



Member Spotlight



GETTING TO KNOW RUTHANN LACEY, CELA

What drew you to the practice of special needs planning?

I was introduced to elder law while in law school and immediately knew it was the path I was meant to follow. My inspiration came, in part, from the close and meaningful relationships I had with my grandparents. When OBRA '93 became law during my first year of practice, special needs planning became a natural extension of my elder law work. Since then I've remained passionate about helping individuals and families discover solutions at times when they feel they have no options.

What advice would you give a young person who aspires to practice special needs law?

Special needs planning is an incredibly rewarding area of law, but it also requires precision and dedication. There are many potential pitfalls for those unfamiliar with its complexities, so my advice is to commit fully to learning and truly understanding both the law and its practical application. A strong foundation and ongoing education are essential to serving clients well.

Who or what inspires you the most?

I'm inspired every day by the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in my clients' lives. Knowing that I can bring hope and security to families navigating challenging circumstances is what drives me.

What are you most proud of accomplishing in your career or personal life?

Without a doubt, raising the most wonderful son in the world is my greatest accomplishment and source of pride.

What is your favorite SNA memory?

Some of my fondest memories are from the early days—gathering with my SNA friends over dinners and meetings at the Stetson University campus. Those moments of camaraderie and shared purpose will always hold a special place in my heart.

What's your ideal way to spend a Saturday?

My perfect Saturday begins with a slow, peaceful morning on my deck, savoring a good cup of coffee. Later, I love to play a lively tennis match and end the day with dinner shared among good friends.