



## **ELDER LAW SECTION E-NEWSLETTER**

July 3, 2023

Vol. 14, No. 100

Communications Committee Chair: Lucas Spaeth

Editor in Chief: Margaret (Maggie) Cook

Web Coordinator: Lucas Spaeth

Contributors: Julian J. Zweber; Callyn Bedker

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

#### **Annual Meeting and Election Results**

The following council members were elected to serve on the Section's Governing Council from 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024:

#### **Members in existing term 2022-2024:**

1. Amber Hildebrandt
2. John Austin
3. Laura Orr
4. Marit Peterson
5. Mary Frances Price
6. Cathryn Reher
7. Bridget-Michaele Reischl
8. Suzanne Scheller
9. Traci Sherman
10. Ruthanne Vos
11. Bobbi Hermanson-Albers
12. Margaret Cook
13. Christy DePasquale
14. Kate Graham
15. Megan Kelly

#### **Members starting a new term 2023-2025:**

1. Callyn Bedker
2. Julian Zweber
3. Joshua Damberg
4. Gordon Solo
5. Genevieve Gaboriault
6. Lucas Spaeth
7. Lauren Fink
8. Brenna Galvin

**Members leaving as of 2023:**

1. Jill Sauber
2. Alexis Anderson
3. John Kantke
4. Maya Missaghi
5. Joel Smith
6. Daniel Steinhagen

**Newly elected members for 2023-2025:**

1. Ben Kaufman – Staff Attorney/Elder Law Advocate at SMRLS
2. Kirsten Olson – Solo Practitioner / Mid Minnesota Legal Aid Staff Attorney/ Pro Bono Director
3. Sara Green – Staff Attorney at the Minnesota Elder Justice Center
4. Joy Mickels – Elder Law/Public Benefits Staff Attorney at Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
5. Riley Sullivan – Elder Law/Estate Planning Attorney at Bolt Law Firm

In addition to the attorney nominations made above, University of St. Thomas School of Law student Skylar Halbek has been nominated to become a student member.

The following officers were elected to serve on the Section’s Governing Council from 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024:

Chair: Lauren Fink

Vice Chair: Genevieve Gaboriault

Secretary: Laura Orr

\*Treasurer: Bridget Michael-Reischl

\*Jill Sauber is willing to help with transition of financial information/tasks.

*Contributed by Callyn Bedker*

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SECTION AWARDS AT THE ELDER LAW INSTITUTE**

The Awards Committee will begin accepting nominations in July for Section Awards to be presented at the Elder Law Institute on October 5, 2023.

Nominations are being sought for the following Awards:

**The Mary Alice Gooderl Memorial Award**

The Mary Alice Gooderl Memorial Award is presented by the Elder Law Section to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the field of Elder Law by a member of the Elder Law Section, as exemplified by Mary Alice Gooderl, one of the founders of the Elder Law Section. This is the highest Award presented by the Elder Law Section on an annual basis.

## **The Lifetime Service Award**

The Lifetime Service Award is presented to a member of the section who has made outstanding contributions to the Elder Law Section over an entire career or many years of service.

## **The Elder Law Section Hall of Fame**

The Elder Law Section Hall of Fame was started in 2015. The criteria for admission to the Hall of Fame include:

1. Membership in the Elder Law Section.
2. Success in litigation or other public or private advocacy having a substantial positive impact on the elderly or on the way Elder Law attorneys practice Elder Law.
3. Success in persuading CMS, DHS or another government agency to adopt substantial positive changes in medical assistance or other government programs or policies affecting the Elderly.
4. Publication of important works in literature or other media to educate consumers or Elder Law attorneys regarding any important subject affecting the Elderly.
5. Success in obtaining legislation to protect or improve the rights or condition of the Elderly.
6. Efforts to accomplish the criteria in sections 1 to 4 that fall short of success but still deserve recognition for substantial efforts toward an important goal.
7. Other important activities by Section members that the committee members believe deserve recognition in our Hall of Fame.

## **Special Recognition Awards**

These awards are for special efforts or accomplishments of a more isolated nature that deserve special recognition since the last Awards ceremony.

Please submit nominations to Julian J. Zweber at 651-646-4354, or by e-mail to [julianzweber@qwestoffice.net](mailto:julianzweber@qwestoffice.net), or by mail to Julian at 1360 Energy Park Drive, Suite 310, St. Paul, MN 55108

*Contributed by Julian J. Zweber*

Please submit upcoming news and highlights to [mcook@vgllaw.com](mailto:mcook@vgllaw.com).

## **JULY CLE AND EVENTS**

### **Help for Colleagues in Crisis: Recognizing and Responding to Impairment and Other Challenges in the Legal Profession**

Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

This program is designed for colleagues and managers who may observe changes in behavior that give rise to concerns. It discusses how to recognize and obtain help when you, a work colleague, or another professional colleague may have substance use, mental health, or other issues that affect behavior, conduct, and performance. Topics include understanding the issues, special considerations for remote work, approaching the lawyer (including interventions), arranging assistance such as treatment, and practice management issues during and following a reduced work schedule or leave of absence. Colleagues can save careers, families, and lives by taking action.

**Presenter:** Joan Bibelhausen, Executive Director Lawyer Concerned for Lawyers

This CLE is free to Elder Law Section Members.

Remote participation only.

Interested attendees may register here: <https://www.mnbar.org/members/cle-events/tri-bar-event?EventID=5742>.

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. Nominations will be accepted year-round by the Committee from Section members for Section Awards to be presented at the next

Elder Law Institute sponsored by MN CLE, usually in October of each year. 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 Communications Committee will meet on **August 9, 2023, at 8:30 A.M.**

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 **July 13, 2023, 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 is chaired by Lauren Fink and is currently meeting via Zoom.

Please contact Tram Nguyen at [tnguyen@mnbars.org](mailto:tnguyen@mnbars.org) or Lauren Fink at [lfink@maserlaw.com](mailto:lfink@maserlaw.com) 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 (7630 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 612-524-7356 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](#).