

Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates

Protecting and Inspiring Dignity
and Respect

Fall 2016



2017 "Best Law Firms"

We are excited to announce Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates was recently chosen for inclusion in 7th Edition of "Best Law Firms" by U.S. News and Best Lawyers Elder Law. PEKD & Associates received a Tier 1 ranking in Elder Law.

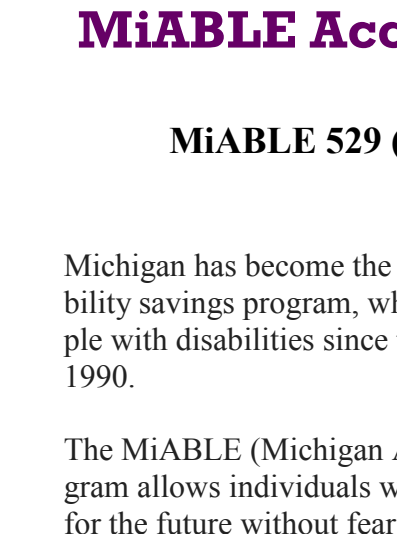
Failure to Improve Is Still Being Used, Wrongly, to Deny Medicare Coverage

The NY Times article from September 2016 features Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek and her continued fight to ensure that individuals receive the best care available to them under the law. The Kirby's faced an all too common obstacle when they were told Mrs. Kirby's faced an all too common obstacle when they were told Mrs. Kirby had reached her "highest practical level of independence", and consequently would be denied any further Medicaid coverage for her rehabilitation and care. While the failure to improve standard was affectively declared invalid due to a class action lawsuit in 2013, a large number of patients are still denied essential coverage with the "failure to improve" standard continuing to be used as the rational for denial.

—> [Click for Full Article](#)

Family Law and Divorce: When a Partner has MS

Presentation by Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek



The disability resulting from MS usually leads to major disruptions of the individual's social role, psychological well-being, and quality of life, which also means a major impact on family members. This can lead to marital stress and possible divorce, which requires a thorough review of the related legal issues, such as child custody, visitation rights, child support, alimony and maintenance.

—> [Click for Presentation](#)

MiABLE Accounts coming to MI!

MiABLE 529 (A) "Achieving a Better Life Experience"

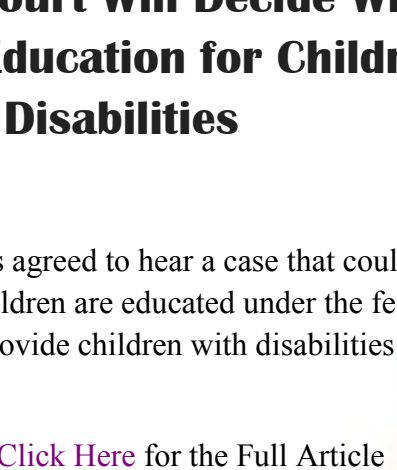
Michigan has become the fifth state in the country to launch a disability savings program, which is the most substantial reform for people with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The MiABLE (Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience) program allows individuals with disabilities and their families to save for the future without fear of losing any disability benefits. This is a life-changing opportunity that will help Michiganders with disabilities live self-determined independent lives.

Program highlights:

- MiABLE accounts allow for savings up to \$100,000 without losing other financial disability benefits.
- Funds are not taxed upon withdrawal if used for a qualified disability expense.
- Qualified expenses include: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology, health, financial management services, legal fees or funeral/burial expenses.
- There may only be one individual per ABLE account, but anyone can contribute into it.
- Disability onset and diagnosis must occur prior to age 26.

To learn more about the program or to sign up for an account visit www.miable.org. Or watch the following informational video on YouTube.



