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Trusts & Wills  
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Medicaid  
Planning  
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& Probate  
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Guardianship

## The Karp Law Firm, P.A.

Bar Register  
of Preeminent  
Lawyers



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### Firm News

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### 2007 News

#### **Karp Law Firm Participates in Alzheimer's Association 2007 Memory Walks**

As in past years, our firm joined with others this year to raise money for the fight against Alzheimer's Disease. Staff members raised money for the cause and many walked at the 2007 Memory Walks in Stuart and Palm Beach. Participating staff included Attorneys Joseph S. Karp, Genny Bernstein and Adele Harris; Christine Smith; Margaret Sajiun; Liz LeBron; Debbie Karp; Deeanna Farrington; Crystal Cappadoro; Gail Brown; Brittany Ballew; Sandy Jones; and Audrey Yeager. [Photos](#)

**Attorney Joseph Karp named member of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Council of Advanced Practitioners**

Joseph S. Karp has been elected to the Council of Advanced Practitioners. This is a select group of nationally certified elder law attorneys who have made notable contributions to this field of law.

#### **Attorney Joseph Karp authors Florida section of Book for Certified Public Accountants**

Attorney Karp has contributed to the Florida section of the *Adviser's Guide to Medicaid Planning*, a reference book distributed nationwide to Certified Public Accountants.

#### **Karp Law Firm Sponsors Team at Race for The Cure**

The Karp Law Firm team assembled in downtown West Palm Beach for the Susan Komen Race for the Cure on January 20, 2007. Mr. Karp and many staff members were among thousands of participants in the annual event. Thank you to **Estate Planning Paralegal Laura Ahlers** for coordinating the event. [Photos](#)

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### **2006 News**

#### **Staffers Enjoy Annual Holiday Party**

Karp Law Firm staff got together to kick off the holiday season at the Sugar Cane Island Bistro in Jupiter, Florida on December 15. [Photos](#)

#### **2006 Charitable Projects and Contributions**

**Attorney Adele Small Harris** coordinated The Karp Law Firm's "Dress For Success" drive. Staff donated clothing to this organization, which distributes it to women who need suitable business attire in order to seek employment.

**Firm Administrator Audrey Yeager** spearheaded the firm's Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, which benefits local children during the holiday season. She also participated in the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators' Community Challenge, which raised monies for the Adopt-a-Family program.

The Karp Law Firm contributed office equipment to the **Busch Wildlife Sanctuary**, a facility for injured wild animals in Jupiter, Florida.

#### **Karp Law Firm, Hospice of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach Community College co-sponsor *From Cruzan to Schiavo - What Have We Learned?***

The Karp Law Firm, Hospice of Palm Beach County and Palm Beach Community College co-sponsored a workshop and expert panel discussion on Nov. 28, 2006 at the Duncan Theater. Open to the public, the event featured a discussion of the legal, ethical and medical ramifications of end-of-life issues. Panelists included several clergy and medical experts, Attorney Joseph Karp, and keynote speaker Attorney William Colby, a fellow at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City and author of *Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan*. Click [Photo](#)

#### **2006 Attorneys' Speaking Engagements**

The attorneys of The Karp Law Firm were invited to speak on a variety of elder law and estate planning topics in 2006. Among the groups we addressed were The Florida Health Care Social Workers Association; The Planned Giving Council; The Eastern Airlines Retirees Association; Frenchmans Creek Country Club; Women's Club of Port St. Lucie; Telephone Company Pioneers; and The Alzheimer's Support Group at the Boynton Beach JCC.

#### **Attorney Joseph Karp Recognized as 2006 "Super Lawyer"**

Attorney Joseph S. Karp has been named a 2006 Florida Super Lawyer. *Law and Politics* magazine sponsors the awards, which are based on both outstanding professional achievement and peer recognition. Only 5% of Florida attorneys have

been selected for this distinction.

#### **Attorney Rachel Zetouni guest speaker at Alzheimer's support group**

Karp Law Firm Attorney Rachel Zetouni was guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Boynton Beach Jewish Community Center's Alzheimer's caregiver support group. Attorney Zetouni discussed the financial and legal preparations that should be taken to protect both the family and the patient. Also on hand was Karp Law Firm Case Manager Carol Goldberg.

