



Elder Law Notes

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Fall 2007

Alabama Department of Senior Services Awarded Grant

Kathleen Healey announced on November 19th that ADSS has been awarded a grant for an AARP legal training program on February 26th and 27th, 2008. While the program will follow closely on the heels of the ABICLE Elder Law Seminar in Tuscaloosa on the 22nd, it will include different topics. It is not intended to compete with ABICLE. Kathleen's inclusion of the ELS as a participatory group helped to elevate ADSS as a front-runner for those state groups competing. The faculty is guaranteed to be top notch and the topics slated include predatory mortgage lending, home repair scams, illegal provisions in nursing home law and a mock administrative hearing that will include the attending attorneys.

The meeting will be in Montgomery, the tuition will be free but the number of participants will be limited. More will be published on this as available. The ELS extends its sincerest gratitude to the hard work of Kathleen Healey at ADSS.

ELS Officers 2007-2008

Chair- Ron Holtsford
Co-Chair- Jason Britt
Secretary- Melanie Bradford
Treasurer- Clayton Davis

Council Members

Jennifer Griffin- Past Chair
Connie Glass- 1 year term
Lynn Campisi- 2 year term
Betty Jean Shinn- 3 year term

Elder Law Section Planning Meeting

Several members of the Elder Law Section met in Birmingham on October 26th to plan the 2007-2008 year. Following lunch and a few remarks, Past Chair, Jennifer Griffin was presented a plaque honoring her service and dedication to ELS. I have had the honor to serve with so many wonderful officers over the last several years and Jennifer's shoes are equally difficult to fill. While I would like to claim credit for thoughtfulness (I barely rate even with my wife), it was the thoughtfulness of several ELS members that prompted Jennifer's recognition.

Ron Holtsford gave an update on the Alabama State Bar, Wills for Heroes project and encouraged ELS members to participate as estate planning experts in support of the Young Lawyers that participate in the clinics. Contact Linda Lund at the Bar if you wish to participate.

Jo Taylor and Hugh Lee were recognized for their work on a soon to be published Elder Law Hornbook. I think all Alabama ELS members will want to add this to their library. (Continued page 2)

CLE CALENDAR

- (1) ELS, January 18th- Montgomery (2.0 hrs)
- (2) ABICLE, February 22nd- Tuscaloosa (6.0 hrs)
- (3) ADSS, February 26th-27th- Montgomery (multiple hrs)
- (4) ELS, April 2008- Mobile (plan for 3.0 hrs)
- (5) ELS, Sept 2008- Huntsville (plan for 3.0 hrs)

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

After the election of ELS officers in May, I suddenly began to wonder why in the world would the approximately 200 members place confidence in me to lead them for 2007-2008. There is of course an insanity factor that figures in when one agrees to lead, to have some accolades when things go right and be the fall guy when things aren't so good. There is the legal practice that continues and I type this after 10:00 p.m. the Friday after Thanksgiving.

I think about first volunteering to help with the Montgomery ELS meeting when Jo Taylor was Chair. That will get you noticed! When Tom Ryan stepped up as Chair he asked me to be program coordinator. As Tom served a second year as Chair I was elected Secretary/ Treasurer and when Jennifer Griffin moved up to Chair, I also moved up to be her right hand man (of sorts). There have been some great lawyer/ leaders to serve before me and I am surrounded by several others that act as officers, council or just attend regularly and contribute because they love what they do. (continued page 3)

ELS Planning Meeting (Continued)

Ron Holtsford asked those at the planning meeting to begin considering a project to serve either the elderly of Alabama in some type of educational forum or something that will further serve the educational needs of ELS members. One idea was an AARP regional training conference, which was discussed as being held at the University of Alabama Law School; ELS would pay for the expenses. A second idea was to consider legislative lobbying in opposition to non-lawyers that provide legal counsel to Medicaid applicants. John Harris suggested a support method for the membership when certain elder related issues require litigation. Alan Zeigler suggested the availability of a library utilizing Google Docs. Alan will look at uploading image documents versus searchable word processor documents. Also suggested was an ELS web site to promote attorneys practicing in the area of elder law in Alabama. Meeting ideas are on page three.



2008 Medicare Figures

PART A

Deductible \$1,024.00

Co- pmt (d 61-90) \$256.00/ day

Co- pmt (d 91-) \$512.00/ day

Skilled Nursing Facility

Co- pmt (d 21-100) \$128.00/ day

PART B:

Premium \$ 96.40/ month

Deductible \$135.00

As directed under 2003 Medicare law the following are PART B premiums for higher income levels:

Individuals \$82k- \$102k \$122.20/ month
Married couples \$164k-\$204k

Individuals \$102k-\$153k \$160.90/ month
Married couples \$204k-\$306k

Individuals \$153k-\$205k \$199.70/ month
Married couples \$306k-\$410k

Individuals \$205k-\$xxxk \$238.40/ month
Married couples \$410k-\$xxxk

Married beneficiaries that file a separate tax return from their spouse and have an income of \$82k- \$123k will pay a premium of \$199.70/ month

Thanks to Jennifer Griffin for forwarding this information

