



# Howard S. Krooks, CELA

## Member

## Boca Raton

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### Practice Areas

- Elder Law
- Private Client, Trusts and Estates

### Education

- University of Pennsylvania Law School, J.D., 1989
- SUNY-Albany, B.S., 1986

### Bar Admissions

- Florida
- New York
- Pennsylvania

### Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Florida
- New York Appellate Division, Second Department

### Affiliations

Florida Bar Elder Law Section, Chair, 2022-2023

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), Past President

New York State Bar Association Elder Law and Special Needs Section, Past Chair

New York Chapter of NAELA, Past President

### Awards & Honors

- Top Lawyer, *Palm Beach Illustrated*, 2023
- Florida Super Lawyer
- New York Super Lawyer
- Best Lawyers in America
- Florida Trend's Legal Elite
- Top 25 Westchester County Attorney
- AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell
- 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award, New York Chapter of NAELA
- 2010 Outstanding Member Award, Florida Bar Elder Law Section
- Top Attorneys in Westchester, *Westchester Magazine*, October 2021

With over 30 years of legal experience, Howard's practice is comprehensive, covering estate planning, wills and trusts, elder law, special needs planning, planning for disability, asset protection planning, Medicaid planning, trust and estate administration (probate), fiduciary litigation, guardianship and health care/financial planning with advance directives. Howard's commitment to excellence and deep understanding of complex legal issues are the cornerstones of his practice, guiding clients through critical life decisions and securing their futures with unwavering confidence.

Howard is certified as an elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation and currently serves as chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section and the board of trustees of the NAELA Foundation. Howard received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award from the New York Chapter of NAELA for serving as co-chair of a Special Committee on Medicaid Legislation formed by the NYSBA Elder Law Section to oppose New York Governor George Pataki's budget bills containing numerous restrictive Medicaid eligibility provisions that, if enacted, would severely impact the frail elderly and disabled populations. He was named Member of the Year in 2010 by the Florida Bar Elder Law Section for his work in obtaining Medicaid approval for the use of promissory notes in Medicaid planning in Florida. He was also recognized for serving as co-chair of the NYSBA Elder Law Section Compact Working Group, which received national attention for developing alternative methods of financing long-term care. Additionally, Howard served as chair of a special committee created by the NYSBA Elder Law Section to address the Statewide Commission on Fiduciary Appointments formed by Chief Justice Judith Kaye. Howard received an award for spearheading the effort on behalf of NAELA seeking the enactment of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 13, 2016.

Howard has consistently been selected as a Florida Super Lawyer and a New York Super Lawyer, named to Florida Trend's Legal Elite, a Top 25 Westchester County Attorney, and is AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Howard is a frequent lecturer and has addressed many organizations, including Barron's, NAELA, Stetson Special Needs Conference, ALI-ABA, WealthCounsel, ElderCounsel, the National Guardianship Association, various bar associations and attorney organizations, estate planning organizations, Berkeley College, the United Federation of Teachers, the New York State United Teachers, and the New York State Civil Service Employees' Association. He has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Kiplinger's*, *USA Today*, *The New York Post*, *Newsday*, *The Journal News*, and the *Boca Raton News*. Howard has appeared on PBS, the CBS Early Morning Show, and local elder law-focused television programs. Howard has written extensively on the topic of elder law, including "Creative Advocacy in Guardianship Settings: Medicaid and Estate Planning Including Transfer of Assets, Supplemental Needs Trusts and Protection of Disabled Family Members," included in *Guardianship Practice in New York State* and "Long-Term Care Insurance in New York," included in *Estate Planning and Will Drafting in New York*, both published by the New York State Bar Association.

Howard is a founding principal of ElderCounsel LLC (which has since merged with WealthCounsel), the premier elder law and special needs planning document drafting software for attorneys.

Howard earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Albany and his law degree from the

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