#### **Karp Law Firm Presenting Sponsor for Memory Walks 2006**

For the third year in a row, The Karp Law Firm sponsored the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida Memory Walks. The events were held March 25 in Broward County; April 1 in Palm Beach County; and April 8 in St. Lucie County. Funds raised are used to assist Alzheimer's sufferers and their families and to fund research. In addition, The Karp Law Firm staff participated in the West Palm Beach walk and St. Lucie walks. [Photos](#)

#### **Attorney Karp quoted in Palm Beach Daily News**

Attorney Joseph Karp was quoted by syndicated financial columnist Gail Liberman in an article entitled *Expect Tougher Rules to Qualify for Medicaid Nursing Home Care*. The article was published in the Jan. 15, 2006 *Palm Beach Daily News*.

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### **2005 News**

#### **Article published in Florida Bar Journal**

The Florida Bar Journal of October 2005 featured an article by Attorney Joseph Karp entitled *Poor on Paper: The Morality of Medicaid Planning*. [Read the paper](#)

#### **Attorney Joseph Karp earns AIF™ credential**

Attorney Joseph S. Karp has earned certification as an Accredited Investment Fiduciary™ from the Center for Fiduciary Studies, an affiliate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Business. Certification signifies in-depth understanding of the ethical obligations and prudent investments practices required of a fiduciary (i.e, a trustee or anyone entrusted with handling another's finances). The AIF™ certification is the only national certification for fiduciaries.

#### **Staff attends Lunch of Laughter Benefit**

The Karp Law firm again participated in the annual "Lunch of Laughter" benefiting the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida. The organization provides support, consultation, education and referrals to families coping with Alzheimer's disease in Florida's Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. Comedian Michael Pettit entertained at the event which was co-presented by ElderCare at Home and Encore Senior Village, and held at The Improv in downtown West Palm Beach. In attendance were Attorney Joseph S. Karp, Case Manager Deeanna V. Farrington and Marketing Director Deborah C. Karp.

#### **Attorneys' recent speaking engagements**

Karp Law Firm attorneys accepted several speaking engagements to date this year. Among them: National Council of Jewish Women, Brandeis Mens Club, Mangrove Bay Assisted Living, Summer Chase Mens Club, West Lake Worth Democratic Club, Brandeis Women, Fountainview, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Palm Garden Assisted Living.

#### **Karp Law Firm Presenting Sponsor for 2005 Memory Walks**

The Karp Law Firm provided major sponsorship for the "Memory Walks" fundraiser of the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida. This was the second

consecutive year The Karp Law Firm served as the event's presenting sponsor. Walks were held in April 2005 in Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties after being postponed due to last year's hurricane damage. To date the 2005 walks have raised over \$150,000 which will go to Alzheimer's research and to assist local families touched by the disease. [More and photos](#)

#### **Audrey L. Yeager elected President of Association of Legal Administrators**

Audrey L. Yeager, Administrator of the Karp Law Firm, has been elected president of the Palm Beach County chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. A branch of the national organization, the Palm Beach chapter facilitates information exchange and professional education among its 60 members.

#### **Karp Law Firm Staff recognized for service to firm**

Karp Law Firm staff enjoyed a luncheon on May 26, Administrative Professionals Day. Long-term staff members recognized for their outstanding service were: Firm Administrator Audrey Yeager, 15 years; Laura Ahlers, Estate Planning Paralegal, 5 years; Susan Zwick, Office Assistant, 5 years; and Gretchen Riddle, Office Assistant, 5 years. [Photos](#)

#### **Attorney Joseph S. Karp presents paper at NAELA Advanced Practitioners Program**

Attorney Joseph Karp was invited to present a paper at the March 2005 Annual Advanced Practitioners Conference sponsored by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. The event is open only to nationally certified elder law attorneys. Mr. Karp's topic addressed the "The Ethics of Medicaid Planning," analyzing America's Medicaid system for the elderly and comparing it to long-term care options available in other Western countries. [Read paper](#) (pdf format -- requires Adobe Acrobat)

#### **Case Worker Deeanna V. Farrington joins Elder Care Foundation Board of Directors**

Deeanna Farrington, MSW, CDP, has joined the Board of Directors of the Elder Care Foundation. The newly formed organization's goal is to provide, at no charge to families, a 24-hour bridge of continuous, emergency care for Alzheimer's patients when a sole caretaker experiences a medical emergency. The Foundation is currently in the process of obtaining grant monies to fund its program.

