The Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect, in conjunction with the Elder Justice Coalition and National Adult Protective Services Association, is asking for your help in launching a postcard campaign to urge Congress to appropriate funds for the Elder Justice Act.

The EJA was passed last year, but no funds have been appropriated yet. This means that none of the EJA provisions for providing services to older victims of abuse have been enacted.

The postcard campaign is a chance to send a message to our representatives to fund the Elder Justice Act this year.

Please join the “It Could Happen to Anyone” postcard campaign. Every postcard will make a difference.

Send an e-mail request to the Center at centeronelderabuse@uci.edu to request as many postcards you think you can get signed and collected.

The center will send the postcards to you free of charge (minimum order 15; maximum order 250. Remember to include your name, agency name, mailing address, and telephone number).

Distribute the postcards, collect them (postcards are not intended to be mailed individually), and send to the Elder Justice Coalition offices in Washington. The deadline for sending the postcards to Washington is July 15, 2011.

Elder Justice Coalition
c/o Matz, Blancato & Assoc.
1612 K St., NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

The goal is to collect 20,000 postcards from all over the country to be presented to Congress by the Elder Justice Coalition.

Request your postcards today!
Inside the Commission

ABA Commission on Law and Aging Awarded National Legal Resource Center Grant

In June the Administration on Aging issued notices of award to the partners of the National Legal Resource Center to continue their work through mid-2014.

Under this award the ABA Commission on Law and Aging will work to coordinate, develop, collect and disseminate resources on critical law and aging issues and to manage content for the NLRC Web site.

Other partners of the NLRC include:

- The Center for Elder Rights Advocacy, which will provide technical assistance and expertise on senior legal hotlines and low-cost, high-impact legal service delivery systems;
- The National Consumer Law Center, which will provide training on issues in law and aging, including their high-impact webinar series;
- The Center for Social Gerontology, which provides technical assistance in legal service development; and
- The National Senior Citizens Law Center, to provide case consultation and subject matter experts.

The NLRC is a collaborative effort developed by the Administration on Aging. Its mission is to provide a coordinated national legal assistance support system in order to strengthen legal assistance and elder rights efforts across the country. It achieves this mission though providing substantive legal information, case consultations, technical support, and training in critical areas to lawyers and elder rights and aging services professionals and advocates.

For more information on the programs, resources, and services of the NLRC visit www.nlrc.aoa.gov.

What Every Lawyer Needs to Know

Save the Date: September 13, 2011
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EST

This Webinar will give attendees the basic knowledge and skills needed to understand the nature and extent of elder abuse as encountered in law practice; to spot elder abuse and neglect; to better arm clients against the risk of abuse; and to understand the civil and criminal resources available for responding to elder abuse. See page 68 in this issue.

Presented by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging
ABA Commission on Law and Aging Welcomes Summer Interns

The ABA Commission on Law and Aging is pleased to announce this year’s summer interns, Mollie Gurian and Ashley Phillips.

Mollie Gurian earned her bachelor’s degree *magna cum laude* in history from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She joined the joint degree program at the University of Minnesota to pursue a J.D. and master’s degree in public health administration and policy, following a one-year internship at the Families USA Foundation in Washington. The following summer, Ms. Gurian worked as a law clerk for the housing and disability attorneys at AARP, also in Washington. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Ms. Gurian worked on dental health policy, including legislation drafting and advocacy, through her work at Halleland Habichet/LPaC Alliance (formerly Halleland Health Consulting). Her main project focused on the implementation of Minnesota’s new dental therapist program. During the summer of 2010, Ms. Gurian returned to Washington to work at the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) on issues that primarily impact low-income persons, with a particular focus on health care reform given the historic legislation that passed in March 2010. Ms. Gurian aspires to be an effective advocate for healthcare quality and access, with a particular focus on older Americans. This summer at the ABA Commission, Ms. Gurian is examining how Medicare local coverage determinations were applied to people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Ashley Phillips is a rising junior at the University of Southern California, working toward a bachelor’s degree in human development and aging at the Davis School of Gerontology. She is president and Web master of the Student Gerontology Association (SGA) at USC, an organization that provides undergraduate, master’s, and Ph.D. students with the opportunity to interact with professionals, faculty, and fellow students in the field of aging.

Ms. Phillips is interested in elder abuse and plans to pursue a career in elder law. She also is committed to raising awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer’s disease and is in charge of organizing SGA’s team for the Walk-to-End Alzheimer’s. Upon graduation, Ms. Phillips hopes to attend law school where she plans to continue advocating for the elderly.

