

**Elder Law Workshop**  
**Professor Dayton, kim.dayton@wmitchell.edu**  
**William Mitchell College of Law**  
**Fall 2009**

### **Paper Guidelines**

In this class you will prepare a short (5 page) paper, fact sheet, or similar document, directed at and written in terms accessible to a lay audience, explaining some aspect of elder law (see representative topics below). The paper is worth 20% of the total grade. You should think of the paper as a consumer guide that provides basic information (although not specific legal advice) about a legal topic issue relating to elder law in terms that an older, non-legally trained potential client can easily understand. The paper might also offer guidance as to where a person seeking legal advice might go to find an attorney who can assist her with legal problems in this area, such as a lawyer referral service, a legal aid organization, or a national or local organization of attorney-specialists such as NAELA or ACTEC. Any legal discussion included in the paper should be based on Minnesota law unless you discuss with me in advance your intention to use another jurisdiction's law

The paper topic will also be the subject of either a presentation that you will eventually give to an audience of real or mock senior citizens, or a "pod cast" or similar audio presentation that can be made available on-line. The presentation is worth 15% of the final grade. I will suggest a variety of forums in which you may present your paper to meeting the presentation requirement. You will also have an opportunity to publish your paper or other written materials that you prepared on the National Elder Law Network, [www.neln.org](http://www.neln.org)

Please obtain approval of your proposed topic from me before you begin drafting the paper. I am available via email or by appointment to discuss your ideas either before or after you select a topic.

#### **Important dates:**

First draft of paper/written materials: October 23 (via email)  
Final draft of paper/written materials: December 4 (via email)

**Topic list.** The topics listed below are examples only; if you have other ideas feel free to discuss them with me. All topics should be approved by me in advance.

Anatomical Donations  
Assisted Living Facilities  
Durable Powers of Attorney  
Elder Abuse: Civil and Criminal Remedies  
Grandparent Issues  
Guardianships and Conservatorships in Minnesota  
\*Housing Options for Disabled Seniors  
Identity Theft

Long Term Care Insurance  
The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit  
\*Nursing Home Residents' Rights  
Pension Rights and Recovery  
Pet Trusts  
Public Benefits for Kinship Caregivers  
\*Tax Relief for Seniors in Minnesota  
Telemarketing and Internet Fraud  
\*Veteran's Benefits  
\*Viatical Settlements

Starred topics are areas in which I see a particular need for accessible resources.