elder Law Section and are available [HERE](#).