

## Introduction to Laboe & Tasker, Part II, Kerri S. Tasker

BY BEN KINIRY, ESQ.

Last month I gave you little background on how it is that I joined forces with the law firm of Laboe & Tasker. In that article I also introduced you to Attorney John E. Laboe. This month I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about Attorney Kerri S. Tasker.

Similar to John, I first met Kerri Tasker at community events that we Elder Law types tend to frequent. Events such as the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and the New Hampshire Bar Association Trust and Estate Section meetings to name a couple.

Also, like John, it was evident that my peers have great respect for Kerri and listen to her opinions on matters involving our common practice areas. I noted on several occasions, when Kerri was not a presenter, she was often deferred to in responding to participant questions and given great liberty to speak.

Though I enjoy receiving intelligent responses to my and my colleague's questions, the thing that was even more memorable about Kerri was her ability to give responses in an entertaining fashion. I have to say I had not, until such date, been exposed to any attorneys who had the ability to make attending these types of meetings seem, well, fun. I truly don't mean any disrespect to my counterparts, but we are not, taken as a whole, the life of the party.

Since walking in the door of Laboe & Tasker I have come to realize the jovial personality I was exposed to at those meetings is the real Kerri. This is just how she lives on a daily basis. When we are discussing almost any matter in the office, I can look forward to Kerri giving a smile, perhaps more of a grin, and then saying something funny, and almost certainly involving sarcasm.

On the more serious side of Kerri, there is wealth of knowledge that she brings to the table, so to speak. As you will see below, Kerri has written on topics of interest to our colleagues and is often a presenter at New Hampshire Bar and other events.



Kerri received a B.S. in biology from St. Michael's College. She went on to graduate from the Suffolk University's Sawyer School of Management, with a Masters of Business Administration and received her Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School.

Her practice areas are Estate Planning; Elder Law; Medicaid Planning, Applications and Appeals; Probate and Estate Administration; Guardianships; Special Needs Trusts; Elder Exploitation, Abuse and Neglect; Nursing Home Discharges.

Kerri counsels families and individuals in the area of Medicaid planning. There are numerous areas she can help your family within the Medicaid process, such as preparing to make an application, actually making the application, correcting an application that may have been denied, appealing a denial and after a person dies, dealing with the issue of estate recovery (monies owed to the Department of Health and Human Services after the death of the person receiving Medicaid benefits). Once in a nursing home, Kerri can protect your rights should the nursing home attempt to discharge you illegally or otherwise mistreat you.

Kerri also has significant experience in the areas of Probate Estate and Trust Administration. As you are aware, when people die that is not the end of it. There are many things that need to be accomplished such as paying creditors, filing tax returns and, of course, distribution of the assets. Whether there is a Trust or Last Will & Testament, Kerri has the knowledge to aid the

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Trustee or Executor, as the case may be, through the countless issues that often crop up during the time of administration. Kerri can also help those dealing with dementia or other disability. For example, applying for guardianships. A guardianship may be needed when a loved one becomes incapacitated and no one has legal authority over that person's property and/or medical decision making. Another example is Special Needs Planning. This area deals more with individuals who, due to a disability, generally are unable to take care of themselves and/or unable to obtain adequate employment for sustaining themselves financially. In this practice, it is necessary to know how to protect the disabled person's assets or inheritance, if any, and what the criteria are for public benefits that the disabled individual will likely need, such as housing, food, and medical benefits.

Kerri is well known for her knowledge of the law in these practice areas and that is why she is often requested to present on these topics and more (don't forget she is rather entertaining). Following is a list of some her publications and presentations over the past several years:

*Transfers of Assets & Penalties and Planning Considerations after the Deficit Reduction Act*, Medicaid for Long-Term Care Services, National Business Institute, January 2008. (co-author & presenter).

*Protecting the At-Home Spouse from Nursing Home Costs: Annuitying the Spend-down*, New Hampshire Bar News, Vol. 20, No. 4, September 2009. (co-author).

*Medicaid for Long-Term Care in New Hampshire*, New Hampshire Elder Law 2011, Health Education Network, LLC, November 2011. (co-author & presenter).

*Elder Law in New Hampshire 2013*, New Hampshire Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program, September 2013. (co-author & presenter).

*NH Advanced Medicaid Practical Skills Seminar for Lawyers & Paralegals*, NH NAELA, November 2013. (co-author & presenter).

*Nuts & Bolts of Applying for Nursing Facility Medicaid*, Medicaid Practical Skills for Lawyers & Paralegals, NH NAELA, October 2014. (co-author & presenter).

*Financial Exploitation of the Elderly: The Invisible Epidemic*, New Hampshire Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program, June 2015. (co-author & presenter).

*Elder Law and Medicaid in NH*, New Hampshire Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program, September 2016. (co-author & presenter).



*Financial Exploitation: What You Need to Know to Protects You and Your Clients*, NH NAELA, November 2016. (co-author & presenter).

I tend to believe, and hope you would agree, that Kerri's work shows her passion for helping our clients. Her contributions have not been overlooked by our peers. In both 2010 and 2013, Kerri was presented with The Ann N. Butenhof Award by the NH Chapter of NAELA in recognition of her distinguished service and dedication to the Chapter and Elders in New Hampshire. In 2015 Kerri was recognized again, this time she was named as one of the 2015 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) Outstanding Chapter Members in recognition of her demonstration of outstanding initiative and leadership on behalf of the New Hampshire Chapter.

I hope you enjoyed learning a little bit about Attorney Kerri S. Tasker and that you will come see us when you make the decision to create your estate plan.

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