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# FALL 2011 BULLETIN

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## Fall Estate Planning & Asset Protection Seminars

With all of our issues and doubts in these difficult economic times we find ourselves in, shouldn't we maximize our efforts in dealing with those things we *can* control?

Estate planning and asset protection are two areas each of us has control over when dealing with our own lives. And planning is for everyone, not just the elderly. Find out how you can protect your family, your pets, and your assets. The size of your estate does not matter; protecting the

assets you have does. Learn how to not only preserve your assets but grow them.

Estate planning and asset protection have two things in common: Neither should be neglected, and more is within your control than you might think. So come visit, and/or tell a friend. You'll be glad you did!

The dates are:

**Tuesday, 9/20, 7-9 p.m.**  
The Manor, 42 W. Boylston St., West Boylston

**Wednesday, 9/21, 7-9 p.m.**  
The Chocksett Inn, 59 Laurelwood Rd., Sterling

**Thursday, 9/22, 10 a.m.-Noon**  
Fitchburg Senior Center, 14 Wallace Ave., Fitchburg

**Saturday, 9/24, 10 a.m.-Noon**  
Courtyard by Marriott, 72 Grove St., Worcester

Call **978-342-1914** or visit **www.dellamonaca.com** to register today!

## New, Fresh Faces: Welcome to Melinda!



In May 2011, we welcomed a new associate to the office: Melinda Nadeau.

Melinda received her bachelor of science in electrical engineering from WPI in Worcester in 1992 and then worked for National Grid for 18 years. In 2001, she graduated from Suffolk University Law School and was admitted to practice law in Massachusetts in 2002.

For the last nine years, Melinda primarily did pro bono work through the Volunteer Lawyer Referral Service. She is a notary

public and licensed to practice in the First District Court of Massachusetts (federal court) as well.

Melinda brings with her knowledge of domestic relations and bankruptcy law. We have added these services to our estate planning and elder care services to create a new, eclectic mix that will only benefit you, the clients.

One of the special advantages that Melinda provides is limited-assistance representation in the areas of both family and probate law. All limited-assistance services

are offered at a flat fee. (See the article on page two to learn more on LAR.)

Please join me in welcoming Melinda to our office. We look forward to many years of working with her!



## The New Massachusetts Pet Trust Law

### How to provide for Tiger and Fido in your estate plans

Governor Patrick signed a new law in January authorizing the creation of a trust to provide for the care of your pets should you become incapacitated or die. The new law, "An Act Relative to Trusts for the Care of Animals" will be an addition to Chapter 203 of the General Laws (section 3C) and is now effective.

Pets are living longer and are an integral part of their families' lives. Under the new law, pet owners can create enforceable trusts to

provide for their beloved pets, specify both a trustee for the trust and a caretaker for the pets, and be assured that their wishes and directions are carried out.

The trust will terminate upon the death of the animal or upon the death of the last surviving animal. At that time, any remaining trust property can be transferred as the trust specifies.

This new law will help to alleviate the burdens placed upon shelters and rescue organizations

when the death of an owner results in abandonment or surrender.

Want to know more? Give us a call, and we can make sure you take full advantage of the new pet trust law.



## Limited-Assistance Representation: How Can This Help Me?

*"Law is order,  
and good law is  
good order."  
-- Aristotle*

The Probate and Family Courts have recognized that not all people can afford representation. Rather than have more people representing themselves (pro se) and not understanding the processes or documents involved with their cases, the Court has allowed properly trained attorneys to offer limited-assistance representation, or LAR for short.

What this means for clients is that now attorneys can review and create documents for them without representing them, as long as the attorney involvement is footnoted in the document.

Attorneys can now offer to represent clients for a piece of a case. For example, they can provide representation during a pretrial

motion or motion for temporary orders. This allows clients to have representation only when they need it, keeping costs to a minimum while assuring the courts that the clients have received counsel.

If you think you might be a candidate for LAR, give us a call at 978-342-1914.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** In accordance with rules established by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, this bulletin must be labeled "advertising." It is designed to provide general information for clients and friends of the firm and should not be construed as legal advice, or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. This bulletin and its contents are designed for general information only. The information presented herein should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of a lawyer/client relationship.