

MSBA ELDER LAW SECTION E-NEWSLETTER
May 17, 2011

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E-Newsletter Editorial Staff:

Communications Committee Chair: Laurie Hanson, Esq.

Editor in Chief: Marjorie Austin, Esq.

Contributors: Joel Smith, Esq., Peter Hendricks, Esq., Andrea M. Palumbo, Esq., Catharine Thatcher, Esq., Suzy Scheller, Esq., Monica Lewis, Esq., Paulette Joyer, Esq., Sarah Leonard, law student

ITEM OF INTEREST

BOOK REPORT: Left Neglected, by Lisa Genova

Left Neglected is a novel about “supermom”, Sarah, with 3 young kids and a high powered career who suffers a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. The author, Lisa Genova, previously wrote Still Alice about Alzheimer’s disease (which I reviewed in this space a few months ago) and has a PhD in neuroscience.

Sarah fills every minute of her life with her career as a human resource manager at a major corporation and with managing her family’s activities. However, while making a phone call while driving to work, she has a terrible accident resulting in a brain injury which erases her awareness of the left side of her body. At first, she cannot even move her left leg or arm or see anything left of the normal center of her field of vision.

Sarah’s gradual recovery includes learning to snowboard through a handicapped sports association, re-establishing a relationship with her mother, and eventually taking a new job that fits her new situation. She learns to manage her limitations and appreciate her family relationships.

This book, like Still Alice, is heartbreaking and insightful. It helped me understand some of the long-term effects of brain injuries and the types of rehabilitation that are needed. Sarah’s emotional reactions to her injuries, and her denial and then gradual acceptance of her limitations, seem very real. The importance of the handicapped sports association to her recovery shows that getting active again can make a real difference.

I think this book can help us all understand the experiences of clients, friends and people in the news who may suffer from brain injuries, and increase our ability to help them. I highly recommend it.

Submitted by Catherine R. Thatcher, Esq.

csthatcher@comcast.net

REMINDER: ELI PLANNING COMMITTEE

Our upcoming planning meeting is May 25! The 2011 ELI Planning Committee will meet over the summer to develop the program for this year's ELI, which will be held on October 6-7, 2011. The ELI Planning Committee will meet at the Minnesota CLE offices in St. Paul from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 25, and June 22, 2011. A box lunch will be served at all meetings.

Anyone interested in serving on the ELI Planning Committee, submitting ELI program ideas, or speaking at the ELI, may contact the 2011 Elder Law Institute Chair, Suzy Scheller, at

suzy@schellerlegalsolutions.com

THANKS!

Estate & Elder Law Services, a program of Volunteers of America Minnesota, wishes to acknowledge the hard work of the Elder Law Section Student Committee for its taking on of a large service project for our benefit. The Student Committee and its liaison attorney, Laura Orr, ordered Estate & Elder Law Services' files in the larger, more accommodating file room it acquired in its office move last fall. We are deeply grateful to Adam Heuett, Adam Rohne, Ruth Ann Vos, and Sarah Leonard who toiled and kept smiling. Thank you!

Monica Lewis, Esq. and Paulette Joyer, Esq.

pjoyer@voamn.org

Estate & Elder Law Services

Volunteers of America Minnesota

1900 Central Avenue NE, Suite 106

Minneapolis, MN 55418

LINK OF THE WEEK

Epilepsy and the Elderly

The Epilepsy Foundation created this link, which provides information about elderly individuals developing epilepsy. We know that Alzheimer's and dementia can cause a person to become confused and have problems with time loss, but epilepsy can do the same. A person is just as likely to develop epilepsy in their sixties, seventies, or eighties as they are in their first ten years of life.

The link is available at: [Epilepsy and the Elderly](#)

Submitted by Sarah J. Leonard
Law Student Representative
William Mitchell College of Law
Sarah.leonard@wmitchell.edu

ELDER LAW NEWS

Editor's Note: Please review helpful articles herein regarding health care cost issues being discussed in the Minnesota legislative system and experienced in the health care industry, with particular emphasis on the article, "MinnesotaCare at risk in state's \$5B problem", printed in the Sunday, May 15, 2011, issue of The Seattle Times.

MinnesotaCare at risk in state's \$5B problem

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2015061235_apusstatefundedhealthcare1stdwritethru.html

Editorial: Keep long-term care needs in mind

<http://www.dglobe.com/event/article/id/48458/group/Opinion/>

Minn. GOP lawmakers agree on plan to slash services for the poor

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/05/14/hhs-budget/>

Home Care and Nursing Home Costs Rising Faster in Minnesota than Nationally, Finds Genworth's Annual Cost of Care Survey

<http://classic.cnbc.com/id/42972309>

Morrison calls for outstanding senior citizen nominations

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/20110509/NEWS01/105090034/Morrison-calls-outstanding-senior-citizen-nominations>

MINNESOTA CASES

There are no Minnesota Cases to report this week.

