

**NATIONAL ACADEMY of ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER MEETING NOTICE**



**Thursday, June 23, 2022
5:30 PM – Reception - 6:00 PM - Dinner Meeting**

*******NEW VENUE*******

**John Carver Inn,
25 Summer St Suite #1, Plymouth, MA 02360
(Parking available on site)**

**Capacity Issues Involving Predatory Marriages and
Con-Conservatorships:
When is “I do” really “I don’t know”?**

Join us for our first ever hybrid dinner meeting, and our last in-person event before we take a break for the summer! Our panel of speakers will begin by discussing some of the current legal trends regarding predatory marriage, and legal challenges to marriage after death. The group will then address the varying levels of capacity for executing different estate planning documents. Finally, the group will address some of the recent case law on capacity, and walk-through a brief case study.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

SPEAKERS



Attorney Virginia W. Connelly is a partner at Fedele and Murray, P.C. in Norwood, Massachusetts where she concentrates in family law and fiduciary litigation with an emphasis on high-conflict divorce and child custody litigation and acrimonious probate contests arising out of complex trust, estate, guardianship and conservatorship disputes. Attorney Connelly represents clients in both the Probate and Family Court and Superior Court in many Eastern Massachusetts venues including Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex, Bristol, and Plymouth counties. She has trial experience in both state and federal court. She serves as a Probate and Family Court Conciliator in Middlesex and Norfolk County and is certified to provide limited representation in family law and probate matters for pro se clients. Attorney Connelly also serves as a court-appointed ARC (attorney representing the child), Category F guardian ad litem, and a discovery master in the Norfolk Probate and Family Court. Attorney Connelly is an active member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and Norfolk County Bar Association and

serves as a liaison on the Norfolk County Probate and Family Bench-Bar Committee. Attorney Connelly volunteers as a coach for the Walpole High School Mock Trial Team and is serving for a second three-year term as a Walpole Representative Town Meeting Member.



Attorney Mark J. Esposito, a shareholder of Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C., has a wide-ranging, litigation-focused practice. He represents clients in general, commercial and probate litigation, labor and employment matters, administrative law, and criminal cases. He has counseled various public sector labor unions and employees in collective bargaining, arbitration and litigation, and represents clients in state and federal courts as well as before administrative agencies. A summa cum laude graduate of Boston University School of Law, Mark was a member and Note Editor of the Boston University Law Review. Prior to law school, he graduated magna cum laude from Williams College, where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa society.



Attorney Melissa A. Howitt is a partner with the law firm of Doherty, Dugan, Cannon, Raymond & Weil P.C., in Franklin, Massachusetts. Her practice includes estate planning, probate and trust administration, fiduciary litigation, guardianships and conservatorships, and special needs and long-term care planning. Ms. Howitt serves as guardian ad litem, guardian, conservator, trustee, personal representative and special personal representative in the Probate and Family Court. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and has served as panelist and presenter for the Massachusetts Bar Association, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Boston Bar Association, and the Massachusetts Guardianship Association. Ms. Howitt is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Emory University.



Attorney Patricia Keane Martin (Moderator) is a nationally recognized, highly decorated member of the Massachusetts Elder Law bar, Patti concentrates her practice in probate litigation, including contested guardianships, conservatorships, will contests, and trust and estate administration disputes. She also advises clients on specialized estate planning subjects such as long-term care planning, special needs and disability planning.

Patti was honored as one of the “Top Women in the Law” by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly in 2016. And the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys presented Patti with its prestigious John J. Ford Advocacy Award in both 2014 and 2015.

Patti’s expertise is also valued by the many attorneys who attend her various lectures for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education. She has spoken on complex topics such as negotiating the labyrinth of MassHealth/Medicaid applications and fashioning guardianships for persons with fluctuating capacity.

In 2020, Patti on behalf of MassNAELA authored amicus curiae briefs in *Kendall v. MassHealth* and *Guilfoil v. MassHealth*, cases which led to landmark decisions by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Patti also argued before the Court in the *Kendall* case.

NOTICE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

The following meetings will be held at the **John Carver Inn** prior to the Dinner Meeting. Please check the hotel schedule of events for meeting locations.

MassNAELA Advocacy Meeting 3:30 – 5:30 pm

For More Information: Call Clarence Richardson at (617) 566-5640

- **REGISTER and PAY ONLINE AT www.MassNAELA.com OR**
- **REGISTER ONLINE and then SEND PAYMENT by US MAIL to: MassNAELA, P.O. Box 600046, Newtonville, MA 02460**

FEES

MassNAELA Member or Attorney Guest	Law Student
\$65.00 per person	No Charge

****** Attendance is limited to 80 people, so sign-up early.******

REGISTRATION

MassNAELA Members may be accompanied by non-attorney employees, attorney guests, and law students. Attorney guests may attend up to two meetings before deciding to become a member. If you are not a member of National NAELA and the Massachusetts Chapter, and are a licensed attorney or law student, consider joining now. For membership information, visit our website www.MassNAELA.com and click on “Become a Member.”

Step One: Online Registration

Please register online at www.massnaela.com. You must register online, whether or not you pay online. To receive your program materials electronically prior to the meeting, please register two days before the meeting. Materials will not be available at the meeting.

Step Two: Payment

Option 1: Online Payment: Submit credit card payment information when prompted and complete the registration process.

Option 2: Off-line Payment by credit card or by check: After completing Online Registration, please complete and return the following form with your preferred method of payment. (This form should not be used in lieu of registering online.)

Off-line Payment by Credit Card or by Check:

Name _____ Firm _____

EMAIL Address: _____ Tel: _____

Meeting Date: _____ Program Title: _____

Check One:

- Check payable to MassNAELA enclosed

Name on Check _____

Check No. _____

Amount _____

- Credit Card (Please bring the credit card you wish to pay with to the dinner meeting and it will be processed at the registration table.)

After registering online, please submit completed form by:

- US Mail Only to: MassNAELA; P.O. Box 600046; Newtonville, MA 02460

For more information: Call Clarence Richardson at (617) 566-5640