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May 28, 2009

Carl E. Testo
Director of Legal Services
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
100 Washington St. PO Box 150474
Hartford, CT 06115-0474

Dear Mr. Testo:

As per our phone conversation, please accept this letter as our request to amend Rule 7.4A (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which sets forth the fields of law in which attorneys may be certified as specialists. The National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) is proposing to amend the rule to include "Elder Law" as a field in which attorneys may be certified as specialists in the state of Connecticut.

The National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) is a nonprofit organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Founded in 1993, NELF administers the Certified Elder Law Attorney ("CELA") program, which currently has 403 active CELAs. The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Specialization for accreditation approved NELF in 1995 as a certifying agency – the only organization offering certification in elder law.

Following is the approved definition of "Elder Law"

"Elder Law" is the legal practice of counseling and representing older persons and their representatives about the legal aspects of health and long term care planning, public benefits, special needs counseling, surrogate decision-making, older persons' legal capacity, the conservation, disposition and administration of older persons' estates and the implementation of their decisions concerning such matters, giving due consideration to the applicable tax consequences of the action, or the need for more sophisticated tax expertise.

The benefits of specialization are well known and include greater legal competency and a higher level of professionalism. An attorney earns certified status only through *demonstrated* knowledge and proficiency in a specialized field of law, and maintains that certification by satisfying enhanced continuing legal education requirements and regular re-certification. Certified specialists also

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