



MassNAELA Recognized for Its Commitment to Diversity, Equality and Inclusiveness Initiatives in *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Spotlight

BOSTON – November 19, 2024 – The [Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys](#) (MassNAELA) was among the organizations recognized in *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*'s inaugural Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Spotlight. The special supplement is a new feature of the publication recognizing Massachusetts law firms and organizations demonstrating a strong commitment to advancing DEI efforts in the local legal community.

“We consider it an honor to be among the first organizations included in this spotlight,” said Clarence Richardson, MassNAELA Executive Director. “We’re proud to be driving efforts to make the legal profession more diverse and inclusive.”

Since its inception, MassNAELA’s commitment to equality and inclusivity has motivated its mission to promote and protect the rights of seniors and those with disabilities. A DEI Committee was formed in 2020 to actively practice antiracism and inclusivity in its advocacy as well as internally within its own membership through resources and events.

MassNAELA DEI initiatives have included:

- A presentation on the importance of pronouns in drafting legal documents.
- Health Care Proxy Clinics serving low-income communities.
- A keynote address at MassNAELA’s Elder Law Institute from Aimee Griffin Joyner, an attorney, adjunct law professor and principal of The Griffin Firm, which employs all African-American women.
- A presentation to Suffolk University Law School’s Black Law Student Association about career paths in elder and special needs/disability law.
- A database of law student groups supporting students of color and LGBTQ+ students for reaching out and building awareness on the importance of the practice area.
- Working with the Women’s Bar Foundation to provide community education on elder law and estate planning issues and mentoring lawyers WBF’s Elder Law Project serving low-income seniors in the Boston area.

MassNAELA has a [dedicated DEI page](#) on its website with information for attorneys and members of the public.

About MassNAELA

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the premier organization of elder and special needs law attorneys in the country, is dedicated to developing awareness of issues concerning the elderly and those with special needs. Over 400 attorneys are members of the Massachusetts Chapter. Members work directly with the elderly and those with special needs in areas as diverse as planning for catastrophic care costs, disability planning, age discrimination in employment and housing, benefits planning, estate planning, veterans' benefits and more.

For more information about MassNAELA, visit www.massnaela.com.

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