



Supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities and their families through Education, Outreach, Networking, and Future Planning Services.



**MAY 2018**

**May Is National  
Elder Law Month**  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

## **In this Newsletter.....**

**[May is National Elder Law Month](#)**

**[Adults with Disabilities Face Numerous Financial Challenges](#)**

**[Upcoming Financial Planning Presentations](#)**

**[Getting Ready for Work: Programs Aid Transition for Young Adults with Autism](#)**

**[Future Planning Resources](#)**

*Special Needs Personal Planning Guide*

*Future Planning Attorney List for the Greater Pittsburgh Area*

*ACHIEVA Family Trust for Special Needs Trusts*

*Archived Webinars*

## **National Elder Law Month**

Amy Dolan Strano, Esq., President, ACHIEVA Family Trust

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy designated May to be Senior Citizens Month. His desire was to acknowledge those age 65 and over and their contributions to society. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter changed the name to Older Americans Month. Throughout the years, Presidents have continued to recognize Older Americans each May. The National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) has continued to support the recognition of older Americans by proclaiming May to be National Elder Law Month.



May is also designated as National Mental Health Awareness Month. It has been so designated since 1949. The purpose is to raise awareness and educate the public regarding mental illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), has decided to promote the theme of "CureStigma" throughout its awareness events in 2018.

It seems fitting that I write a few words in recognition of these very different, but related populations. So what does Elder Law and Mental Health have in common? One of the important things that comes to my mind is the concept of planning ahead. At ACHIEVA Family Trust we call it Future Planning. Our staff work constantly on education and outreach activities designed to encourage families of individuals with disabilities to develop a plan for the future. Please visit our website, [ACHIEVAFamilyTrust.org](http://ACHIEVAFamilyTrust.org), to learn more about the need for Future Planning under the "Our Services" tab.

[Read more here.](#)



## **Report Finds Adults with Disabilities Face Numerous Financial Challenges**

*New report highlights the prevalence and impact of financial stress on people with disabilities*

The National Disability Institute (NDI) released a new report, Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities: Findings from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation National Financial Capability Study. The report finds that, in the 27 years since the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, ensuring all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to achieve "economic self-sufficiency," this population still faces numerous challenges and roadblocks to achieving financial inclusion and independence.

Based on data mined from the 2015 FINRA Investor Education Foundation National Financial Capability Study, this insightful report highlights the prevalence and impact of financial stress on adults with disabilities.

"Key to achieving the goals stated by the ADA is the ability of people with disabilities to become financially stable - generally only possible through employment, high quality and affordable health care and ready access to financial information and services," Michael Morris, National Disability Institute Executive Director, said. "The findings from this study offer a foundation for understanding the financial capability of an important, but often overlooked, population. Public agencies, financial service providers and the disability community have the opportunity to work together to advance financial inclusion and enhance the financial capability of people with disabilities."

[Read more here.](#)

# DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE PLANNING/ FINANCIAL PLANNING

ACHIEVA Family Trust and Hefren-Tillotson are offering a series of seminars that provide education and outreach on financial topics including estate planning, taxes, and investment options.

Attend one of five regional speaker programs:

*Presented by ACHIEVA Family Trust and Darren L. Hucko, CFP®, RICP®, Vice President & Financial Advisor of Hefren-Tillotson, Inc. through a grant from The Financial Planning Foundation.*



## TO REGISTER:

- ☎ 412.995.5000 x 589
- ✉ [familytrust@achieva.info](mailto:familytrust@achieva.info)
- 🌐 [achievafamilytrust.org](http://achievafamilytrust.org)

- ▶ **ACHIEVA**  
711 Bingham St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
**Friday May 11, 2018**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM
- ▶ **Hefren Tillotson**  
*Wexford Office*  
12570 Perry Highway, Suite 100  
Wexford, PA 15090  
**Wednesday May 16, 2018**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM
- ▶ **Hefren Tillotson**  
*Southpointe Office*  
121 Champion Way, Suite 110  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
**Tuesday June 5, 2018**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM
- ▶ **ACHIEVA/  
The Arc of Westmoreland**  
316 Donohoe Rd.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**Thursday June 14, 2018**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM
- ▶ **Autism Connection of PA**  
35 Wilson St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15223  
**Thursday June 21, 2018**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

