

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE CIVIL RIGHTS

Protecting and Inspiring Dignity
and Respect

September 2017



The Best Lawyers in America

We are pleased to announce that Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek has been selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2018 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for her work in Elder Law, and Trusts and Estates. This marks the 5th consecutive year that Ms. Dudek has been included in the Best Lawyers list.

Firms included in the “Best Law Firms” lists are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Best Lawyers is based on an exhaustive peer-review survey in which more than 50,000 leading attorneys cast over five and a half million votes on the legal abilities of other lawyers in their practice areas. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and extensiveness of legal expertise.

September is Healthy Aging Month

September is [Healthy Aging Month](#)! Healthy Aging Month was first introduced about two decades ago when baby boomers were about to turn 50. Healthy Aging Month is centered around adults ages 45-plus, to provide information and practical ideas to help improve physical, mental, social, and financial well-being. This year’s theme is “reinvent” yourself.

[Click Here](#) for Full Article, which includes
10 Tips For Reinventing Yourself

New Medicare Cards Are Coming

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have announced that new Medicare Cards are coming. They are removing Social Security Numbers from Medicare cards to prevent fraud, fight identity theft, and keep taxpayer dollars safe.

[Click Here](#) to For More Information

ABA and Jones Day to Launch Legal Website for Veterans

Jones Day announced last Veteran’s Day that it was working with the American Bar Association (ABA) on a project to create a centralized platform to connect veterans to pro bono or low-cost attorneys. That project, VetLex, now has a website allowing attorneys and organizations to sign up to assist with veterans’ legal matters when the platform is complete.

The platform will be available on a pilot basis by this coming Veterans Day, and the ABA estimates that VetLex will be fully operational nationwide by 2018.

[Click Here](#) to Continue Reading

Social Security’s Ticket to Work Program

The Social Security’s Ticket to Work Program has announced that the Choose Work website has a new address at [choosework.ssa.gov](#).

The site includes information and resources to assist individuals in their job searches. It includes service providers that can help you understand how work will affect your benefits, provide you training, assist in your job search, and protect your rights.

[Click Here for Choose Work Website](#)

Report to Congress: Young Adults and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder Transitioning to Adulthood

A new Report to Congress compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finds there is a critical need for research and better coordinated services targeted to youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who are transitioning to adulthood. In an [April 2017 blog](#), we noted that about 50,000 youth with ASD turn 18 each year, with about 450,000 total aged 16-24 years old living in the United States today. A major finding of the report is that there are very few federal resources that specifically target youth and young adults with ASD transitioning to adulthood. A recent portfolio analysis from the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) also found that issues related to transition age youth and adults comprised only 2 percent of all autism research funding, both federal and private, in 2015.

To learn more about the need for more resources for those with Autism, [view the full report](#).

The Medicare Rights Center and the Center for Medicare Advocacy Develop New Partnership with Support from The Retirement Research Foundation

Organizations team up to protect and strengthen the health coverage and financial security of older adults and people with disabilities.

The Medicare Rights Center and the Center for Medicare Advocacy are proud to announce a new partnership to protect access to quality health coverage for older Americans, made possible with a grant provided by The Retirement Research Foundation. Medicare Rights and the Center for Medicare Advocacy will work to protect and strengthen the Medicare program and prevent harmful policies that would erode health coverage and financial security for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families—specifically stemming from changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicare, and Medicaid.

[Click Here](#) to Continue Reading

Just left the service? Don’t miss out on VA benefits.

When leaving the service, looking up VA benefits may be the last thing on your mind. But if you wait to research your benefits, you may find some deadlines have passed.

Take a moment to review benefits you may be eligible for:

Further your education with the [Post-9/11 GI Bill®](#)

- o Covers costs for tuition, housing, training, and other expenses related to your education

Purchase a home with [VA home loans](#)

- o Allows Veterans who qualify to buy a house with no down payment
- o You don’t have to be a first-time homebuyer, and you can reuse the benefit

Prepare for your future with [VA life insurance](#)

- o Lets you convert the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) you had in the service into lifetime renewable group insurance
- o You must apply within one year and 120 days of leaving service

Check out all VA benefits by visiting [Explore.VA.gov](#)

CMS Launches New Hospice Compare Website

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched a new tool meant to help patients and their families find hospice care that best suits their needs.

Hospice Compare is a new website that displays metrics related to the quality of care that a hospice provider delivers to its patients. The site is part of the CMS Compare family of websites, which aims to offer consumers pertinent information in their search for health care. Current websites include platforms specific to long-term care hospitals, nursing homes and home health care, among others.

[Click Here](#) for the Full Article

Spartans & Wolverines Engage in Alex’s Great State Race

For the fourth consecutive year, a team of ROTC cadets from the Spartan Battalion and the Wolverine Battalion will come together on the day before the MSU vs. University of Michigan football game – Oct. 6 – to participate in Alex’s Great State Race, an event designed to raise awareness and funds for student disability services. The race is a 64-mile run from the “Sparty” statue on MSU’s campus to “The Diag” on the University of Michigan’s campus in Ann Arbor.

This year, the ROTC cadets will run the last five miles of the race with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein. Calley and Bernstein work together on the MI Hidden Talent Initiative to increase opportunities for competitive employment for Michigan residents with disabilities. Calley and Bernstein will accept the game ball from the ROTC cadets at a ceremony immediately following the conclusion of the race, which will have been carried from one campus to the other.

The event is an effort to raise awareness and funds for MSU’s Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities and U-M’s Services for Students with Disabilities in memory of MSU student Alex Powell, who lost his battle with cancer on May 8, 2011.

[Click Here](#) to For Additional Details

WEGO Health - Support The #PatientLeader Voice by Joining Our Virtual Flashmob

WEGO Health would like to invite everyone to join hundreds of other Patient Leaders to ring in the 6th Annual WEGO Health Awards ceremony by supporting their Thunderclap! “Together, we’ll kick-off the celebration by sharing the importance of Patient Leaders.”

“Come celebrate with top #PatientLeaders during our 6th Annual virtual #WEGOHealthAwards ceremony October 11-13th!”

[Click Here](#) for Details about the Awards & the Thunderclap

CMS launches webpage mandated by Jimmo settlement

The [educational webpage](#) mandated as part of the federal government’s settlement of the Jimmo case is now live.

The site was included in a plan that the Department of Health and Human Services was required to follow to better explain the concept of maintenance therapy to beneficiaries after settling. The plan itself created some legal drama, with a court ruling last summer that CMS didn’t do enough to explain maintenance coverage.

With the launch of the Jimmo Settlement page, CMS “reminds the Medicare community of the Jimmo Settlement Agreement, which clarified that the Medicare program covers skilled nursing care and skilled therapy services ... when a beneficiary needs skilled care in order to maintain function or to prevent or slow decline or deterioration,” the agency said Thursday in an MLN Connects newsletter.

[Click Here](#) for the Full Article

Nursing Home Compare not good enough, Harvard experts say

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Nursing Home Compare is suffering from “considerable” knowledge gaps that may make it harder for consumers to make informed decisions about their post-acute care, according to some experts.

[Click Here](#) to Continue Reading

We are also excited and honored to announce that Patti was recognized as a Top Attorney in Michigan!



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

[www.pekdadvocacy.com](#)
[www.pattidudek.typepad.com/](#)

