

OAST & HOOK

Offices in
Portsmouth, Virginia
and
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Tel: 757-399-7506
Fax: 757-397-1267
E-mail: eln@oasthook.com



Member, National Academy
of Elder Law Attorneys

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Report from the Hampton Roads Tax Forum
- Oast & Hook
- Distribution of This Newsletter

Editor
Sandra L. Smith
Attorney at Law

REPORT FROM THE 2005 SYMPOSIUM OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

Two weeks ago Andrew Hook attended the 2005 Symposium of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and the spring meeting of the Special Needs Alliance (SNA). Both meetings were held in San Francisco, California.

While at the Symposium, Mr. Hook attended the NAELA Board of Directors meeting. The Board approved hiring a legislative consultant to assist NAELA in working with Congress on Medicaid reform. Congress has decided to cut \$10 billion from the Medicaid program. How this cut will be implemented has not yet been determined. During the Symposium, Mr. Hook attended seminars on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, current developments in elder law, the Uniform Trust Code, and the proposed revision of the Uniform Durable Power of Attorney Act. Mr. Hook also presented at the Symposium on attorneys providing investment advice.

Mr. Hook also attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) which certifies elder law attorneys (CELAs). There are approximately 340 CELAs nationwide. Mr. Hook was certified as a CELA in 1995, and he serves on the NELF Board which discussed the certifying exam and plans for a fall 2005 program for CELAs.

The SNA met in San Francisco following the NAELA Symposium. Mr. Hook attended an SNA program on drafting third-party special needs trusts. These trusts are often used by parents to provide for children with disabilities or special needs. A third-party special needs trust provides benefits for a child while protecting the child's eligibility for government benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

While in San Francisco, Mr. Hook meet with Thomas Begley Jr. to discuss the upcoming revision of their book, *Representing the Elderly or Disabled Client*, published by RIA. Beginning in 2006, they will begin a significant revision of their book to incorporate changes made to the Tax Code and changes to public benefit laws, including Medicare and Medicaid.

These meetings provided Oast & Hook the opportunity to remain up-to-date on changes in laws and practices. This information will be incorporated in the services Oast & Hook provides to its clients.

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, estate and trust administration, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, guardianships, conservatorships, and public entitlements (Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and SSI), disability planning, estate, gift and income tax matters, bill paying, 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, call us at 757-399-7506, or fax us at 757-397-1267.

Copyright © 2005

By

Oast & Hook, P.C.

This newsletter is not intended as a substitute for legal counsel. While every precaution has been taken to make this newsletter accurate, we assume no responsibility for errors or omissions, or for damages resulting from the use of the information in this newsletter.

This newsletter is produced to be sent electronically. If we currently fax you a copy of the Elder Law News but you prefer to receive it by e-mail, then please contact us at: eln@oasthook.com.

If you would like to be removed from our Elder Law News distribution list, please e-mail us at eln@oasthook.com, call us at 757-399-7506, or fax us at 757-397-1267.