### RESOLUTION 2003 - 65

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS ELDER LAW MONTH.

WHEREAS, older Americans are a vital national resource; and

WHEREAS, older Americans have unique and special needs requiring legal attention, knowledge, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the population of the United States continues to age, requiring specialized professionals to meet ever changing needs; and

WHEREAS, Elder Law is a vital and continually evolving area of law, dedicated to the special needs of older Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar, and Nassau County are dedicated to educating the elder attorney and elderly community; and

WHEREAS, these organizations strive to inform the elderly community of their legal rights and opportunities in order to improve the quality of their lives through Elder Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this <u>28th</u> day of April, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, does hereby proclaim the month of May,

2003, as **ELDER LAW MONTH** in Nassau County, Florida, and urges all citizens to recognize the contributions made by all those involved in Elder Law and to afford themselves of the knowledge, expertise and compassion of those committed to Elder Law.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

VICKIE SAMUS

Its: Chairman

NICK D. DEONAS

ANSLEY ACKEE

FLOYD VANZANT

MARTANNE MARSHALI

ATTEST:

J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.

Its: Ex≠Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney

WCHAEL & MILLITA

h/anne/res/elder-law-month

# Sample Proclamation

[These clauses are provided merely as a tool to assist the governmental entity in creating a proclamation without having to reinvent the wheel. Use as many or as few of the following clauses as you deem appropriate. Feel free to create your own language.]

# **Provisions Regarding The Importance of Senior Citizens:**

Whereas, older Americans are a vital national resource; and

Whereas, older Americans have unique and special needs requiring legal attention, knowledge and expertise; and,

Whereas, the population of the United States continues to age, requiring specialized professionals to meet ever changing needs; and,

# Provisions Regarding The Importance of Elder Law and Elder Law Attorneys:

Whereas, Elder Law is a vital and continually evolving area of law, dedicated to the special needs of older Americans; and,

Whereas, Elder Law Attorneys deal "holistically" with their clients and families in order to address a wide variety of needs and concerns of the elder clients and their family; and, Whereas, Elder Law encompasses a wide and varied range of important matters such as estate planning, asset protection, incapacity planning, long term care planning, residence rights, advocacy for seniors and protection from abuse and neglect; and,

Whereas, Elder Law Attorneys are particularly trained to assist older Americans to access all appropriate benefits for long term care such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and Veteran's Benefits; and,

Whereas, Elder Law Attorneys have unique training and skills to advise older Americans and their families on these important issues and to draft the necessary documents to protect older Americans; and,

Whereas, Elder Law Attorneys exhibit patience and concern for the needs, concerns and feelings of their elderly clients and their families; and

Whereas, Elder Law is an ever changing and evolving area of law requiring dedicated professionals to monitor these changes and present them to clients and the community as a whole; and,

## **Provisions Regarding The Organizations Involved:**

Whereas, the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, the National Academy of Elder Law

Attorneys, the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar, the Elder Law Section of theCounty
Bar Association [Note, not every local bar association has such a section] and the City/County
ofare dedicated to educating the elder attorney and the elderly community; and
Whereas, these organizations strive to inform the elderly community of their legal rights and
opportunities to improve the quality of their lives through Elder Law, and
Provisions Regarding The Particular Local Events - Optional:
Whereas, Elder Law Attorneys have scheduled public forums to educate the community on Elder
Law, and to assist Senior Citizens in their areas.
(If you have been provided details on particular events and wish to include them.)
Now therefore, I,, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor (or applicable
official) of the City (or applicable governmental entity) of, Florida, do hereby proclaim the
Month of May, 2003 as
Elder Law Month
in the City (or applicable governmental entity) of, Florida and urge all citizens to
recognize the contributions made by all those involved in Elder Law and to afford themselves of
the knowledge, expertise and compassion of those committed to Elder Law



# ACADEMY OF FLORIDA ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

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March 26, 2003

Dear Commissioner:

As President of Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA), I hereby respectfully request that each governmental division in Florida proclaim May 2003 as Elder Law Month within the boundaries of the affected city or county. Elder Law Month was created by, and celebrated by National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) as well.

Governor Jeb Bush has proclaimed May, 2003 as Elder Law Month in the State of Florida. Terry White of the Department of Elder Affairs has lent the agency's support to this worthwhile cause.

The older residents of the state and each individual community are an important national resource. Elder Law attorneys provide advocacy for seniors, protection from abuse and neglect and advice and counsel in the areas of estate planning, asset protection, incapacity planning and long term care planning.

