Division/Section/Committee Title: ELDER LAW SECTION

Date: December 7, 2015

Chair/Co-chairs: Johanna A. Pickel

Activities Undertaken Since Last Report:

**CLE Programs:** During the past year, the Elder Section sponsored its annual 2015 Spring Elder Law Institute: Developments in Elder Law Rules and Regulations on May 1, 2015. The topics included VA Proposed Rules and Regulations (speaker: Lori Millet), ABLE Act (speaker: Margaret “Peggy” Graham), and Effects of ACA MAGI Calculation (speaker: Sara Traub). Further, the two board members of the section (Laurie Hedrich and Mary Ann Green) presented with the Children’s Law Section at the Annual State Bench and Bar Convention, with the topic Overcoming Challenges in Representing Clients who are Minors, or have Physical or Mental Impairment. The section also secured a national speaker Kristen Lewis for the upcoming 2016 Spring Elder Law Institute.

**Community Programs:** The board provided a Bridge the Gap Mentorship scholarship for $300; and the Young Lawyer Division Regional summit for $400. The board also co-sponsored with the Real Property, Estate and Trust section a meet and greet with the New Mexico School of Law Deans, law students, and with the general membership. Finally, the board was able to sponsor three members to various CLEs with a requirement that any member that is sponsored must supply a written essay of at least 750 words that can be shared with the larger membership on our website.

Ongoing Activities:

**Publications:** The Section contributes to the quarterly publication New Mexico Lawyer. Each issue focuses on a single topic of current interest to a broad segment of the legal community, and as a result, the Section is committed to submitting articles every 2-3 years. The Section last authored the publication in August of 2014, a copy of which is found at: [http://www.nmbar.org/NmbarDocs/PubRes/NMLawyer/NML-ElderLaw.pdf](http://www.nmbar.org/NmbarDocs/PubRes/NMLawyer/NML-ElderLaw.pdf). The Section looks forward to submitting updated articles for future publication in the New Mexico Lawyer.

**Community:** In the past five years, the Section has provided and supported numerous community outreach programs, including Estate Planning and Probate workshops in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Further, we have provided education and support to attorneys that wish to practice in the field of Estate Planning and Elder Law with joint CLEs conducted with the Senior Citizens Center and YLD. The attorneys that attended the trainings were then encouraged to volunteer to prepare powers of attorney to home bound individuals.
Young Lawyers Division: The Section receives regular updates regarding events and developments in the YLD from the Section’s YLD liaison. The Section stays abreast of developments, issues and events involving the YLD, in an effort to stay relevant to and involved with new graduates and young lawyers. Members of the Section also serve as formal and informal mentors to new graduates interested in elder law. To that end, the Section offers ready access to members sharing graduates’ interest in this area of law.

Law School Efforts: In 2011, the Section amended its by-laws to include a student board member to our Section. Further, we have provided bridge the gap scholarship opportunities to law students showing an interest in elder law. With our student board member, the Section is continuing to develop our outreach efforts to both educate and encourage students to learn about Elder Law. We are currently planning a social with law students interested in Elder Law and the new deans at the law school.

Very Truly Yours,

S/ Johanna Pickel

Johanna A. Pickel, Esq.
Chair