This summer, Ms. Phillips is working with ABA Commission Senior Attorney Lori Stiegel to build an elder abuse resources list and directory of legal service providers in Title III-B of the Older Americans Act.

Essential Reading

Report Analyzes Barriers, Identifies Ways to Improve Outreach to Isolated Seniors

A new report published by the National Council on Aging’s National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment describes the ways in which social and geographical isolation pose barriers to benefits access among older adults. The report features an analysis of the demographics of isolated seniors and identifies new ways to improve and expand outreach to them.

The report *Crossing New Frontiers: Benefits Access Among Isolated Seniors* can be downloaded here.
Health Decisions

States Report Success with Physician Orders to Honor Patients’ Treatment Wishes

A new report by the AARP Public Policy Institute and the ABA Commission on Law and Aging evaluates the use of Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment in a dozen states.

Written by Charles P. Sabatino, director of the ABA Commission, and Naomi Karp, of AARP, Improving Advanced Illness Care: The Evolution of State POLST Programs shows how its use has grown and improved the care of seriously ill people in the 12 states that have pioneered POLST.

Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a tool designed to translate a patient’s wishes for care into medical orders that travel with the individual through the medical system. It is intended to provide seriously ill patients with choices about the care they will receive and ensure that they get the medical interventions they prefer—whether it is an extreme lifesaving measure or palliative care.

Through POLST, patients and their doctors work together so that patients’ care goals are known, respected, and honored.

The AARP and ABA report shows that despite the acknowledged advantages of POLST, many states face obstacles to starting such programs. Among the barriers are insufficient funds for training, especially for physicians; integrating POLST into electronic health records; and the lack of monitoring and evaluation processes.

For the states that have been successful at initiating POLST, many share common elements, such as:

• well-established statewide end-of-life and palliative care organizations that can help “jump-start” programs;

• a foundation of “physician champions,” who can increase awareness and acceptance; and

• reasonable expectations that an implementation of POLST is a multi-year and incremental process, which often starts with a pilot program before expanding statewide.

Access the full report from the AARP Public Policy Web site here.
Welcome to the ABA Annual Meeting

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, it is a pleasure to invite you to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting, August 4 - 9. We are fortunate to meet in Toronto, a historical city with a long legal history and world-class attractions.

The ABA’s sections, divisions, and other entities are developing more than 150 CLE programs that will help you improve your professional skills and expertise. There will be great opportunities to learn from and network with lawyers and judges from around the world. The meeting will also feature the world’s largest legal EXPO, providing an array of goods and services pertaining to the practice of law.

The Opening Assembly will be held Saturday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the newly opened, state-of-the-art Koerner Hall at the historic Royal Conservatory of Music. The President’s Reception will immediately follow at the internationally acclaimed Royal Ontario Museum. It promises to be a memorable and enjoyable evening.

We hope to make your participation in the 2011 Annual Meeting meaningful to you and your professional development and our Association’s growth.

For up-to-date information about the meeting, please visit our continually updated Web site at www.abanet.org/annual/2011. I hope you will join us in making this the most dynamic, enjoyable and well-attended meeting yet.

Sincerely,

Stephen N. Zack

Benefits of Attending the ABA Annual Meeting

- The ABA Annual Meeting is the PREMIER CONFERENCE of legal professionals in the United States.
- Earn an entire year’s worth of CLE REQUIREMENTS.
- NETWORK with leading professionals who share your interests and concerns.
- Stay abreast of RECENT DEVELOPMENTS in the law.
- Visit the ABA EXPO, with MORE THAN 100 EXHIBITORS providing a diverse assortment of legal products and services.
- The Annual Meeting’s FLEXIBLE FORMAT allows you to customize the meeting to fit your needs.

Go to the ABA Annual Meeting Web page here for information about:
- Registration and Hotel
- 2011 Delegate-At-Large Elections
- CLE Programs
- Special Events
- Passport/Immigration
- EXPO
- Member Travel Discounts
- Entity Headquarters and Meeting Dates
- Tourism Toronto
- Contacts

Inside the ABA

Vote for the Best Legal Novel of the Year

To honor the 50th anniversary of the publication of To Kill a Mockingbird, the ABA Journal and the University of Alabama School of Law have created the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction. And you can help pick this year’s winner.

This year’s finalists are: The Reversal by Michael Connelly, The Confession by John Grisham, and Fatal Convictions by Randy Singer.

