

## Warning Signs of Elder Abuse

### Financial exploitation warning signs:

- Significant withdrawals from the elder's accounts
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition
- Items or cash missing from the senior's household
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, and policies
- Addition of names to the senior's signature card
- Financial activity the senior couldn't have done, such as an ATM withdrawal when the account holder is bedridden
- Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions

### Healthcare fraud or abuse warning signs:

- Duplicate billings for the same medical service or device
- Evidence of overmedication or under-medication
- Evidence of inadequate care when bills are paid in full
- Problems with the care facility: poorly trained, poorly paid, or insufficient staff; crowding; inadequate responses to questions about care.

## WRITTEN MATERIALS

Written materials will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.

For questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Brooks at 405-534-4893.

## 2ND ANNUAL

### *Sonya L. Patterson Memorial*

### Elder Abuse Symposium 2019



June 12, 2019  
at the  
Oklahoma Bar  
Association  
Center

## In Memoriam Sonya L. Patterson

**Sonya Lea Patterson**, 30, of Oklahoma City passed from this life on September 5, 2015, from an ATV accident. She was born on August 5, 1985 in Ft. Hood, TX. After graduating from Oak Grove High School in 2003, she then received a Bachelor of Business management from Oklahoma State University in 2007. Her education dream was realized, upon completion of a juris doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2012.

Sonya was a bright, shining star in the legal profession. While in law school, Sonya served as Pro Bono Coordinator and President for the Public Interest Law Group, and was an active participant in the International Human Rights Law Group. She was on the Dean's List and Faculty Honor Roll, and a member of Phi Delta Phi. She studied abroad in Zanzibar in the areas of human trafficking, slavery, and piracy. She was a Merit Scholar, Licensed Legal Intern, and completed the Child Abuse and Neglect Interdisciplinary Training Program.

Sonya had an impressive career during her three short years as a lawyer. Sonya joined Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma in 2012 and was a fearless advocate for domestic violence victims. She would take on any case for her client, no matter how complicated. She was a great mentor and example for law students and new lawyers. **While it is impossible to measure, there is no doubt Sonya saved lives through her work.**



## About Our Sponsors

### CAFEE

CAFEE is a diverse coalition of representatives from state and local law enforcement, the courts, social services, and the financial and insurance industries. CAFEE member organizations are dedicated to protecting Oklahoma County's most vulnerable citizens while respecting their rights as adults. For more information, please contact Melissa Brooks at [melissa.brooks@laok.org](mailto:melissa.brooks@laok.org)

### Mutual of America

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# Schedule of Events

## Warning Signs of Elder Abuse

Time	Suggested Track	Workshop Title	Speaker(s)	Speaker's Title (in order)
8:30 to 8:45	All	Opening	Michael Figgins	Executive Director of Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO)
9:00-9:50	All	The Impact of Elder Abuse and Exploitation	Dr. Donald Courtney, MD	Physician of Geriatric Medicine at OU Medicine
10:05 to 10:55	Social Workers and Law Enforcement	Gaslighting Revisited	Kristin Siegel and Vineeth Hemavathi	Staff Attorneys at LASO
10:05 to 10:55	Lawyers	Autonomy Concerns	Rick Goralewicz and Melissa Brooks	Senior Law Project Attorney at LASO/ Staff Attorney at LASO
10:05 to 10:55	Social Workers	Seniors and Housing: Hoarding and Other Barriers	Jennifer Montagna, Michael Matthews, and Kimala Hubbard	Staff Attorneys at LASO/ Case Manager at Sunbeam Family Services Senior Shelter
11:10 to 12:00	Lawyers	Planning for Disability and Elder Orphans	Jill Watskey	Attorney at Office of Jill Watskey, PLLC
11:10 to 12:00	Law Enforcement and Social Workers	Caregiver Stress (Panel)	Amanda Gorsuch and Alzheimer's Association Representative	Activities Director at Daily Living Centers/ Alzheimer's Association
12:10 to 12:50	All	Lunch and Keynote Speakers	Judge Richard Kirby and Judge Allen Welch	Oklahoma County Special Judge/ Oklahoma County Associate Judge
1:15 to 2:05	Law Enforcement	Destigmatizing Victims with Alzheimer's and Dementia	TBA	
2:20 to 3:50	Law Enforcement and Social Workers	Interviewing Techniques for Advocates and First Responders	Peter Haddock and Casey Cox	OBA General Counsel/ Supervisor White Collar Crime Division, FBI
4:05 to 4:55	All	Multidisciplinary Teams/ Working with Faith Communities	Georgia Anetzberger, Clayton Johnson, and Rev. Dr. John Belzer	Geriatric Psychologist/ Special Agent, FBI/ Former Gerontology Physician at OU Medicine
4:05 to 4:55	Lawyers and Social Workers	Ethics of Elder Abuse Prevention and Litigation	Joe Balkenbush	Oklahoma Bar Association Ethics Counsel
4:05 to 4:55	Lawyers and Law Enforcement	Trauma Informed Advocacy (Panel)	Rick Goralewicz, Cathy Wood, and Sara Murphy Bondurant	Senior Law Project Attorney at LASO/ Trainer at OK-DHS Adult Protective Services/ Associate at Graftwal Raven and Reserve Deputy in Canadian County, Oklahoma

**Physical abuse warning signs:**  
-Unexplained signs of injury, such as bruises, welts, or scars, especially if they appear symmetrically on two sides of the body  
-Broken bones, sprains, or dislocations  
-Report of drug overdose or apparent failure to take medication regularly (a prescription has more remaining than it should)  
-Broken eyeglasses or frames  
-Signs of being restrained, such as rope marks on wrists  
-Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see the elder alone

**Emotional abuse warning signs:**  
-Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver behavior  
-Behavior from the elder that mimics dementia, such as rocking, sucking, or mumbling to themselves

**Sexual abuse warning signs:**  
-Bruises around breasts or genitals  
-Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding  
-Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

**Elder neglect or self-neglect warning signs:**  
-Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration  
-Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores  
-Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes  
-Being left dirty or unbathed  
-Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather  
-Unsafe living conditions (no heat or running water; faulty electrical wiring, other fire hazards)  
-Desertion of the elder at a public place.