



Elder Law Decisions  
Deserve the Best  
Advice Available



# Why Choose a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA)?

Certified Elder Law Attorneys are legal specialists who earn the distinguished credential only after demonstrating an exceptional level of expertise in elder and special needs law, maintaining a constant pursuit of legal scholarship, and by submitting to recertification testing every five years. Less than 1% of attorneys in the United States are CELA's\*, and the National Elder Law Foundation is the only organization authorized by the American Bar Association to certify qualified lawyers as specialists in elder and special needs law.

Every Certified Elder Law Attorney devotes their legal career to serving the needs of the elder community, people planning for their elder years, and for the immediate and future care of people with special needs.

*\*According to figures published by the ABA 2023.*



Seek a CELA Attorney  
[GetElderLaw.com](http://GetElderLaw.com)



# CELA Designation



Lawyers who earn the CELA designation are Certified Elder Law Attorneys whose expertise in elder and special needs law is recognized by the entire legal community and certified by the National Elder Law Foundation. Only attorneys who have devoted their legal practice to resolving elder law issues, securing the future of family members with special needs, minimizing taxes, and preserving your hard-earned assets may apply for CELA certification.

Certified Elder Law Attorneys must meet and maintain the highest standards of professional excellence, pass rigorous written examinations, and demonstrate a record of unblemished ethical conduct.





## Challenges Elders are Facing

Planning for your elder years requires trustworthy advice and informed legal guidance. You deserve the comfort that comes from knowing you've planned ahead to shield yourself and your family from issues common to aging. CELA's are trained to recognize issues in all of these matters,



# CELA's Perform a Range of Targeted Services

## **Assisted & Independent Living Facility Planning**

Planning for assisted and independent living should not threaten to consume your family's financial resources. A Certified Elder Law Attorney can help you create a strategy to preserve your access to public and private financial resources.

## **Elder Abuse & Healthcare Options**

A CELA can obtain protective orders, assist with appointing a guardian/conservator and protection of an incapacitated person and her property. In addition, advice on healthcare choices and healthcare insurance is available.

## **Estate Planning with a Certified Elder Law Attorney**

A CELA can help you arrange your affairs to preserve assets, minimize taxes, avoid probate delays and expense, and control how and to whom assets are distributed to family members and other beneficiaries or charities.

## **Family Caregiver Agreements**

Appropriate agreements which outline caregiver services among family members or others are important to document ongoing care and help reduce future problems upon scrutiny of financial transactions.





### **Long-Term Care Planning**

Early planning for long-term care will reduce family uncertainty, allow you to assess resources, weight insurance considerations, and identify available government benefits.

### **Medicaid Planning**

Certified elder lawyers routinely preserve and protect assets while qualifying for Medicaid eligibility. Early consultation is best but it's never too late to protect your financial resources from some financial spend down exposure and future Medicaid payback rules.

### **Powers of Attorney/Living Wills**

Nominating trusted individuals to make important health and financial decisions during any periods in which you may suffer physical or mental incapacity is imperative. Your CELA can help you address that need today before it's too late.

### **Probate, Trust & Estate Administration**

When death occurs, your Certified Elder Law Attorney provide expert guidance to your estate Executor or Trustee, promote family harmony, and ensure accountability of all parties involved in the probate or trust administration process.



### **Injury Settlement Planning**

CELA's optimize the financial benefit and quality of life for injured people receiving settlements of any size. A variety of planning tools such as special needs trusts may be employed to create a comprehensive plan that involves multiple disciplines, including medical, legal, financial and government benefits eligibility.

### **Special Needs Planning**

Families worry about providing financial resources to care for family members with special needs, and to enable them to have access to private and public financial assistance and services while enriching their lives and maintaining eligibility for government benefits. Your CELA elder law attorney will help you accomplish your goal.

### **Veterans Benefits**

Veterans benefits are sometimes obstructed by the endless bureaucracy. CELA's can facilitate access to veterans benefit programs, spousal benefits, long-term care, and other entitlements earned through honorable military service.





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\*Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by the ABA  
Accredited National Elder Law Foundation



N E L F  
National Elder  
Law Foundation

[NELF.org](http://NELF.org)

The National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the nationwide development and enhancement of the professional competence and expertise of lawyers who practice elder law and special needs law. Our focus is certifying the most qualified and experienced elder law practitioners across the country and supporting the continued education, training, and ethics of Certified Elder Law Attorneys (CELA).



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
ABA Accredited Lawyer  
Certification Program