Vote here for the book you think should win the 2011 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction. The prize will be given to the novel published in 2010 that best exemplifies the role of lawyers in society and their power to effect change. It will be given annually. The prize will be awarded in conjunction with the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington in September. The winner will receive a copy of To Kill a Mockingbird signed by Harper Lee.
The 2011 National Aging and Law Institute provides Elder and Special Needs Law professionals—whether you're a private practitioner, legal services attorney or other law and aging advocate—an unparalleled opportunity to learn, network, and engage with leaders within the field.

The institute offers more than 25 advanced educational sessions on vital topics, such as:

- the status of health care reform and its impact on Medicare and Medicaid;
- the intersection of Veteran’s benefits and Medicaid;
- the future of Social Security and SSI benefits;
- strategic practice management and leadership development;
- tax and estate planning for same sex partnerships;
- marketing techniques; and
- ethical issues.

In addition to great educational opportunities, exhibitors from across the nation will be on hand showcasing the latest industry-related products and services crucial to your practice.

What’s In It for Me or Why Attend?

- Learn, share, and discover the latest trends and practices that are highly relevant, practical, and applicable immediately from a nationally acclaimed faculty in an interactive environment.
- Increase your knowledge in the field by earning CLE and ethics credits for attending exceptional programming for professional development.
- Gain thought-provoking insight from unlimited face-to-face interactions and exchanges with elder and special needs law professionals tackling the same challenges that you face.
- Stay on the cutting-edge and gain unlimited opportunities for professional growth. Meet the movers and shakers in the field, generate new leads and resources for your practice, and leave with plenty of ideas to help you drive revenue for your practice and cost effectively meet the needs of your clients.
- Identify coming changes to the law, and products and services crucial to your practice.

Make plans now to join colleagues for the 2011 National Aging and Law Institute. Stay tuned for information about registration and hotel reservations in the next issue of Bifocal, on Elderbar, and on the ABA Commission’s Web site at www.americanbar.org/aging.

The conference will return to Washington, November 8-10, 2012.
Get Connected, Stay Connected on Elderbar

Join Elderbar, the listserv that brings together public and private sector legal advocates and the aging network. Elderbar is for you if you are an:

- Elder law attorney
- Title IIIB legal services provider
- Legal services developer
- Senior hotline attorney or staff
- Long-term care ombudsman
- Senior Health Insurance Benefits Program staff
- Area agency on aging staff
- State unit on aging staff
- OAA-funded elder rights advocate
- LSC, IOLTA-funded, or other non-profit or public sector legal services organization
- Law school elder law or clinical staff
- State or local bar association elder law section or committee
- Service provider in the aging network
- National law and aging advocate

Elderbar gives you the opportunity to communicate across the boundaries of the law and aging networks and the public and private legal sectors. Share ideas and information about programs, bar section and committee activities, and learn how others are responding to the increasing demand and finite funding for legal services for seniors.

Elderbar is a project of the ABA Commission as part of its role in the National Legal Resource Center, funded by the Administration on Aging. It is a closed list; messages can only be posted and read by members.

To get connected to Elderbar send your name, e-mail address, and professional affiliation to David Godfrey at david.godfrey@americanbar.org.

Available to Download

What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Medicare in 2011

Original Webcast Jan. 18, 2011. Available from the ABA Web store as a CD, MP4 download, or as an online seminar here. Provides an overview of the Medicare program and benefits, includes information on significant improvements to the Medicare program that begin in 2011, and inform attendees about how changes will affect clients.

Adding Elder Law to Your Practice: The Basics

Original Webcast April 5, 2011. Available from the ABA Web store as a CD, MP4 download, or as an online seminar here. This program will provide an understanding of the nature of the field of elder law, knowledge of the aging network and resources to meet the non-legal needs of older persons; and the adaptations and skills needed to serve an aging clientele and their families.

Elder Law Essentials

Quarterly CLE Webinars for Attorneys Interested in Learning About Elder Law

Presented by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging

Upcoming: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Elder Abuse

When: Sept. 13, 2011, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EST
Faculty: Lori S. Stiegel, ABA Commission, and TBD
Description: Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly is reaching epidemic proportions in America and affects all races and socio-economic groups. Very often the abuse is committed by a member of the victim's own family, or within the confines of a long-term care facility. Unfortunately, prosecution of such crimes is very limited. This program will give attendees the basic knowledge and skills needed to understand the nature and extent of the problem as encountered in a law practices, to spot elder abuse and neglect, to better arm clients against the risk of abuse, and to understand the civil and criminal resources available for responding to elder abuse.