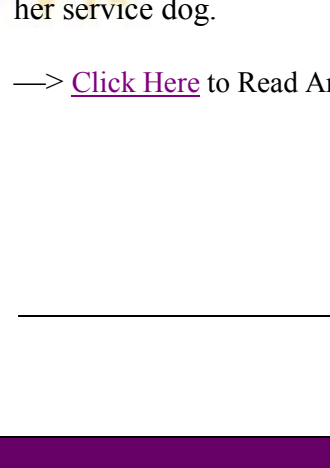
Please visit the PEKD [ABLE Act page](http://www.pekdadvocacy.com/disabilities-legal/able-act/) (http://www.pekdadvocacy.com/disabilities-legal/able-act/) for additional information and updates.

U.S. Supreme Court Will Decide What Is an "Appropriate" Education for Children with Disabilities

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could influence how millions of special needs children are educated under the federal law that requires public schools to provide children with disabilities a "free appropriate public education."

—> [Click Here](#) for the Full Article

Typical Social Security Recipients will get \$4 Benefit increase in 2017



Social Security benefits will rise only slightly in 2017. This follows no increase in benefits in 2016 and small increases for many of the previous years.

—> [Click Here](#) to Read Article

Michigan girl goes before Supreme Court for OK to take dog to school

The case being fought is over whether a 12 year old girl's family can sue a Jackson County school district for denying the young girl access to her service dog.

—> [Click Here](#) to Read Article

We Are Hiring!

We (Patricia E Kefalas Dudek & Associates) are Hiring!!

We are looking for a full time administrative assistant.

Duties include but are not limited to: updating the attorney's calendar, meeting and greeting clients, scheduling all appointments, coordinating with other staff, answering the phones, running errands. Must be an independent worker, organized and comfortable with interacting with a diverse group of clients in a fast pace small law office.

If interested please send resume, and salary requirements to the address or email below. Feel free to share this with folks-- Thanks!

Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates
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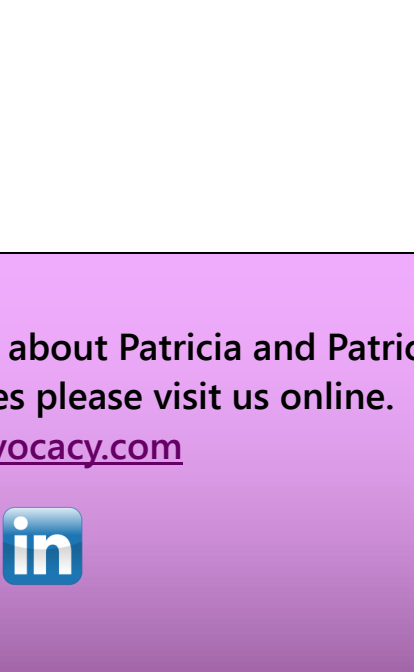
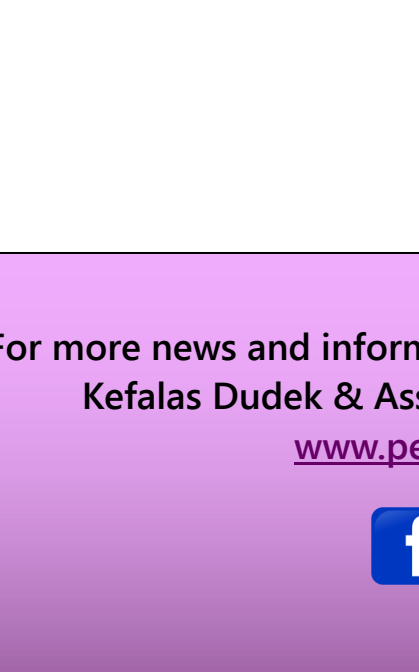
pdudek@pekdadvocacy.com

Other Recent Awards



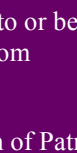
Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek has been selected by her peers for inclusion in the 23rd edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of Elder Law and Trusts and Estates. *Best Lawyers* is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. The *Best Lawyers* lists of outstanding attorneys are compiled by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which tens of thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers.

Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek has been recognized by the American Registry as one of the most honored professionals in America. She is ranked in the top 1% of awarded professionals, having receiving more awards than the hundreds of thousands of other professionals in the American Registry's database.



For more news and information about Patricia and Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates please visit us online.

www.pekdadvocacy.com



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