

Health Law Advocates *Legal Network Update*

HLA Law and
Policy Forum:
Brown Bag Luncheon
Series

Massachusetts
Attorney General
Martha Coakley



The
Attorney General's
Office
and Health Care

February 11, 2009
12:00 p.m.

Location:
Suffolk University
Law School
Faculty Dining Room
4th Floor
120 Tremont Street

Dear *Pro Bono* Legal Network Members,

HLA is currently receiving an unprecedented number of requests for pro bono legal assistance.

Please consider taking on a pro bono matter today to help low-income patients access and pay for the health care they need.

Thank you!

*** Cases Available for Referral ***

If you wish to accept or discuss a specific referral matter reply to this email or call Matt Selig at 617-338-5241 x2986.

We have 3 cases available for referral today.

L.O. - L.O., a Framingham woman in her forties, needs extensive oral health care including full lower dentures and upper implants. **L.O.** receives a minimal amount of disability-based income and has a bone deficiency that contributes to her oral health care needs. **L.O.** is enrolled in a government-sponsored health plan which has denied coverage for much of her dental work. **L.O. needs an attorney to represent her in her efforts to obtain coverage for her dental care from her public insurer.**

M.L. -- M.L., a 41 year old woman, lives with her husband, two children and grandniece in Athol. Based on their income, the family was deemed eligible for a government-sponsored program to help pay for their employer-sponsored health plan premiums. The family received assistance for several months until they received a notice stating that they should not have been deemed eligible for the state program

Boston, MA
RSVP Required
Call 617-338-5241 or
Email tboland@hla-inc.org

**Lawyers of the
Month**



**Harry
Margolis
&**



**Jeffrey Bloom
of
Margolis &
Bloom**

and must pay back almost \$1,200 in assistance. **M.L.** and her family cannot afford to pay this amount back to the state and it appears they were eligible for the state program all along. ***M.L. need an attorney to represent her in her appeal of the state's demand for back payment of benefits.***

F.M. --F.M., a 67 year old Burlington woman, owes nearly \$9,000 to a nursing home. After a short stay at the nursing home, **F.M.** told the staff that she needed to be discharged because she had no insurance coverage for a continued stay. The staff informed her she should stay because they could get her coverage through MassHealth (Medicaid). However, **F.M.** was denied MassHealth coverage and **F.M.** was left with no coverage for part of her nursing home stay. A collection agency is now contacting **F.M.** on behalf of the nursing home. ***F.M. needs representation in her dispute with the nursing home regarding her nearly \$9,000 in charges.***

**** Special Thanks ****

Thank you to Jeffrey Mittleman and Jonathan Anderman of Holland & Knight, LLP for accepting the case of **N.O.**, a 54 year old Hadley resident who requires a prescription medication to control his grand mal seizures. **N.O.** also has a developmental disability and cerebral palsy. **N.O.'s** insurer will cover a generic version of the seizure medication and charge **N.O.** a low copay, but the generic version of the medication makes **N.O.** very ill. **N.O.'s** insurer will cover the brand name medication, which does not make him ill, but will charge him a copay of over \$300 per month. **N.O.** needs an attorney to represent him in an appeal of his insurer's coverage decision.

Thank you to Proskauer Rose, LLP for awarding HLA a donation of \$5,000 through its Pro Bono Initiative Charitable Giving and Partnership Program. The funds will support the operation of HLA's *Pro Bono* Legal Network.

Harry Margolis and Jeffrey Bloom of Margolis & Bloom have been dedicated participants in HLA's *Pro Bono* Legal Network for several years. Beginning in 1997, when Attorney Margolis joined the Legal Network, these outstanding Legal Network attorneys have represented numerous low-income clients, most of whom are elders or people with disabilities, when they were unjustly denied health care access. They have enjoyed great success in restoring health care access for their vulnerable clients referred by HLA.

Attorney Bloom recently advised S.T., a 65 year old woman who receives Food Stamps and is enrolled in Medicaid (MassHealth). The client, whose income is near the poverty level, was about to receive a lump sum payment of several thousand dollars from her ex-husband's retirement plan. The client referred by HLA needed legal advice to assist her in managing this new asset and not lose eligibility for her health insurance.

In 2005 and 2006, Attorney Bloom also represented B.L., a 49 year old Cambridge woman with bipolar disorder and severe depression. B.L. was eligible for MassHealth because of her psychiatric disability. MassHealth paid for medications that enabled B.L. to work. However, B.L. was terminated from her MassHealth coverage because of a determination that she was no longer disabled. Attorney Bloom represented B.L. in an appeal with MassHealth and won reinstatement of her benefits, allowing her to continue to afford her medications that enabled her to work.

Attorney Margolis is currently assisting a client referred by HLA who is an 83 year old Nahant resident whose income is below the poverty level. The client, G.M., is insured through Medicare and MassHealth but accumulated \$2,900 in debt from a nursing home after a lengthy stay following a hospitalization. Attorney Margolis is counseling

Legal Network Members,

Thank you very much for your steadfast support of HLA's Legal Network!

If you have not been able to accept a case in recent months, we would greatly appreciate it if you could accept a *pro bono* referral from HLA in the near future.

If you are looking for a particular type of case to handle, please let me know and we would be happy to identify a case in your interest area.

- Matt



**Matt Selig
HLA Deputy Director**

The HLA Legal Network Update is sent to attorneys on the first and third Monday of each month.

Please Contact Matt Selig with any questions at selig@hla-inc.org or 617-338-5241 x2986.

www.healthlawadvocates.org

G.M. on obtaining relief from this debt.

In 1998, Attorney Margolis represented S.N. a 48 year old Cambridge woman with Lupus who was insured through a Medicare HMO and MassHealth. Because of her disabilities, S.N. received in-home psychiatric care. When S.N.'s HMO ended coverage for her in-home care, Attorney Margolis ensured that MassHealth would pick up the coverage, enabling S.N. to keep her treatment in place.

Attorney Margolis is a graduate of NYU School of Law and Attorney Bloom is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School.

Their firm, Margolis & Bloom, is also a generous financial supporter of HLA.

Thank you to Harry and Jeffrey for their wonderful support of HLA!!!

HLA Pro Bono Legal Network Listserve

HLA recently launched the
*Pro Bono Legal Network
Listserve!*

The Listserve is now being used by *Pro Bono* Legal Network members to seek and give advice on HLA referral matters from fellow Legal Network members.

Once you join the Listserve, HLA will send you guidelines for using the Listserve.

To join the Listserve [click here](#)

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