



## ELDER LAW SECTION E-NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2024

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Communications Committee Chair: Lucas Spaeth

Editor in Chief: Margaret (Maggie) Cook

Web Coordinator: Lucas Spaeth

Contributors: Bridget-Michaele Reischl and Laura Orr

### **ELDER LAW NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

The Elder Law Section's New Lawyers Committee is looking for additional members interested in a study group on Medical Assistance. If you are someone who is interested in joining this group, or if you know of a new lawyer who may wish to join in the study group, please contact Bridget-Michaele Reischl at [bridget@decorolaw.com](mailto:bridget@decorolaw.com). Bridget has agreed to help facilitate meeting time(s) and space(s), technology, and special guests, as needed. Zoom participation is welcome.

*Submitted by Bridget-Michaele Reischl, New Lawyers Committee*

### **Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association Gala**

Consistent with the MSBA Elder Law Section's [diversity plan](#), the section council has budgeted funds for section representation at affinity bar association events. The budget allows for reimbursement of registration and parking for two section members who will attend the [Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association \(MHBA\) Gala](#) on Friday, April 19, 2024, starting at 6 P.M.

The MHBA Gala raises money for the MHBA Endowment Fund, which serves as a source of funding for law student interns working at non-profit organizations serving the Latino/a community.

If you are interested in attending the gala in a representational capacity on behalf the MSBA Elder Law Section, please contact Laura Orr, chair of the section's diversity committee, at [laura.orr@elderjusticemn.org](mailto:laura.orr@elderjusticemn.org). You may learn more about MHBA and its work promoting professional growth and opportunity for Latino/a law students and attorneys [here](#).

*Submitted by Laura Orr, Diversity Committee*

## **UPCOMING CLE AND EVENTS**

### **Emerging Issues in Long-Term Care**

Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

This annual CLE focuses on current and emerging issues related to long-term care, particularly for our aging population and those living with disabilities, whether living in their own home or in a facility setting. The topics are those of interest to Elder Law attorneys and related professionals as well as the clients they serve. The CLE will consist of five panelists discussing certain areas related to long-term care, moderated by Suzanne Scheller, Esq.

Attendees of Emerging Issues in Long-Term Care will receive information on key areas affecting those receiving long-term care and services from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (“MDHS”). MDHS will provide an update and information on the following four key areas that are on the move that currently are or will impact many of the clients served in Elder Law: 1) Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (“MAEPD”); 2) Waiver Reimagine; 3) Roll out of MN Choices Revision assessment; and 4) Medical Assistance Unwinding. We are grateful to MDHS for providing four panelists with depth of knowledge in these four areas to share important and current information with us, as well as what to expect in the future. Questions can be shared to [suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com](mailto:suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com) prior to the CLE to focus the content as able.

In addition, the current Task Force on Aging, approved by the legislature last year, has convened and is engaging in a robust conversation with a variety of professionals and individuals regarding issues facing our aging population. We will receive an update on the current Task Force discussions and possible future considerations for the legislature. Finally, as time allows, we will hear about various bills making their way through the legislature that may affect Minnesotans receiving long-term care.

This CLE sponsored by the Elder Law Section will address these topics to help elder law attorneys and professionals navigate legal concerns on behalf of older and vulnerable adults.

#### **Presenters:**

Sally Barlow, JD - Legal Coordinator | Health Care Eligibility and Access, Minnesota Department of Human Services – Discussing MA Unwinding

Vikas Chopra, JD - Supervisor (ABD) | Health Care Eligibility and Access, Minnesota Department of Human Services - Discussing MA-EPD

Heidi Hamilton, MPH - Division Director | Disability Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services – Discussing Waiver Reimagine and MN Choices Assessment

Natasha Merz - Assistant Commissioner | Aging and Disability Services Administration, Minnesota Department of Human Services - Discussing Waiver Reimagine and MN Choices Assessment

Kathleen Kelso – Board Member | Elder Voice Advocates – Discussing the Minnesota Task Force on Aging

**Moderator:**

Suzanne M. Scheller, Counselor at Law, Scheller Legal Solutions LLC

Register at [www.mnbar.org/cle-events/tri-bar-event?EventID=6485](http://www.mnbar.org/cle-events/tri-bar-event?EventID=6485)

This CLE is free to section members.

Approved for 2.0 CLE credit.

Please submit upcoming CLEs to [mcook@vgllaw.com](mailto:mcook@vgllaw.com).

**ELDER LAW SECTION ACTIVITIES**

**ADVOCACY SUPPORT COMMITTEE:**

The Advocacy Support Committee is currently recruiting members. Interested individuals can email Martha Amdahl at [marthaa@northwoodlawgroup.com](mailto:marthaa@northwoodlawgroup.com) or call her at (952) 259-9647.

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. For more information, please contact Julian J. Zweber at 651-646-4354 or [julianzweber@qwestoffice.net](mailto:julianzweber@qwestoffice.net).

**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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:lucas.spaeth@voamn.org) or (612) 676-6302.

#### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:

Are you interested in advancing equity in elder law practice? Please contact the current chair, Laura Orr ([laura.orr@elderjusticemn.org](mailto:laura.orr@elderjusticemn.org)), with any questions.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The Education Committee plans CLE seminars sponsored by the Elder Law Section and meets via Zoom on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Subcommittees of the Education Committee include New Lawyers and Law Students.

The Education Committee will meet next on **April 11, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.**

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

#### GOVERNING COUNCIL:

The Elder Law Section Governing Council has been chaired by Lauren Fink since her election at the last Annual Meeting. She is currently taking maternity leave through the end of her term. In her absence, Genevieve Gaboreault, Vice Chair, will be acting in Lauren's place.

The next meeting is on **Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 3:30 P.M.**

Please contact Tram Nguyen at [tnguyen@mnbars.org](mailto:tnguyen@mnbars.org) 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](mailto: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](mailto:suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com); or Vice-Chair, Julian J. Zweber, at (651-646-4354) or [julianzweber@qwestoffice.net](mailto: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](mailto:suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com) with questions or requests for further information.

Please contact Tram Nguyen at [tnguyen@mnbars.org](mailto: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](mailto:callyn@bedkerlaw.com) under the subject heading "MA Committee Topic."

**Please note, all meetings will be held remotely by telephone at this time.**

To attend by telephone, call 1-888-354-0094 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](http://my.mnbar.org). Please contact Tram Nguyen at [tnguyen@mnbars.org](mailto:tnguyen@mnbars.org) to be added to the community.

#### PRO BONO COMMITTEE:

Please contact Emily Weichsel at 612-596-9243 or [emilyweichsel@gmail.com](mailto:emilyweichsel@gmail.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 can be directed to Lauren Fink at 651-952-4147 or [LFink@maserlaw.com](mailto:LFink@maserlaw.com).

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The 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](mailto:lucas.spaeth@voamn.org) to suggest changes to website content.

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Please send E-Newsletter contributions by 10 p.m. on the last day of each month to Maggie Cook at [mcook@vglaw.com](mailto:mcook@vglaw.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](mailto:tnguyen@mnbars.org).

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