

LAW OFFICE
RUTHANN P. LACEY, P.C.
Concentrating in Elder and Special Needs Law

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RUTHANN P. LACEY, J.D.
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ADVANCED PRACTITIONERS

Ruthann Lacey has a legal practice that concentrates on providing for the unique legal and financial demands of the elder population, their children, and individuals of all ages with special needs. She has a vanguard practice in the area of Elder and Special Needs Law and has received an AV[®] rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

CERTIFICATION AS AN ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Ruthann holds the honor and distinction of being a Certified Elder Law Attorney. There are more than 33,000 practicing attorneys in the State of Georgia but only 7 attorneys are certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation as accredited by the American Bar Association. This distinction demonstrates Ruthann's ability, expertise, knowledge and dedication as it places her among a select few at the top of her chosen field since there are only 420 Certified Elder Law Attorneys in the United States. In addition, she is currently on the Board of Directors and holds the office of Secretary for the National Elder Law Foundation.

SUPER LAWYER

Ruthann was honored in 2006 by her peers and *Atlanta Magazine* by being selected the first Elder Law Attorney in Georgia to become a Super Lawyer. In fact, she has been chosen as a Super Lawyer every year since 2006. In addition, in 2007, 2009 and 2010 she was also named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Georgia.

EDUCATION

Ruthann is an alumna of Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois where she majored in piano and music theory and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. She graduated from Emory University School of Law in 1992 and practiced Elder Law with a nationally recognized Elder Law firm before she opened her own Elder and Special Needs Law firm in Tucker, Georgia in 1995.

MEMBERSHIPS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Ruthann is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Georgia Bar Association, and the Atlanta Bar Association. She is past chair of the Elder Law Section of the Georgia Bar, and belongs to the Fiduciary Law Section and Elder Law Section of the Georgia Bar Association. She is a member of the Elder Law and Small Firm Sections of the Atlanta Bar Association. Ruthann is a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) where she serves on the program committee. She was the first Georgia member of the Special Needs

Alliance, and is a charter member of the Council of Advanced Practitioners. There are only 2 attorneys in Georgia that are members of the Council of Advanced Practitioners and Ruthann is the only attorney in private practice. Ruthann serves as a Trustee and is on the Board of Directors of The Georgia Community Trust and she also serves on the Board of Directors of the Family Initiative Residence, Inc. (FIR). She belongs to the DeKalb Estate Planning Council. She is a member of DeKalb Medical Center Foundation's Planned Gifts Committee, and is actively involved with several volunteer and charitable organizations, including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI); the Brain Injury Resource Foundation; the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta; and the American Parkinson Disease Association; and is a Life Fellow with the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia.

LECTURING AND SPEAKING

Ruthann is an active speaker on the local, state and national levels, to both professional and public groups and organizations. Speaking engagements include serving as Program Chair for nine years for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia Special Needs Trust program; serving as a guest Professor of Law at John Marshall Law School; serving on the faculty of Southern Trust School; presenting at NAELA Symposia; presenting at NAELA Fundamentals Day; facilitating at the NAELA Advanced Practitioner's Program; and presenting to the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. Over the years Ruthann has also presented to numerous programs for the Alabama Bar Institute for Continuing Legal Education; the Tennessee Bar Association; Medicaid Irrevocable Qualified Income Trust Training; The Coca-Cola Company; the Financial Planning Association; the Cobb County Bar Association Elder Law Section; Emory University's Senior University; Delta Employees Credit Union; the People's Law School; the Atlanta Bar Association's Legal Eagles CLE Series; the Atlanta Special Needs Trust Discussion Group; Georgia State University; the Joint Conference on Law and Aging; the Georgia Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society; Church groups; Civic groups; Alzheimer's Support Groups; and AARP Chapters. She also has been an Instructor of Estates, Trusts and Wills and Legal Research at the National Center for Paralegal Training, has drafted Elder Law legislation for submission to the Georgia General Assembly, and is an editor and published writer.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RECORD AND PUBLICATIONS

She has been published several times in the *Georgia Bar Journal*, *Georgia Probate Notes*, *Exceptional Parent*, *Money Matters*, *Inside Money*, *Senior News*, and *NAELA News*, edited the Medicaid chapters in *A Will is Not Enough in Georgia*, contributed to *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Long-Term Care Planning*, and *The CPA's Guide to Long-Term Care Planning*, has appeared as a guest on the *Clark Howard Show*, the *Layman's Lawyer*, *Money Matters*, *Inside Money*, *People to People*, *Professional Review*, and *Atlanta Issues*, has been mentioned in *Consumers Digest*, has been cited in *Elder Care and Nursing Home Litigation in Georgia*, and has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlanta Journal - Constitution*, *The Family Connection*, and the *American Bar Association Journal*.