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### **2004 & Earlier News**

#### **Firm Administrator Audrey Yeager coordinates ALA benefit**

Audrey L. Yeager, administrator for the Karp Law Firm and Vice President of the Palm Beach County Association of Legal Administrators, coordinated the organization's 2004 Community Challenge event. The "Bowlathon" fundraiser, along with contributions from members and law firms, raised over \$4000 for the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida.

#### **Social Worker Deeanna Farrington earns CDP credential**

Karp Law Firm Social Worker Deanna Farrington, MSW, has been recognized as a Certified Dementia Practitioner by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. CDP certification indicates Ms. Farrington has achieved a high standard of excellence in direct care skills, education and sensitivity in the area of dementia care.

#### **Firm assists victims of Hurricane Charley**

The Karp Law Firm has joined the effort to assist families affected by Hurricane Charley. The firm is providing free legal services to those who need to replace key

estate planning documents lost or damaged by the hurricane. The program is coordinated by the Florida Bar Emergency Legal Assistance Program. Hurricane Charley, with sustained winds up to 150 mph, hit Florida's west coast in August causing severe property damage and affecting many elderly residents.

#### **Karp Law Firm included in Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys**

The Karp Law Firm has been selected for inclusion in the Martindale-Hubbell *Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys*. The Register is open to attorneys who have achieved the highest rank for professional expertise and ethical conduct from Martindale Hubbell and exemplary ratings from the legal community ("AV" rating).

#### **Attorney Karp quoted in *Boston Herald***

Mr. Karp's comments appeared in an article in the *Boston Herald* on May 23, 2004 in connection with the implications of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Syndicated financial columnists Gail Liberman and Alan Lavine interviewed Mr. Karp for the story entitled "Make sure your power-of-attorney agreements are hip to HIPAA." [Read the article](#) (pdf format - requires Adobe Acrobat)

#### **Karp Law Firm donates "Maintain Your Brain" Library to Alzheimer's Association**

The Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida has established the **The Karp Law Firm Library** at its West Palm Beach Branch. The "Maintain Your Brain" Library is now open to caregivers and the general public, offering books and videos for all ages. Among the videos available is "The Forgetting" which recently aired on public television. CEO Betty Floris and Attorney Karp commemorated the opening on the facility. [Photo](#)

#### **Client Maria Woods' bequest makes national news**

Longtime Karp Law Firm client Maria Woods had a special story to tell. After her death, Mr. Karp fulfilled the pledge he made to her to tell it. A German immigrant and American patriot, Mrs. Woods took the unusual step of leaving the bulk of her estate...to the *U.S. government*. The story appeared in an article by Tim O'Melia in the *Palm Beach Post* and ultimately, in several papers and electronic media around the country including the *Boston Herald*, *Miami Herald*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Sun Sentinel*, *Tallahassee Democrat*, *Augusta Chronicle*, WKMG TV Orlando and on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*. [Read the article](#) (pdf format - requires Adobe Acrobat)

#### **Attorney Joseph Karp presents paper at NAELA Advanced Practitioners Program**

Certified Elder Law Attorney Joseph Karp recently presented a paper at the NAELA Advanced Practitioners Invitational Program held in Dallas in March, 2004. "Elderly, Friends and Family Beware: Liability of Responsible Parties in Nursing Facility Admission Agreements" deals with possible liability issues for those who sign a nursing home contract as a "responsible party." Attendance at the program was by invitation only and was sponsored by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

#### **Attorney Karp elected to Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida**

Certified Elder Law Attorney Joseph Karp has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association, Southeast Florida chapter. The chapter, an affiliate of the national Alzheimer's Association, provides referrals and guidance to local families and raises monies for research into the increasingly common disease. The local chapter covers a large area spanning five Florida counties: Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee.

