



Nancy M. Rice,
Esquire, CELA

Rice Elder Law

Certified Elder Law Attorneys

Pamela A. Quattrone
Esquire, CELA



Rice Elder Law has been assisting clients with their Estate Planning and Elder Law needs since 1992. Both Nancy and Pamela have been Certified as Elder Law Attorneys (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation. The firm maintains offices in Atlantic County (Linwood) and Camden County (Cherry Hill). Rice Elder Law can answer your questions and concerns – just call 609-398-3447.

What Is Elder Law?

NANCY M. RICE, ESQUIRE, CELA

PAMELA A. QUATTRONE, ESQUIRE, MBA, CELA

Q: What is “Elder Law”?

Elder Law is a sub-specialty within the practice of law. Until the early 1990’s, this area of practice was more generally known as “Estate Planning.” Elder Law developed as a sub-specialty of Estate Planning in the late 1980’s.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) was founded in 1987 as a professional association of attorneys who are dedicated to improving the quality of legal services provided to seniors.

Q: What is “Estate Planning”?

Estate Planning generally involves the drafting of Wills and planning for the disposition of estates upon death. Estate Planning can also include tax planning to reduce or eliminate the various death taxes which can, in some cases, seriously deplete an estate.

Q: Do Estate Planning Lawyers address planning issues in the event I become incapacitated?

During the 1980’s and 1990’s, Estate Planning was expanded to include planning for incapacity as well. This was a necessary expansion because if you are in a car accident or suffer a stroke, leaving you unable to tend to your legal affairs or make medical decisions, a Will would be of little use to you as it is effective only upon death.

Thus, most lawyers today will talk to you about Durable Powers of Attorney and Advance Medical Directives (“Living Wills”) when you meet with them to talk about drafting a Will.

Q: If an attorney focuses on Elder Law, what areas of law would that include?

Elder Law includes:

- Preservation/transfer of assets seeking to avoid spousal impoverishment when a spouse enters a nursing home
- Medicaid
- Medicare advocacy, claims and appeals
- Social Security and disability claims and appeals
- Supplemental and long-term health insurance issues.
- Disability planning, including use of Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Trusts, and “Living Wills”
- Conservatorships and guardianships
- Probate, administration and management of trusts and estates
- Long-term care placements in nursing home and life care communities
- Nursing home issues, including questions of patients’ rights and nursing home quality
- Elder abuse and fraud recovery cases

- Housing issues, including discrimination and home equity conversions (“reverse mortgages”)
- Retirement, including public and private retirement benefits, survivor benefits, and pension benefits

Most Elder Law attorneys do not specialize in every one of these areas. For example, our office does not handle Social Security Disability appeals or Elder Abuse cases. Additionally, some Elder Law attorneys handle matters for clients who are not elderly. For example, we draft Wills for clients of all ages.

Q: If I see the designation “CELA” after an attorney’s name, what does that mean?

One of the ways to evaluate the experience and knowledge of an attorney who claims to practice Elder Law is to consider whether he or she is Certified as an Elder Law Attorney (CELA).

The purpose of this certification program is to identify those lawyers who have the enhanced knowledge, skills, experience, and proficiency to be properly identified as Certified Elder Law Attorneys to the public.

The criteria for certification include:

1. **Licensure** - The attorney must be licensed to practice law in at least one state or in the District of Columbia.
2. **Practice** - The attorney must have practiced law during the five (5) years preceding his or her application and must be currently practicing law.
3. **Integrity/Good Standing** - The attorney must be a member in good standing of the state bar in all places in which he or she is licensed.
4. **Substantial Involvement** - The attorney must have spent an average of at least 16 hours per week practicing Elder Law during the three years preceding his or her application and must have handled at least 60 Elder Law matters during those three years.
5. **Continuing Legal Education** - The attorney must have participated in at least 45 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) in Elder Law during the preceding three years.
6. **Peer Review/Professional References** - The attorney must obtain five references from attorneys who are also CELAs
7. **Examination** – The attorney must pass a full-day certification examination.

Nancy has been practicing Estate Planning and Elder Law since 1986 and has been Certified as an Elder Law Attorney since 1997. In 2002, 2007, and 2012 she satisfied the conditions for re-certification. Pamela has been practicing Estate Planning and Elder Law since 2012 and recently became Certified as an Elder Law Attorney earlier this year.

**Nancy M. Rice, Esq., CELA • Pamela A. Quattrone, Esq., CELA
can answer your questions and concerns. Call 609-398-3447.**

Estate/Trust Administration • Guardianships • Will Contests • Special Needs Trusts • Medicare, Medicaid, Long-Term Care, and Disability Planning
2021 New Road, Unit #9 • Linwood, NJ 08021 • 609.398.3447 | 1236 Brace Road, Suite F • Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 • 856.673.0048

www.RiceElderLaw.com