*Registration available soon. Check the ABA's Center for CLE Web page here.
Understanding Ethical Issues in Elder Law

The Essential Library for Anyone Practicing Elder Law

By Charles P. Sabatino

Ethical issues arise frequently in the practice of elder law. Unfortunately, answers to these questions are not always clear. State ethical rules may not even cover the issue. Therefore, it is important to know that there are other sources of guidance available. One must also understand that the responses in the various authorities will sometimes disagree. Following are the resources anyone practicing elder law should have ready access to.

- Your state’s Rules of Professional Conduct. Over 40 states model their rules on the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (Model Rules), although they may or may not have adopted the Ethics 2000 updates to the Model Rules. Some states still follow the former Code of Professional Responsibility—made up of the Canons, the Disciplinary Rules (DR) and Ethical Considerations (EC).

- Opinions of your state bar. Many states have both formal and informal opinions available on their Web sites.

- Some states have ethics hot lines or advisory panels to enable you to consult with bar counsel, or other members of the bar.

- ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (Model Rules, substantially revised in 2000).

- ETHICSearch - ABA Ethics Research Service. Lawyers at the ABA Center for Professional Ethics can provide citations to relevant ABA rules and opinions, and other ethics resources. Most searches are free. This service is only available to lawyers and other professionals, such as law students and law clerks, here.


The Ten Commandments of Mental Capacity and the Law

I. Thou shalt presume capacity.

II. Thou shalt talk to the client alone.

III. Thou shalt take steps to maximize capacity.

IV. Thou shalt not worship any one standard for capacity.

V. Thou shalt not covet the mini-mental status exam.

VI. Thou shalt not end any query with only the word “capacity.” Yea, the proper query shall be, “Capacity to Do What?”

VII. Thou shalt seek the big picture, with all its variability, intermittency, and nuance.

VIII. Thou shalt honor thy client’s own considered or habitual standards of behavior and values, not standards and values held by you or others.

IX. Thou shalt honor thy client’s confidentiality and autonomy even in the face of incapacity.

X. Thou shalt plan ahead for incapacity to ensure that one’s wishes are respected.
Essential Reading

Jan’s Story—Love Lost to the Long Goodbye of Alzheimer’s

By Barry Petersen
Behler Publications (2010)
ISBN:978-1-933016-44-3, $15.95
Review by David Godfrey, ABA Commission on Law & Aging

Early onset dementia strikes adults in the prime of life. Jan’s Story is a first-hand account written by veteran CBS News correspondent Barry Petersen about his wife Jan, who was diagnosed with early onset dementia at age fifty-five.

When we think of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias we tend to think of memory loss and cognitive dysfunction later in life. But Alzheimer’s also strikes young adults, sometimes as young as in their 30s. The impact of care-giving is immense, and even more so when the disease strikes at a younger age and family caregivers are still working full time and trying to provide for the needs of a family.

The book is written with remarkable clarity and honesty. Barry Petersen tells this story as few could. He describes their life together—courtship, marriage, travel, and working all over the world—and how dementia slowly crept into their lives and changed everything.

The book chronicles the initial signs and signals that something was not right and the crushing moment of diagnosis. It documents the search for treatment and care, including finding caregivers and long-term placement, and reformulating life as an adult with a spouse who is no longer able to recognize you.

The book is a revealing look inside the emotional turmoil and grief for the spouse of a person with dementia. Especially cruel is that with dementia, the beloved personality of those diagnosed disappears, while the body lives on, sometimes for years.

Most striking for me was the author’s honest account of the reaction of friends and family, when, based on advice from professionals, he decided to admit his wife to a long-term care facility. Simply put, her care needs exceeded his capacity with a full-time live-in caregiver.

Sadly, many friends and family accused him of abandoning his wife and his family obligations. I found this section of the book very revealing and learned a great deal about the stress that caregivers experience when making a decision about long-term care placement.

This book is a must-read for anyone wanting to understand the impact of early onset dementia, especially as it affects spouses. The insight gained from this text will help any professional better understand and work with clients facing early onset dementia or other disabling conditions.

On February 11, 2010, the Social Security Administration announced the addition of younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease to its list of Compassionate Allowances conditions. Compassionate allowances are a way for SSA to quickly identify and provide benefits to individuals “whose medical conditions are so serious that they obviously meet disability standards.” See Advocacy Victory for People with Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease Results in Expedited Benefits, in 31 ABA Bifocal 3, 1 (Feb. 2010).