This year, AFELA has designated Area Representatives for AFELA for each area of the state in which AFELA members provide services to the senior population. The list of Area Representatives for the entire state is attached.

Area Representatives for AFELA are charged with coordinating efforts among the AFELA members in their areas to make presentations and provide other educational opportunities and services during Elder Law Month, and to be the local spokesperson for AFELA to governmental entities and the press. Please feel free to contact the Area Representative in the event you have any questions or concerns. We hope to provide you with a list of events to be held in your area by AFELA members during Elder Law Month.

Enclosed is a sample Proclamation. On behalf of our seniors and the attorneys who represent their interests, AFELA requests that you proclaim, May 2003 as

"Elder Law Month"

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

John Staunton, President



March 18, 2003

JEB BUSH GOVERNOR

TERRY F. WHITE

SECRETARY

RE: Elder Law Month

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Department of Elder Affairs is the primary state agency responsible for administering human services programs for the elderly. Its calling includes combating ageism, creating public awareness and understanding the contributions and needs of elders, advocating on behalf of elders, serving as an information clearinghouse and preparing our communities for retirement. It strives to support self-sufficiency and self-determination for Florida's senior citizens.

Each year, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys promote the month of May as Elder Law Month throughout the nation and in Florida. Recognizing the intrinsic value and worth of Florida's older population, Governor Bush has officially proclaimed the month of May as Elder Law Month in the state of Florida.

The Department of Elder Affairs supports the designation of Elder Law Month. Like the Department, AFELA members are zealous advocates for older Floridians and they can be a tremendous resource to senior citizens and their families.

I encourage all citizens of Florida to learn more about elder law during Elder Law Month, all newspapers and other media to publish information about Elder Law Month, and all cities and counties to follow Governor Bush's lead in issuing proclamations supporting Elder Law Month in Florida, as well as other activities during May, including Older Americans Month and National Senior Center Week, May 11-17, 2003.

Sincerely,

Terry White Secretary

4040 ESPLANADE WAY TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA, 32399-7000

> phone 850.414.2000 fax 850.414.2004 TDD 850.414.2001



# JEB BUSH GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

# Elder Law Month

WHEREAS, May has traditionally been observed as Elder Law Month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, older Americans have legal needs which require special knowledge, expertise and attention; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida consistently endeavors to be responsive to the needs and rights of Florida's older citizens so they are empowered to age in a place with security, dignity, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar, and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs strive to inform older Floridians and to make them aware of their legal rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the state of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing *Elder Law Month*, May 2003.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.



Phone City Last Name First Name Company Email Alachua AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALACHUA COUNTY - SAM BOONE (Will also cover Gilchrist and Levy Counties) Gainesville Sam Attorney at Law (352) 374-8308 sboone@boonelaw.com Boone Brevard AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR BREVARD COUNTY - JERRY ALLENDER Titusville (407) 269-1511 Allender Jerry Attorney at Law **Broward** AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR CORAL SPRINGS AND PARKLAND - KEN RUBIN elderesq@bellsouth.net **Coral Springs** Rubin Ken Attorney at Law (954) 722-2280 AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR DEERFIELD AND POMPANO BEACH - JERRY SOLKOFF iisolkoff@aol.com Deerfield Beach Solkoff Jerry Law Office - Jerome Ira (954) 421-8444 AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR FT. LAUDERDALE - RUSS CARLISLE Fort Lauderdale Carlisle Russ Carlisle & LeCates (954) 764-4000 carlislere@aol.com AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR HOLLYWOOD, HALLANDALE AND PEMBROKE PINES - ELAINE SCHWARTZ Hollywood (954) 987-8881 ejschwartz@aol.com Schwartz Elaine Attorney at Law

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AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR LAUDERDALE BY THE SEA - SHERI HAZELTINE

Lauderdale by the Sea Hazeltine Sheri Attorney at Law <u>sherihz@alaska.com</u>

(Lauderhill is included in Alice Reiter Feld's Area)

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NONE

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Clay

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Collier

NONE

**Columbia** 

**NONE** 

<u>Duval</u>

AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR ORANGE COUNTY - REBECCA BERG (also Orange Park (Clay County) and Ponte Vedra (St. Johns

.

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(Lake Worth is included in Scott Solkoff's Area)

(Loxahatchee is included in Mark Shalloway's Area)

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