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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Special Needs Trust Conference and Special Needs Alliance Meeting
- Oast & Hook
- Distribution of this Newsletter

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SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLIANCE MEETING

Last week, Sandra Smith attended the Special Needs VII Conference at the Stetson University College of Law, and she also attended the fall meeting of the Special Needs Alliance (SNA) (www.specialneedsalliance.com) in Clearwater Beach, Florida. The Stetson Conference is an annual conference on Special Needs Trusts (SNT). The Special Needs Alliance is a national alliance of disability law attorneys who work with both the plaintiff's bar and the defense bar. Andrew Hook is the southeastern Virginia member of the SNA.

The Stetson conference included presentations on the following topics:

- Corporate Trustees - What They Need You to Know;
- Tax Issues in Special Needs Trusts;
- Creating the Long-term Special Needs Trust Distribution Plan;
- Special Needs Trusts and Qualified Plans;
- Future of the Special Needs Practice;
- New Developments;
- Interstate/Multistate Special Needs Trusts;
- Developing a System for Self-Settled Special Needs Trusts; and
- Current Issues in Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Future issues of the *Elder Law News* will focus on some of these specific sessions. During the meeting, one interesting point surfaced regarding the changes to the "kiddie tax," discussed in last week's issue of the *Elder Law News*. The changes in the kiddie tax do not affect distributions from certain qualified disability trusts; as a result, distributions from certain qualified disability trusts are taxed at the child's rate after the child turns age 14 (as opposed to age 18).

The Special Needs Alliance meeting included expanded presentations on the following topics:

- Funding Third Party Trusts;
- Tax Issues for First Party and Third Party Special Needs Trusts;
- Developing Third Party Trust Practices; and
- Class Action Issues.

Oast & Hook is a professional service firm serving the legal, accounting, insurance and investment needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, their families, and their advocates. Oast & Hook's participation in the Special Needs Conference and the Special Needs Alliance assists Oast & Hook's attorneys in providing its clients with the most current information regarding special needs planning.

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.

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.

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