Assessing Adults with Diminished Capacity

Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers offers ideas and suggestions for attorneys who wish to balance the competing goals of autonomy and protection as they confront the difficult challenges of working with older adults with problems in decision-making capacity. 2005. 80 pp. $25. Order here.

Judicial Determination of Capacity of Older Adults in Guardianship Proceedings contains practical tools to equip a wide audience of judges to conduct any form of guardianship proceeding more effectively. Includes links to expanded information, work sheets, and model forms. 2006. 41 pp. $25. Order here.


For more resources on elder law and aging issues, go to the Web site of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging here.
In the News

Communities Advancing—Slowly—to Meet the Needs of An Aging Population

By Mollie Gurian

A new report released by the MetLife Foundation, titled The Maturing of America: Communities Moving Forward for An Aging Population, details how communities are preparing to meet the needs of an increasingly older population, especially in the face of an expected surge of aging Baby Boomers.

The report, presented on June 2 at the National Press Club in Washington, was written by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, in partnership with the International City/County Management Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities and Partners for Livable Communities, with support from the MetLife Foundation. It is a follow-up to the original report conducted in 2005.

The 2011 report shows that most communities have managed to maintain basic services necessary to support older adults’ independent living, despite the overall decline in the economy and in local government budgets.

The report also notes that even though the recession made it more difficult for many communities to prepare for their aging populations, some strides have been made. These include an increase in specialized training for emergency and public safety staff in dealing with older people; the growth of in-home supportive services; and greater support for advanced education and training for the workforce.

Speaking at the June event, Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee emphasized the significance of the findings for promoting the independence of older Americans. She highlighted five main issues that communities must confront in their quest for independent aging. These include 1) housing; 2) services; 3) service provision (including support for family caregivers and the workforce needed, generally); 4) transportation; and 5) payment and funding.

Other speakers included Administrator Peter M. Rogoff, of the Federal Transit Administration. Administrator Rogoff expanded on Secretary Greenlee’s point about the importance of transportation for older Americans. He noted that communities need to focus on maintaining the options that exist in good condition, not just on new “ribbon cutting” worthy projects.

Access the full report here.

Reduced ABA Dues Rates for Legal Aid Attorneys, Government Attorneys, Judges, and Solo Practitioners in Private Practice

Membership in the American Bar Association Comes with Professional and Personal Rewards

The American Bar Association represents the best interest of lawyers on a national level—in the courts, in legislatures, in the media, and even in the classroom. Our goal is to serve each and every lawyer, each and every day, by protecting attorney-client privilege, lobbying for protection of legal services funding, educating potential clients on the benefits of legal advocacy, working for more work/life balance, and more.

Join the ABA today and become part of the most prestigious legal organization in the country!

• Stay on top of the latest developments in the law and the legal community;
• Gain access to leadership and networking opportunities;
• Select from more than 30 specialty sections, divisions, and forums, and over 600 ABA listserves; and
• Take advantage of valuable discounts on the products and resources you need.

Join now!
Wyoming Joins States with Emeritus Pro Bono Rule

By David Godfrey, Senior Attorney, ABA Commission on Law and Aging

Wyoming is the latest state to adopt an emeritus pro bono rule.

Amending article 1, §3, and article IX, §4, of the bylaws of the Wyoming State Bar, the order creates an emeritus membership category, establishes the qualifications to be an emeritus member, and outlines the responsibilities and benefits of emeritus membership.

Wyoming will waive the license fee for qualified attorneys who agree to limit their practice to pro bono cases only. The rule establishes what the attorney needs to do to qualify as an emeritus status member. Attorneys do need to apply and become certified as an emeritus attorney. Wyoming officials are creating the application and certification process, with an effective date of August 1, 2011. See here and here.

Emeritus pro bono practice rules encourage retired and inactive attorneys to volunteer to provide pro bono assistance to clients unable to pay for essential legal representation. At last count 37 jurisdictions have adopted emeritus pro bono rules, which waive some of the normal licensing requirements for attorneys agreeing to limit their practice to volunteer service. Reducing or waiving some of the normal licensing requirements lessens the burden on experienced attorneys, who agree to limit their practice to pro bono cases only.

Studies show that most people who volunteer after leaving full-time employment also volunteered before retirement. Emeritus practice rules make it easier for attorneys to continue pro bono practice after leaving full-time employment.