[Click here to register to attend one of these programs](#)

[Click here to register to attend live via webinar on Friday, May 11, 2018](#)

## Getting Ready for Work: Programs Aid Transition for Young Adults with Autism

Jill Daly, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Young adults are always searching for a job that's satisfying and successful. It's the same for young people with autism, so new programs are helping them hit the job market running. At the same time, new therapies being tested at the University of Pittsburgh might improve their work experiences.

"People on the spectrum have dramatic and incredible skills," said Mary Hartley, a consultant for United Way and a parent of a high school junior with autism who is making his own plans for the

future. "Most people can work; they can contribute something."

An advocate for the rights of people with autism, Jessica Benham, 27, says competitive jobs are just as important for them as for anyone. She's autistic herself - preferring identity-first language - and believes in the value of autistic culture. Her first paying job was at 16, waiting tables at a nursing home.

"A key problem for autistic children generally is that society attaches value on whether we're able to work," she said. "Not all are able to work, but there should be space for everyone in society." Ms. Benham's paying job now is as an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is also a grad student working toward a doctorate in communication and a master's in bioethics. She devotes a good portion of her time as director of public policy at the Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy, an autistic-run grassroots organization.

Getting to where she is now hasn't been easy, Ms. Benham said. "I have spent my entire life as an autistic woman to learn how to pass as a nonautistic person. That's exhausting."

[Read more here.](#)



## ACHIEVA Family Trust Launches Updated Website!

[ACHIEVAFamilyTrust.org](http://ACHIEVAFamilyTrust.org)

The site is easy to navigate, no matter what viewer you're using



**Visit the updated site and contact us  
to receive a no-cost consultation today!**

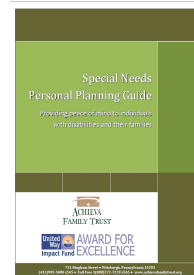
[ACHIEVAFAMILYTRUST.ORG](http://ACHIEVAFAMILYTRUST.ORG)

Call (412) 995-5000 x565 or 1-888-272-7229  
or email [familytrust@achieva.info](mailto:familytrust@achieva.info)

**SPECIAL NEEDS FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES**

## Special Needs Personal Planning Guide [\(DOWNLOAD\)](#)

The Future Planning Guide is a resource and profile of your family member containing all of the information that makes them unique. The details of this picture includes your family member's health history as well as their experiences with life and learning, family and friends and likes and dislikes. The Future Planning Guide assists in developing a plan to help ensure that your family member's needs are met day-to-day, on special occasions and in times of emergency.



---

## Future Planning Attorney List (Greater Pittsburgh Area) [\(DOWNLOAD\)](#)

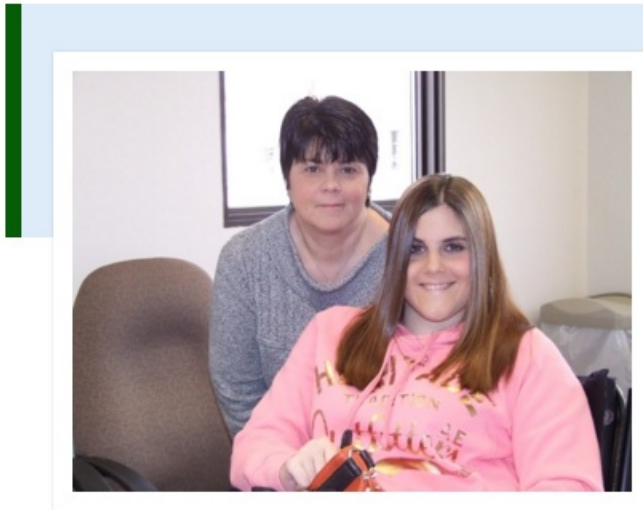


See our list of attorneys located in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area who have expressed an interest and are willing to assist families and individuals with disabilities regarding their future planning needs.

