

MSBA ELDER LAW SECTION E-NEWSLETTER

July 12, 2021

Vol. 12, No. 76

Communications Committee Chair: Lucas Spaeth

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Web Coordinator: Lucas Spaeth

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ELDER LAW NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

New Leadership for the Governing Council and Committee Chairs

The following officers for the Elder Law Section were elected at the Section's Annual Meeting held remotely by Zoom on June 25, 2021. They will serve until successors are elected at the next Annual Meeting in June 2022:

Section Chair, Amber M. Hildebrandt, 218-759-1673, ahildebrandt@bwmlawpllp.com

Vice Chair, Callyn Bedker

Secretary, Jennifer Wright

Treasurer, Jill Sauber

The following section members were elected to serve two-year terms on the Governing Council:

Alexus Anderson

Callyn Bedker

Joshua Damberg

Lauren Fink

Genevieve Gaboriault

Brenna Galvin

John Kantke

Jill Sauber

Joel Smith

Gordon Solo

Lucas Spaeth

Daniel Steinhagen

Julian Zweber

The following section members continue as Council members for the remainder of their two-year terms that began in June 2020:

Jack Austin

Mary Ebb

Emily Weichsel f/k/a Emily Flesch

Amber M. Hildebrandt

Maya Missaghi

Laura Orr

Marit Peterson

Mary Frances Price

Cathryn Reher

Bridget Reischl

Suzanne Sandahl

Suzanne Scheller

Traci Sherman

Jennifer Wright

Ruthanne Vos

The following committee chairs were confirmed by the Section chair at the Governing Council meeting on June 25, 2021:

Awards	Julian Zweber	Law Students	Jack Austin
Advocacy	Vacant	Legislative	Suzanne Schellers
Communications	Lucas Spaeth	Medical Assistance	Callyn Bedker
Diversity	Maya Missaghi	Pro Bono	Emily Weichsel
Education	Lauren Fink	Bylaws	Julian Zweber
New Lawyers	Alexus Anderson	Membership	Joshua Damberg & John Kantke

The Elder Law Institute Planning Committee for 2021-22 is co-chaired by the Section Chair and Vice Chair.

The Strategic Planning Committee is chaired by the Section Chair and includes the Section Officers together with other section members to be appointed by the Section Chair. The Executive Committee is composed of the Section Officers.

Contributed by Julian J. Zweber

SMRLS Volunteer Attorney Needed!

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services is seeking a volunteer for a guardianship case. The client's aging mother has early onset Alzheimer's and vascular dementia and the client wants to become her guardian to help manage her affairs. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and help someone in need! Contact Emily Bowen at emily.bowen@smrls.org to learn more.

Contributed by Emily Weichsel

LASNEM Volunteers Attorneys Needed!

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota (LASNEM) is in need of volunteer attorneys to add to their estate and probate roster. They are looking for low-commitment, advice-only assistance from attorneys willing to provide phone advice or assist with answering questions about forms. The general time commitment is 2 hours per month, but LASNEM is willing to accommodate individual schedules. LASNEM has a robust program dedicated to serving clients in rural and desolate communities.

For more information, you can contact Lilo Schluender directly at LSchluender@lasnem.org. To sign up, you can visit the website at <https://lasnem.org/pai/> and complete the Volunteer Interest Form: <https://airtable.com/shr4IkDGBzZZ8oBMM>

Contributed by Emily Weichsel

JUNE 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.

There are no upcoming CLEs or events for the month of July.

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

ELDER LAW SECTION ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY SUPPORT COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Support Committee meets remotely at the call of the chair.

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 sometime in July or August, 2021.

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 will be held remotely 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, 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.

If you would like to participate, please contact the committee chair, Lauren Fink at lfink@maserlaw.com. Anyone is welcome to join the committee or simply attend a meeting.

GOVERNING COUNCIL:

The Elder Law Section Governing Council is chaired by Amber Hildebrandt and is currently meeting via Zoom.

Please contact Tram Nguyen at tnguyen@mnbars.org or Amber Hildebrandt at 218-759-1673, ahildebrandt@bwmlawpllp.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 Jack Austin at jack@hawkelawgroup.com.

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 meet on **August 17, 2021 at 3:30 P.M.**

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 Weichsel at 612-524-7356 or Emily@sauberlaw.com if you are interested in participating in this committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The Strategic Planning Committee meets at the call of the Section Chair. Questions may be directed to Amber Hildebrandt at 218-759-1673 or ahildebrandt@bwmlawpllp.com.

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](#).