



Member Spotlight



GETTING TO KNOW HYMAN G. DARLING, CELA

What drew you to the practice of special needs planning?

I was working as a trust officer at a bank in the 80's, and the state was desirous of setting up special needs trusts for disabled residents of 'state schools' so that they could qualify for Medicaid and receive reimbursement from Federal Government. I was successful in getting the project and immediately was trustee of over 300 trusts, so I had to learn special needs trusts very quickly.

How do you describe your work to people who are unfamiliar with it?

We assist with individuals and their families who need legal and practical support and advice to allow their family member to live as independently as possible.

What's something about you that might surprise others?

When I started in this area, everything was done without computers. We used calculators, typewriters, 1041s by hand, and only fax machines. Accounts were all prepared manually.

What is your favorite SNA memory?

Being asked to join the Special Needs Alliance and attending my first meeting. I was so impressed with the knowledge and sharing of all members.

What is your ideal way to spend a Saturday?

Being with the family and especially the grandkids. They live in different geographic areas, so we spend a lot of time on airplanes flying to visit them, and I keep my mind active by playing Sudoku on the plane while eating candy.

What is a podcast or book that you recommend to others?

Aside from reading the One Big Beautiful Tax Bill, I've picked up Gulliver's Travels to re-read.