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GUARDIANSHIP

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At one time or another, many of us have been touched by situations involving:

- An elderly loved one who can no longer take care of his or her financial affairs and make medical decisions
- A child with severe developmental or intellectual disabilities who is approaching adulthood
- A family member who is in a serious accident and cannot communicate wishes for medical care or is physically unable to manage his or her assets

In such cases, it may be necessary to have someone appointed by the court to make decisions for the incapacitated individual if no suitable alternative is available. At Weber Gallagher, we are equipped to assist families in all aspects of guardianship.

It is estimated that one in eight older Americans suffers from Alzheimer's disease. In addition, there are more than 24 million Americans with severe disabilities who need assistance with daily living activities. It is crucial that such individuals' families consider how to manage their care. Without a guardianship or other appropriate plans in place, medical and financial decisions cannot always be made for the person in need.

Our attorneys have extensive experience with:

- Preparing guardianship petitions and accountings for filing with the court
- Participating in court hearings
- Assisting with preparing annual reports
- Arranging for competency evaluations
- Special needs trusts

Our attorneys also have an understanding of the emotionally difficult decisions that must be made by individuals applying for guardianship. We are concerned, caring, responsive and willing to answer all the questions to help you through this process.



Laura E. Stegossi

Laura E. Stegossi, Chair of the Trusts and Estates Group, concentrates her practice in estate planning, administration and guardianship matters. She counsels individuals and families on estate, gift and generation-skipping tax issues, business succession planning, charitable giving programs and guardianship petitions. Ms. Stegossi also represents personal representatives and trustees in the administration of trusts and estates.

She has achieved an "AV Preeminent" Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She has also been recognized by the publisher of the Pennsylvania edition of Super Lawyers magazine as a "Rising Star," and in 2013 she was named as a "Super Lawyer" by the same publication.



Marisa R. Kussoy

Marisa R. Kussoy is a Partner and Member of the Health Law Group of Weber Gallagher. She represents clients in guardianship matters and medical professional liability claims. She also represents individuals and entities in various areas of health care law, including discharge planning issues, licensure issues, electronic medical records, HIPAA compliance, professional negligence and general liability matters.

She has been acknowledged by her peers as having an "AV" top rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She has also been recognized as a "Rising Star" by the New Jersey edition of Super Lawyers magazine for the years 2006-2012.