

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:

LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

- I. Initial involvement
 - A. Meeting with NLSA/reviewing Older & Wiser materials
 - B. How beneficial is this to my constituency?
 - C. Reasons for co-sponsoring (appeal of Older & Wiser program?)

- II. Responsibilities
 - A. Logistical/staffing considerations
 1. Limited staff time
 2. Choosing and finding locations
 3. Scheduling dates

 - B. Publicity issues
 1. Printing
 2. Mailing (direct mail vs. newsletter)
 3. Media (newspapers, radio, cable TV)

 - C. Refreshments

D. Introduction by legislator

III. Benefits

- A. Ongoing public service to constituents (5 seminars in Older & Wiser program)
- B. Useful feedback (Older & Wiser survey)
- C. Opportunity to meet constituents
- D. Favorable publicity