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BY:



National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.
Leading the Way in Special Needs and Elder Law

1604 NORTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD • TUCSON, ARIZONA 85716-3102 • 520/881-4005 • 800/395-7204 • 520/325-7925 FAX • www.naela.org

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February 13, 2008

David Nixon, Esq.
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
211 E. Ontario St., Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Commissioner Nixon:

I am delighted to inform you that at the November, 2007 board meeting, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) Board of Directors voted unanimously to endorse the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA). NAELA is a non-profit association that assists lawyers, bar organizations and others who work with older clients and their families. Established in 1987, the Academy provides a resource of information, education, networking and assistance to those who deal with the many specialized issues involved with legal services to the elderly and people with special needs.

As you know, NAELA was actively engaged in the drafting process of the UAGPPJA by sending representatives to the meetings and providing numerous comments on the drafts. NAELA strongly supports the UAGPPJA because it is designed to help solve the increasing problems of multiple jurisdiction across state line, problems relating to transfer, and out of state recognition issues that negatively impact our clients.

Contested cases in which courts in more than one state have jurisdiction are becoming more frequent. There is a need for an effective mechanism for resolving multi-jurisdictional disputes. Article 2 of the UAGPPJA is intended to provide such a mechanism. Oftentimes, problems arise even absent a dispute. In most states, all of the procedures for an original appointment must be repeated, a time consuming and expensive prospect. Article 3 of the UAGPPJA is designed to provide an expedited process for making such transfers, thereby avoiding the need to re-litigate incapacity and whether the guardian

Additional Offices:

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20005
355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017
1100 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30342



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David Nixon, Esq.
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or conservator appointed in the first state was an appropriate selection. Article 4 of the UAGPPJA also helps to resolve important problems relating to out-of-state recognition and enforcement. These provisions will greatly improve the nation's guardianships system and save many of our clients and their families time and money when resolving these issues.

The mission of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys is to establish NAELA members as the premier providers of legal advocacy, guidance and services to enhance the lives of people with special needs and people as they age. Helping to enact the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act across the United States will help our organization fulfill our important mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Mark Shalloway".

G. Mark Shalloway, CELA
President, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys