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MEMBER

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REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE/AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S ELDER LAW PROGRAM

Oast & Hook recently presented at the American Law Institute/American Bar Association's Elder Law Program in Boston, Massachusetts. The two day program was entitled, "Issues, Answers, and Opportunities," and it included presentations by nationally recognized experts on:

- Federal Benefit Programs, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicare;
- Basic Medicaid law;
- Financial planning for long-term care;
- Long-term care insurance;
- Guardianships and conservatorships;
- Special needs trusts;
- Housing options for the elderly;
- Drafting;
- Medicaid planning; and
- Ethics.

Andrew Hook made three presentations at the Elder Law Program on:

- Assisting the elderly in obtaining appropriate housing (including in home care, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes);
- Drafting issues relating to powers of attorney, advance medical directives, care agreements; and
- Helping clients obtain Medicaid long-term care assistance to pay for nursing home expenses.

What was the clear message given at this program? The elderly and their families continue to confront many difficult and complex problems and risks. These problems and risks include obtaining and paying for appropriate care, management of personal and financial decisions during periods of incapacity, and navigating difficult and complex rules including tax, Medicaid, Social Security, and Medicare laws. Many of the recent changes to these laws shift additional responsibility and risk to the elderly. To successfully overcome these problems and manage these risks, it is imperative that the elderly and their families seek professional advice. Oast & Hook specializes in assisting the elderly and their families to:

- Obtain appropriate care without exhausting their resources using (1) public benefits including Medicaid, Medicare and SSI, (2) tax and investment planning and (3) long-term care insurance;
- Manage their personal and financial affairs during periods of disability; and
- Plan and administer their estates.

Ask the Expert

Mark your calendar to listen to the “Ask the Expert” show on WTAR radio (850 AM) from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 10th. The guest speakers will be Oast & Hook attorney William Oast III and Gino Colombara, Executor Director of the Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Announcement

The Hampton Roads Caregivers’ Coalition’s 13th Annual Fall Festival for Caregivers will be held Friday, October 27, 2006, at Grand Affairs in Virginia Beach from 8:30a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will offer practical caregiving information and support for individuals providing care in the home and community. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Teepa Snow, Director for Educational Programs for the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Ms Snow’s presentation, “Caregiver Stress: Reducing Distress by Building Skills and Knowledge,” will help caregivers learn how to better handle the challenging behaviors and demands of those in their care. She will present realistic ideas that will apply to many caregiving situations, not just those involving dementia.

Reservations must be made and paid for by check in advance and no payment will be allowed at the door. The fee, which includes continental breakfast, lunch, and the program, is \$25 for professionals (those whose paid work involves caregiving or healthcare services) and \$15 for non-professionals (unpaid family members, students, and volunteers.) To request a registration brochure or for more information, please call Mary Catherine Dziedziak at 757-420-5448 or e-mail her at marycdz@verizon.net. The registration deadline is October 19, 2006. Please join us for a day of education, support, and fellowship.

Speakers

If you are interested in having an elder law attorney from Oast & Hook speak at an event, then please call Vivian Lane at 757-399-7506.

Oast & Hook

Oast & Hook is an elder law firm. We represent older persons, disabled persons, their families, and their advocates. The practice of elder law includes estate planning, investment and insurance advice, estate and trust administration, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, titling of assets and designations of beneficiaries, guardianships, conservatorships, and public entitlements such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and SSI, disability planning, income tax planning and preparation, bill paying, account management and reporting, care management, and fiduciary services. We also handle litigation involving these issues, such as will contests and estate administration disputes. For more information about Oast & Hook, please visit our website at www.oasthook.com.

Oast & Hook is the Virginia member of the Special Needs Alliance, a nationwide network of disability attorneys. As members of this alliance, we assist personal injury attorneys in resolving their cases to enhance the judgments and awards of their disabled clients and to maintain the eligibility of these clients for SSI and Medicaid. We are experienced in protecting the public benefits of persons with special needs and in assisting with the management of their assets. For more information about the Special Needs Alliance, visit its website at www.specialneedsalliance.com.

Distribution of This Newsletter

Oast & Hook encourages you to share this newsletter with anyone who is interested in issues pertaining to the elderly, the disabled and their advocates. The information in this newsletter may be copied and distributed, without charge and without permission, but with appropriate citation to Oast & Hook, P.C. If you are interested in a free subscription to the *Elder Law News*, then please e-mail us at eln@oasthook.com, telephone us at 757-399-7506, or fax us at 757-397-1267.

Please visit us on the world wide web at:

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Our website contains information about Oast & Hook and an archive of our newsletters and other estate planning, estate administration, and elder law articles in searchable form at.

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