STATUTES, REGULATIONS, BULLETINS

Medicaid benefits available to more Minnesotans under expansion

County and tribal agencies are now taking applications for the expanded Medicaid program, which began March 1 and will cover more Minnesotans under Medical Assistance (MA). Low income adults without children who were enrolled in General Assistance Medical Care and MinnesotaCare have shifted to MA, which provides more comprehensive care with lower co-pays. Under the expansion, approximately 95,000 Minnesotans are expected to receive MA by 2012, including 12,000 people who would be uninsured. More [information about the MA expansion](#) is online and in a [news release on the start of the expansion](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLE PROGRAMS

Minnesota State Bar Association Probate & Trust Law Section Conference

June 6 & 7, 2011

Contact Information: <http://www.minncle.org/seminardetail.aspx?ID=100641101>

Ramsey County Bar Association Dealing with Elderly Parents

June 8, 2011

Contact information:

https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=RCBA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=50a28f4a-6eda-49a1-80d0-2f2aae562239

Minnesota State Bar Association 2011 Elder Law Institute

SAVE THE DATE: October 6 and 7, 2011

The Elder Law Institute (ELI), a collaboration between the MSBA's Elder Law Section and Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, is an annual conference designed to provide educational and networking opportunities for attorneys and others interested in the practice of Elder Law. The ELI offers a wide range of educational programming, ranging from discussions of nursing home and Medical Assistance issues to legislative updates and policy analysis. ELI Attendees receive from nine to eleven Continuing Legal Education credits, depending upon the length of the conference.

Stay tuned for more information and online registration.

ELDER LAW SECTION ACTIVITIES

MA COMMITTEE MEETING: The next MA Committee meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2011. Topics for the meeting may be submitted to MA Committee Chair, Cathryn Reher, at creher@mnelderlaw.com, or faxed to 952-542-9201. For directions, or to attend by phone, please contact Tracie Fenske with Long, Reher &

Hanson, P.A. at 952-929-0622. Please be reminded that the meeting location is: Estate & Elder Law Services (formerly MAO Legal Services), Monroe Village, 1900 Central Avenue NE, Suite 106, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418. There are a few parking spaces behind the building and lots of street parking. People should walk to the back of the building and come to the back door which faces directly into the meeting room.

GOVERNING COUNCIL: The next meeting of the Elder Law Section Governing Council will be 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2011, in conjunction with the Elder Law Section Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Estate & Elder Law Services (formerly MAO Legal Services), Monroe Village, 1900 Central Avenue NE, Suite 106, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418. There are a few parking spaces behind the building and lots of street parking. People should walk to the back of the building and come to the back door which faces directly into the meeting room. For further information, please contact Jennifer Wright, Chair, at jlwright1@stthomas.edu.

ELDER LAW SECTION ANNUAL MEETING: The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Elder Law Section will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2011, at the offices of Estate & Elder Law Services (formerly MAO Legal Services), located at Monroe Village, 1900 Central Avenue NE, Suite 106, Minneapolis. Please note the meeting date and location changes. There are a few parking spaces behind the building and lots of street parking. People should walk to the back of the building and come to the back door which faces directly into the meeting room. For further information, please contact Jennifer L. Wright at jlwright1@stthomas.edu.

DON'T FORGET THAT THE ELDER LAW WEBSITE IS A GREAT RESOURCE. Here's what you can find on the Website: Links to the DHS Health Care Programs Manual, the DHS Bulletin on treatment of uncompensated transfers, the Minnesota Bankers Association Compliance Bulletin on Powers of Attorney, legislative summary; Practice Links to organizations such as NAELA, ABA Commission on Law and Aging, Links to Federal and State Government Agencies, Statutes, and Regulations; Meeting Notices, Listings of Officers and Council Members, Section Bylaws, and more.

To access the ELDER LAW SECTION WEBSITE
Click here: <http://www.mnbar.org/sections/elder-law/index.asp>

Please send E-Newsletter contributions by 10 p.m. on Sunday of each week to Marjorie Austin at mj@mjaustinlaw.com.

If you do not wish to receive this E-Newsletter, send your request to be removed from the mailing list to Elyse Farnsworth at efarnsworth@statebar.gen.mn.us.

Current and prior E-Newsletters are posted on the website for the MSBA Elder Law Section and are available at: <http://www2.mnbar.org/sections/elder-law/newsletter.asp>.