



What is Elder Law?

Elder Law is a specialty of law that caters to the needs of older clients and those with disabilities. It encompasses such areas as long-term care and nursing home care; Medicaid and asset protection planning; Medicare, managed care, and payment for health care; Social Security and retirement income planning; disability planning; housing options, such as assisted-living and residential homes for the aged; financial and health care decision-making through the use of durable powers of attorney; end-of-life decision-making through the use of living wills and advance directives; probate and estates; revocable living trusts and wills; and so forth.

What Makes Elder Law Special or Unique?

Elder Law is the only area of law defined by the clients we serve rather than the areas of law in which we practice. We like to deal "holistically" with our clients in talking about long-term planning for health care, long-term care, and financial viability, family dynamics, health care and long-term care decisions, personal values, and personal preferences.

Why Is Elder Law Important Now?

Elder Law is one of the fastest growing areas of law. With 80 million baby boomers moving into their "golden years," and one person attaining age 50 every seven seconds, there is a great demand for information. In addition, many of the entitlements, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and "health care reform," are being driven at the federal level. It takes an attorney committed to practice primarily in this area of law to stay on top of the most current changes in legislation.

What is the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys?

The practice of Elder Law came into its own in 1988 when a group of attorneys formed the [National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys](#), a professional association concerned with improving the availability and delivery of legal services to older persons. There are now more than 4000 NAELA members in every state of the United States.