#### **Attorney Karp discusses "pet trusts" in Treasure Coast Newspaper**

Mr. Karp was interviewed for an article about pet trusts published in Scripps Treasure Coast newspapers on Jan. 11, 2004. "Hairy Heirs: Law Lets Owners Bequeath Pets Caretakers, Money" appeared in the *Stuart News*, the *Port St. Lucie News*, the *Port St. Lucie Tribune*, the *Ft. Pierce Tribune*, and the *Vero Beach Press Journal*.

#### **Attorney Karp quoted in Palm Beach Post article**

Attorney Joseph Karp was interviewed for an article about the Schiavo case and living wills for an article that appeared Oct. 26, 2003 in the *Palm Beach Post*. [Read the article](#)

#### **Firm Administrator Audrey Yeager chairs Habitat for Humanity project**

Firm Administrator Audrey Yeager on Oct. 18, 2003 chaired the 5th Annual Community Challenge Weekend for the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. [Photos](#)

#### **Staff hosts Bosses' Day celebration**

Staff of the Karp Law Firm hosted a party for the firm's attorneys to celebrate Bosses' Day. [Photos](#)

#### **Attorney Karp at Idaho AATEELA program**

Attorney Joseph Karp attended the Fall Conference of the American Association of Trust, Estate Planning and Elder Law Attorneys in Boise, Idaho. AATEELA is a national, invitation-only professional organization for attorneys specializing in elder law and/or estate planning. The group promotes information exchange among its members regarding elder law issues. Mr. Karp is a charter member and a past president of the organization.

#### **Attorney Karp presents program at Planned Giving Council**

Attorney Joseph Karp was a featured speaker at the Oct. 7, 2003 meeting of the Planned Giving Council in West Palm Beach. Mr. Karp addressed the use of special needs trusts in estate planning. The audience consisted of CPAs, attorneys and other financial professionals.

#### **Karp Law Firm Continues Support for Breast Cancer Research on Lee Denim Day**

[Story/Photos](#)

#### **Firm participates in Alzheimer's Community Care Educational Conference**

The Karp Law Firm participated in the educational conference for professionals and caregivers sponsored by Alzheimer's Community Care of Palm Beach County, Florida on July 31 and August 1, 2003, held at Benvenuto's Restaurant in Boynton Beach. Karp Law Firm staff members Deeanna Farrington, MSW, and Linda Pickens provided information to attendees. Actress Debbie Reynolds, herself once a caregiver to parents with the disease, was the keynote speaker.

#### **Firm Participates in Lunch of Laughter**

The Karp Law firm is proud of its support for the "Lunch of Laughter" held July 23, 2003 to benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Southeast Florida. The organization provides support, consultation, education and referrals to families coping with Alzheimer's disease in Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. Comedian Derek Richards entertained at the event which was co-presented by ElderCare at Home and Encore Senior Village and held at The Improv in downtown West Palm Beach. In attendance were Karp Law Firm staff members Deeanna Farrington, MSW, Linda Pickens, Colleen Skaroulis; and firm guests Regina Schmidt and Robin Dempsey of the Rehabilitation Center of the Palm Beaches, Anita Finley, author, gerontologist and publisher of *Boomer Times and Senior Life* monthly, and Sherry Orlando of MD-VIP. [Photos](#)

**Attorney Karp moderates NBI seminar**

Attorney Joseph Karp is moderating the online seminar sponsored by the National Business Institute from July through September, 2003. The virtual discussion group delves into elder law-related issues and is open to financial, legal and other professionals.

**Attorney Karp guest speaker at Temple Beth El**

Attorney Joseph Karp was invited guest speaker at the June 18 meeting of the Temple Beth El Men's Club in Port St. Lucie.