Pro bono volunteers, including emeritus pro bono volunteers, are critical to helping meet the need for free legal assistance for low-income and at-risk clients.

The ABA Commission on Law and Aging, in conjunction with the Center for Pro Bono, maintains a chart of state emeritus pro bono rules here.

For additional information on initiating an emeritus program and rules for your state bar, go to the Publications Web page of the ABA Commission (www.americanbar.org/aging) to view online the brochure No Longer on Their Own: Using Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Programs to Meet Unmet Civil Legal Needs; and the 2011 report Emeritus Attorney Programs: Best Practices and Lessons Learned.

To accommodate those who have reasons to register early, NGA has two options to speed the registration process:

1. Review the program and use the secure online registration form on the Web site at: www.guardianship.org/11Conference

   With online registration, you will receive an immediate confirmation by e-mail.

2. Complete the fill-in registration form on the Web site, print it, and fax it with your credit card information to: (814) 355-2452

   Whether you use the online option or fax your form, credit card information is processed manually and billing will appear on your account within 7 – 10 business days.

   *Don’t wait to make hotel reservations. Although the hotel established September 6 as the final date for the NGA group discount, that does not mean rooms will remain available until that date.

   October 1 - 4, 2011
   Minneapolis, Minn.

   This year’s theme is “Lighting the Way for Good Guardianship.” From the Saturday Welcome Reception until the conference adjourns on Tuesday, you’ll grow from interactions with others in your profession, from targeted training, and from inspiring words of our featured speakers. For more information on conference programs and speakers, go to: www.guardianship.org/11Conference
Complimentary CLE Webinars on Representing Veterans

The ABA Commission on Law and Aging is pleased to make available at no charge three MCLE webinars on advanced topics in representing veterans with VA benefits claims.

The webinars were developed as part of the ABA’s Veterans Advocacy Pro Bono Project. They offer a beyond-the-basics examination of key topics in obtaining veterans’ benefits.

Each webinar runs approximately 90 minutes and CLE credit has been applied for in all available jurisdictions. In addition to being eligible for state bar license renewal, these programs will count toward the Veterans Administration Initial Attorney Accreditation Requirement.

A Closer Look at the Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) (Audio only)
Presenters: David Godfrey, Carrie Weletz
Program date: January 26, 2011
Run Time: 01:29:01
ZIP file size: 126.9 MB.
Download here

Establishing Service Connection on Disability Claims
Presenters: David Godfrey, Michael P. Horan
Program date: November 10, 2010
Run Time: 01:26:01
ZIP file size: 9.9 MB.
Download here

Understanding Discharge Review
Presenters: James S. Richardson, David Godfrey
Program date: October 27, 2010
Run Time: 01:25:05
ZIP file size: 116.2 MB.
Download here

For additional information on MCLE or to search for ABA sponsored CLE courses by topic, go here.

Continuing Legal Education

A Primer on Veterans Administration Law, Practice, and Procedure

Free CLE Self-Study DVD
Produced by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Howrey LLP
Distributed by the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging
ABA Product Code: CECA09PVAD
Recording Date: January 29, 2009
Format: DVD-ROM
Pricing: Free

Recorded before a live audience, the Primer on Veterans Administration Law, Practice and Procedure program covers the basics of Veterans Administration law with extensive accompanying written materials. The program is designed to fulfill the Veterans Administration (VA) Attorney Accreditation Requirement.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Attorney Accreditation Requirement Information

The VA requires that attorneys with initial accreditation complete within 12 months a program that is approved for a minimum of 3 hours of CLE credit by any state bar association (38 CFR 14.629 (b) (iii)). The VA will accept completion of CLE approved in any state, even if the training is not approved in the state that the attorney is licensed in. To facilitate this requirement, self-study CLE credit has been requested in CO, FL, MO, NM, NY, VI, and WV. Other MCLE accrediting agencies may not accept this program toward meeting CLE requirements for license renewal and accreditation may expire after specific time periods in some states.

This program was produced by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Howrey LLP and distributed by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging.

The ABA Veterans Advocacy Pro Bono Project is a joint effort of the ABA Commission on Law in Aging in collaboration with ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice; Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services; Commission on Homelessness and Poverty; Standing Committee on Pro and Public Service; and the Senior Lawyers Division. The project was made possible in part by generous funding from the ABA Enterprise Fund.

Order Your Free DVD Here While They Last!