



National Academy of
Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

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Los Angeles Attorney Receives National Award

Washington, D.C. -- The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) announces its selection of Eric M. Carlson, Los Angeles, Calif., as the winner of the Powley Elder Law Award at its Annual Meeting held in Orlando, Fla., May 12-15, 2010.

This award is presented annually to a NAELA member who is recognized in his or her community as a leader in promoting a greater understanding of the rights and needs of elders and persons with special needs and of how Elder Law attorneys advocate for those rights. The award is established in memory of Wes and Helen Powley, grandparents of NAELA member Tim Takacs. Both Wes and Helen were active in civic affairs all their lives.

Eric M. Carlson, this year's recipient, is Director of the Long-Term Care Project of the National Senior Citizens Law Center. Mr. Carlson has specialized in long-term care since 1990. He counsels attorneys from across the country on long-term care issues, and also co-counsels litigation on residents' behalf. Mr. Carlson is the author of numerous publications and articles, including *Long Term Care Advocacy* (Matthew Bender and Co.), the leading legal treatise on long-term care issues, and NSCLC's bi-monthly *Long-Term Care Law Reporter*. Recent publications by Mr. Carlson are written for both consumers and professionals. A \$1,000 cash grant will be made in Eric Carlson's name to the non-profit organization of his choice.

ABOUT NAELA

Established in 1987, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) is a non-profit association that assists lawyers, bar organizations, and others. Members of NAELA are attorneys who are experienced and trained in working with the legal problems of aging Americans and individuals of all ages with disabilities. 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. NAELA currently has more than 4,000 members across the United States. For more information, visit www.NAELA.org.

ABOUT ELDER AND SPECIAL NEEDS LAW

Elder and Special Needs Law is a specialized area of law that involves representing, counseling and assisting seniors, people with disabilities and their families in connection with a variety of legal issues, with a primary emphasis on promoting the highest quality of life for individuals. Typically, Elder and Special Needs Law address the convergence of legal needs with the social, psychological, medical, and financial needs of individuals. The Elder and Special Needs Law practitioner handles estate planning and counsels clients about planning for incapacity with health care decision making documents. The attorney also assists clients in planning for possible long-term care needs, including at-home care, assisted living or nursing home care. Locating the appropriate type of care, coordinating public and private resources to finance the cost of care, settling up special needs trusts, and working to ensure the client's right to quality care are all part of the Elder and Special Needs Law practice.

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