

Elder Law Conference Benefits Attorneys and Seniors

As President of the Virginia Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (VAELA), I am heavily involved in our educational conferences, one of which occurred in Charlottesville February 21st and 22nd. It was an opportunity to share knowledge and solutions for senior citizens with my colleagues.

For example, one of our speakers, Gary H. Oberlender, MD, FACP, led a discussion on the topic of "The Interface Between Elder Law & Geriatric Medicine". He warned that sometimes the senior in your family may appear to have dementia, when actually he/she is suffering from depression. A mistaken diagnosis would mean improper medication. Very dangerous.

After attending this workshop, I would recommend to you an independent assessment or second opinion from a dementia diagnosis. It can mean a loved one being with you for many more years.

Advance Directives: It's Your Decision

Another session at the conference showed the danger of allowing a hospital to draft your advance medical directives, which would determine when life support would be cut off. Sometimes a hospital will offer to do this for free, but will draft the document in the hospital's favor.

For example, a hospital may encourage that life support continue if it believes patient care is warranted, even if a patient may not want to go on.

The best advice is to consult your attorney and plan far in advance of incapacitation, so that end-of-life instructions reflect your wishes, and clear to everyone involved.

Resource for You

My goal is to make VAELA the "go to" organization for those whose senior citizen loved ones are facing legal and medical challenges related to aging, as well as for special needs children and adults, their families, and attorneys.

Check our progress at vaela.org!

Meanwhile, for assistance with the maze of age and special needs related legal issues, including estate planning, please contact our office. We are here to help you.

Sincerely,
Yahne



Free Workshop
April 25, 2015
"Guardianship and How to
Avoid the Pitfalls"
10-11:30 am
1616 Anderson Rd#209
McLean, Va 22102

Register here

For more estate planning,
special needs, and elder care
information:

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**Recent and upcoming
speaking engagements:**

Feb 21, 2015
VA Chapter of the National
Academy of Elder Law
Attorneys
"Estate Planning Issues
Specific to Non-U.S.
Citizens"
Charlottesville, VA

February 24, 2015
St. Catherine Siena Cath Church
"Avoiding Guardianship"
Great Falls, VA

March 11, 2015
"IRS Form 706 - US Estate
(and Generation-Skipping
Transfer) Tax Return"
Webinar

Our new office is 5 minutes
from METRO Silver Line
and close to downtown DC

TeqCorner Building
1616 Anderson Rd #209
McLean, Va 22102