

MBA NEWS



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More than 100 senior centers across the state to participate in the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2009 Elder law Program

BOSTON, Mass. — Local seniors can learn about their legal rights on a variety of topics at free events hosted by Senior Centers and Councils on Aging in more than 100 communities across the state over the next few months.

The program is part of the statewide Elder Law Education Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association with assistance and cooperation of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. The program matches attorneys with councils on aging or senior centers throughout the state to make the free presentations about the law.

With the assistance of a group of volunteers from the MBA's Probate Law Section Council, the MBA has prepared a revised and expanded edition of "Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup," a resource guide that was distributed to all participating senior service related agencies and attorney volunteers this year. The guide contains information on a wide range of legal issues affecting the lives of seniors and is updated each year. Topics include:

- Twenty commonly asked questions in elder law;
- The rights of a nursing home resident;
- Aid and Attendance Veterans Benefits;
- Elder Abuse, Neglect, Financial Exploitation;
- Reverse mortgages; Medicare/Medicaid changes; and
- Real Estate Tax Exemptions and Deferrals

Volunteer attorneys have participated in the Elder Law Education Program since 1987. Past topics have touched on the Homestead Act, estate planning and long-term health insurance. The program is presented with the generous assistance and cooperation of the Massachusetts Chapter of the NAELA.

Check with your local senior center or council on aging to find out if a program will be hosted in your community.

For an online copy of the elder law resource guide, visit www.massbar.org/elderlaw.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.