These attorneys can assist families in determining the types of future planning that will best meet their needs. In addition, these attorneys are able to draft future planning documents that may include a Last Will and Testament, Special Needs Trust, Power of Attorney and Living Will. If you are interested in future planning, please feel free to contact one or more of the attorneys listed to discuss your needs.

---

## ACHIEVA Family Trust for Special Needs Trusts [\(WEBSITE\)](#)



“ ACHIEVA protects her money from her going out and blowing it, or anyone else getting their hands on it. It helps her use that money and feel normal to do the things she likes. With the trust, Kara can do the same things that other kids do. ”

ACHIEVA Family Trust has been providing services to help families and people with disabilities plan for their future for more than 20 years. Individuals with disabilities and their families face significant challenges in planning for their financial stability. ACHIEVA Family Trust provides information to individuals and can serve as trustee for several kinds of trusts benefiting individuals with disabilities.

ACHIEVA Family Trust:

- Serves as Corporate Trustee for Common Law Trusts, Pooled Trusts and Payback Trusts to benefit people with disabilities.
- Distributes trust funds to increase individuals' quality of life while preserving eligibility for essential government services.
- Adds case management and social work expertise to the traditional role of corporate trustee.
- Utilizes the expertise of PNC Bank and Capital Group for Investment Management.

## VIEW ARCHIVED WEBINARS

**UNDERSTANDING GUARDIANSHIP AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**Presenter: Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq.**



[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

-----  
**HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

*Presenter: Michelle Stockunas, Program Manager, ACHIEVA, A Home of My Own*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**I WANT TO WORK BUT I AM AFRAID OF LOSING MY GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**

*Presenters: Bill Frase, Assistant Director of Community Employment, ACHIEVA, Joy Smith, Area Manager AHEDD, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Marci Katona, and Josie Badger, #IWantToWork Campaign Manager*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

-----  
**TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION**

*Presenter: Jeff Ruder, Esq., Ruder Law*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

-----  
**WHAT'S NEW WITH THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS (ODP) - WAIVER RENEWALS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED AND PFDS WAIVERS, INCLUDING THE NEW SERVICES**

*Presenter: Kristin Ahrens, Director, Bureau of policy and Quality Management, ODP*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

-----  
**MANAGED LONG TERM CARE AND WAIVERS**

*Presenter: Janice Meinert, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**HIPAA LAWS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION/MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCED DIRECTIVES**

*Presenters: Mark Zacharia, Esq., Associate Counsel, UPMC Corporate Legal Department  
Julianne Washington, Esq.*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**TURNING 26? HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY NEW WORLD OF HEALTH INSURANCE**

*Presenters: Sally Jo Snyder and Leslie Bachurski, Consumer Health Coalition  
Libby Powers and Susan Saule, CHANGE Children's Hospital*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

--  
**EDUCATIONAL TRANSITION PLANNING FOR CHILDREN AGES 14 - 22**

*Presenters: Dr. Erin Grimm, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Eric Jankoski, Baldwin Whitehall School District Transition Coordinator, Mary Hartley, 21 & ABLE, United Way of Southwestern PA, Sarah Vogel, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**GUARDIANSHIP & POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

*Presenters: Heidi Rai Stewart, Esq. and Matthew Lautman, Esq., Houston Harbaugh*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**SSI, SSDI & REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES**

*Presenter: Elaine Cole, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**MEDICAID, MAWD, & WAIVERS**

*Presenter: Erin Guay, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

---

**MEDICARE**

*Presenter: Bill McKendree, Team Leader, APPRISE State Health Insurance Program*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

## **ACHIEVA Family Trust**

711 Bingham Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203  
(412) 995-5000 x 565

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Email Us](#)

ACHIEVA is an agency that is dedicated to providing the best quality services for people with disabilities in "celebrating abilities and exceeding expectations."

*STAY CONNECTED*