**Attorney Karp featured guest for television premier**

Attorney Joseph Karp was the first-ever guest on "Talking Law With Oliver," which debuted May 31, 2003. The television program explores a variety of legal issues and airs on WBWP Channel 57 every Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The one-hour, interactive program is hosted by Attorney Oliver Harris III. Mr. Karp discussed solutions to a variety of legal and financial problems faced by seniors.

**Attorney Karp shares expertise at AATEELA conference**

Attorney Joseph Karp attended the Spring Conference of the American Association of Trust, Estate Planning and Elder Law Attorneys in Austin, Texas. AATEELA is a national, invitation-only professional organization for attorneys specializing in elder law and/or estate planning. The group promotes information exchange among its members regarding elder law issues. Mr. Karp is a charter member and a past president of the organization.

**Attorney Karp at NAELA conference**

Attorneys Joseph S. Karp attended the Spring Conference of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, held in Miami, Florida. The national conference provides opportunities for lawyers practicing in the field of elder law to exchange ideas and stay current with developments.

**Attorney Karp: recent speaking engagements**

Attorney Joseph Karp accepted several speaking engagements in April and May, 2003, sharing legal news and views with professionals, citizens and health care workers. Among them:

Senior-Living Guide: Annual Social Worker/Case Manager Appreciation Luncheon: Mr. Karp was invited to speak about advance health directives at this meeting, attended by social workers and case workers from St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River counties. Among the guests was **West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel**.

Palm Beach-Martin County Estate Planning Council:

Mr. Karp shared his expertise with members of the council at this breakfast meeting.

The Parkinsons Disease Support Group of Royal Palm Beach:

Mr. Karp counseled members about essential estate planning documents and methods of preserving assets in the event of long-term disability, and answered a variety of questions at this meeting.

Seaview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Pompano Beach:

Mr. Karp conducted a training session for social service and administrative personnel. He brought staff up to date on current Medicaid laws and familiarized with the kinds of legal documents patients and families should have.

National Business Institute:

Mr. Karp taught a class in estate planning and elder law for the National Business Institute. Banking professionals, trust officers, accounting professionals and attorneys received continuing education credits for the day-long workshop, held in West Palm Beach. The class raised awareness of legal issues faced by mature clients.

*New England Financial*. Mr. Karp was the speaker for an educational seminar New England Financial conducted for its insurance professionals throughout Palm Beach County. Mr. Karp provided the group with information about estate planning and advised them about the kinds of issues insurance agents need to consider

when assisting senior clients.

#### **Audrey Yeager elected ALA treasurer**

Audrey Yeager, Karp Law Firm Administrator, has been elected Treasurer of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. This organization is devoted to information exchange and education for professional law office administrators.

#### **Karp Law Firm supports Race for the Cure**

The Karp Law Firm once again sponsored a team in this year's Susan B. Komen "Race For The Cure." Staff members and their families gathered in West Palm Beach to participated in the annual walkathon to raise money for breast cancer research. Serving as this year's team captain was **Laura Ahlers, Legal Assistant.**

#### **Attorney Karp featured expert in Palm Beach Post**

Attorney Joseph Karp was featured in an article that appeared recently in the Palm Beach Post's special Senior Guide to Aging. Written by Alan Macher, the article was entitled "Elder Law: More Than Just Wills."

#### **Attorney Karp host of online forum**

Attorney Joseph Karp is hosting the Florida discussion forum at <http://www.elderlawanswers.com/SForum.asp?state=FL> This website is devoted to elder law issues on both the state and national level. The discussion forum permits web surfers to post questions and receive answers from elder law professionals.

#### **Attorney Karp shares expertise at AATEELA conference**

Mr. Karp attended the semi-annual meeting of the American Association of Trust, Estate Planning and Elder Law Attorneys held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. AATEELA is a national, invitation-only professional organization for attorneys specializing in elder law and/or estate planning. The group promotes information exchange among its members regarding elder law issues. Mr. Karp is a charter member and a past president of the organization.

#### **Attorney Karp panelist at educational forum**

Attorney Joseph Karp was invited to participate as a panelist at a public forum entitled, "Social Security and Medicare: How Secure?" The event was conducted by Palm Beach Community College's Etta Ress Center for Lifetime Learning.

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