

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

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HEATHER DURHAM NADLER, J.D.
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Heather Nadler has practiced law since 2001 and is Senior Associate Attorney with the Law Office of Ruthann P. Lacey, P.C. Her practice is concentrated in the areas of Special Needs Law, Elder Law and Estate Planning. Heather also has experience in the areas of family law, real estate, and litigation. She first joined the Law Office of Ruthann P. Lacey in 2003. In 2007, following the birth of her first child, she opened her own practice so that she could devote more time to her family. In 2010 she returned to the Law Office of Ruthann P. Lacey P.C.

CERTIFICATION AS AN ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Heather 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 Heather'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.

RISING STAR IN ELDER LAW FROM GEORGIA SUPER LAWYERS

In 2009 and 2010 Heather was honored by her peers and *Atlanta Magazine* by being selected as a "Rising Star" in the field of Elder Law. Also, she has authored articles on the topics of Elder Law and Special Needs Law that have been published in the *Georgia Bar Journal* and *Atlanta Lawyer Magazine*.

EDUCATION

Heather was in the Golden Key National Honor Society and graduated from Auburn University *Cum Laude*. At Auburn she earned her B.S. in International Business with concentrations in Spanish and Management Information Systems. She is also a graduate of Tulane University School of Law. At Tulane she was on the editorial board of the *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law* and she clerked at the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia for the Honorable Justice Hugh P. Thompson.

MEMBERSHIPS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Heather is an active member of the legal community both on the local and national levels. She is a member of the Georgia Bar Association and the Atlanta Bar Association. She is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia and before the Supreme Court of Georgia. She is currently on the Board of Directors and is Past Chair of the Elder Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. She is also a member of the Academy of Special Needs

Planners and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. She has been an active member of the Cobb, Gwinnett, and DeKalb Bar Associations, the Elder Law Section of the Cobb County Bar Association, the Estate Planning and Probate Section of the Gwinnett County Bar Association, and the Estate Planning and Probate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Heather also served as Secretary of the Georgia Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, was on their steering committee and was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Georgia Chapter. She is also on the Editorial Board of *The Mortmain*, the newsletter of the Estate Planning Section of the Atlanta Bar Association.

LECTURING AND SPEAKING

Heather is a frequent speaker and lecturer to professional and community groups on the topics of Elder Law, Special Needs Law and Estate Planning. She has also served as an instructor for the Emory University Academy for Retired Professionals, the Emory University Center for Lifelong Learning, and as a guest lecturer to law students at John Marshall Law School.

Lectures and Presentations include:

- *Legal Issues Surrounding Death and Incapacity* - Emory University/Work-Life Resource Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- *Financing Long Term Care* - Emory University/Work-Life Resource Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- *Fundamentals of Special Needs Trusts* - Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia
- *The New Georgia Advance Directive for Healthcare* - Kingswood United Methodist Church, Dunwoody, Georgia
- *Estate planning for Incapacitated Adults* - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Alpharetta, Georgia
- *Planning for Your Child with Special Needs* - Mableton/West Cobb FOCUS Share Group; Babies Can't Wait; Coastal Community Development Center, Savannah, Georgia
- *Legal Planning in Light of An Alzheimer's Diagnosis* - Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, Savannah, Georgia; A Day For Caregivers, Atlanta Alzheimer's Association
- *Medicaid: From Qualifying Clients to Applying for Benefits* - National Business Institute
- *Estate Planning Basics* - Centers for Disease Control Planning for Retirement Series; National Business Institute; The Coca-Cola Company; Environmental Protection Agency; Immigration and Naturalization Agency; Dobbins Air Reserve Base
- *How Might My Client Benefit from a Special Needs Trust?* - Atlanta Bar Association Estate Planning and Probate Section; Gwinnett County Bar Association Estate Planning and Probate Section
- *Medicaid Update* - Financial Planning Association of Georgia; Cobb County Bar Association Elder Law Section
- *Special Needs Trusts* - Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia
- *Estate Recovery* - Cobb County Bar Association Elder Law Section
- *Proving Damages* - Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia

