

## ABA/ NLADA 2005 Equal Justice Conference

### Older & Wiser: Seminars for Seniors and Their Families on Crucial Legal Issues

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#### **Brief Description:**

Neighborhood Legal Services Association, Western PA state legislators, the private bar and the PA Attorney General's office have collaborated to develop and present free seminars on powers of attorney/living wills, healthcare facilities, retirement benefits, last wills/living trusts and senior fraud. This program is unprecedented in the diversity of its collaborators, in addition to addressing the needs of not only seniors, but their families and caregivers as well.

#### **Topical Outline:**

### **INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE BAR**

- I. Initial contact from Neighborhood Legal Services
  - A. Assistance in creation of presentation
  - B. Assistance in creation of take-away materials
- II. Selling the idea to members of the Allegheny County Elder Law Committee and Probate and Trust Section
  - A. Preaching to the choir – No learning curve – No fear of failure because of lack of knowledge
  - B. Well packaged presentation – Power Point and Notes
  - C. Support of the legislature – guaranteed audience
  - D. Briefing on presentation
  - E. No restriction of audience members becoming clients – initial ½ hour consultation agreement to be the same as Allegheny County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral program
- III. Harrisburg press conference with legislators

#### IV. Presentations

- A. Attentive audience of seniors and other (children, caregivers)
- B. Legislator's introduction
- C. Ease of presentation because we already use the substance of the presentation in everyday practice
- D. Satisfaction of reaching a wide audience who might not otherwise receive the information.