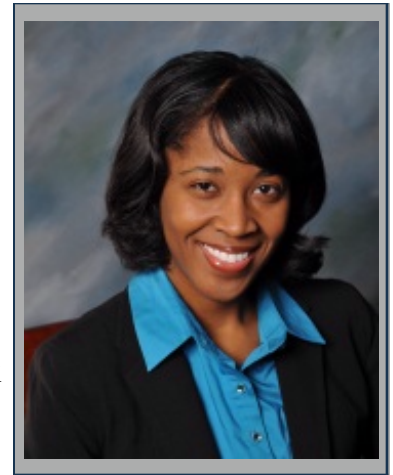

Crystal West Edwards, Associate

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Crystal West Edwards is a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the ABA Accredited National Elder Law Foundation (NELF) and focuses her practice on elder law, special needs planning and advocacy, estate planning and estate administration. She assists seniors, individuals with special needs and their families with issues pertaining to complex estate and tax planning, asset preservation, eligibility for means-tested government benefits, fiduciary appointments and representation and advocacy. She also assists financial institutions and corporate fiduciaries with judicial and administrative accountings and counseling regarding initial or continued means-tested government benefits eligibility for its trust beneficiaries.



Ms. Edwards has given numerous presentations on a variety of topics statewide including Income Taxation of Elder and Disability Law Related Trusts, Estate Planning for Women, Border Patrol: a comparative approach to seeking Medicaid eligibility in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and Estate Planning for the Elder Law and Special Needs Practitioner. Also, she co-authored, the Affordable Care Act and Its Impact on Individuals with Special Needs.

Her professional affiliations include her membership in the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and the Elder and Disability Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. She currently serves as President of the New Jersey Chapter of NAELA. Ms. Edwards is the President-Elect of the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA). She also served as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA) from 2009 to 2011, Secretary from 2011 to 2013, Treasurer from 2013 - 2014 and Vice-President from 2014-2015. She is a former adjunct faculty member at Kean University (Union, New Jersey) and was honored in 2012 by the State of New Jersey with a Senate Resolution for "her meritorious history of professional leadership and exemplary dedication." In 2014, she received the 2014 Young Lawyer Award from the Garden State Bar Association for her "exceptional commitment to the GSBA, the Community & the Elder and Disability Law Bar."

Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Edwards was an elder law associate in Clark, New Jersey, where she practiced in the areas of Medicaid applications and appeals, Veteran benefits appeals, guardianships, and estate litigation. During law school, Ms. Edwards served as a Certified Legal Intern with the Pennsylvania Governor's Office of General Counsel—Department of Public Welfare and the Elder Law and Consumer Protection Clinic at the Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law. While interning with the Department of Public Welfare, she assisted with combating Right-To-Know requests and Medicaid eligibility appeals. While interning with the Elder Law and Consumer Protection Clinic, Ms. Edwards represented individuals during the Medicaid application process and helped to resolve nursing home

disputes.

PRACTICE AREAS

~ Elder and Special Needs Law

INDUSTRY FOCUS

Individuals and financial institutions.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Special needs planning and advocacy; planning for incapacity; contested and uncontested guardianships and conservatorships; Medicaid planning, applications, and appeals; Veteran benefits planning and appeals; representation of financial institutions, executors, trustees, guardians, and individuals; and will and trust reformations.

EDUCATION

- ~ University of North Carolina (Charlotte) (B.S., Political Science and Criminal Justice; 2005) *cum laude*
- ~ Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law (J.D.; 2008)

COURT ADMISSIONS

- ~ New Jersey (2008)
- ~ Pennsylvania (2008)
- ~ United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (2009)
- ~ United States District Court of New Jersey (2008)

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- ~ Receptient of 2014 Young Lawyer Award by Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Received State of New Jersey Senate Recognition for professional leadership and exemplary dedication
- ~ Recognized repeatedly by *New Jersey Monthly* magazine as one of New Jersey's "*Rising Star, Super Lawyers*" * in Elder Law
- ~ Chosen as one of the *New Jersey Law Journal's* 2014 "New Leaders of the Bar"

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- ~ "Elderly Immigrants and Language Loss," New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NJICLE), Princeton, New Jersey
- ~ "How to Deal with Government Agencies and Nursing Homes when Applying for Government Benefits," NJICLE, Iselin, New Jersey
- ~ "The Transfer of Excluded Assets," NJICLE, Cape May, New Jersey
- ~ "Fundamentals of Medicare and Medicaid, Speaker," Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, New Jersey
- ~ "Estate Planning for Young Adults," Speaker, Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Jersey

- ~ “Elder Care Planning,” Speaker, 2nd Annual Ask-A-Lawyer Day, Metuchen-Edison Area Branch of the NAACP, Edison, New Jersey
- ~ “Importance of Estate Planning,” Safe Harbor Leadership and Clergy Health Symposium, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey
- ~ “Careers in Elder Law,” Speaker, American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics: 3rd Annual Student Health Law Conference, Newark, New Jersey
- ~ “Importance of Elder Care Planning,” Speaker, Legal Redress Workshop, New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP, Somerset, New Jersey
- ~ “Veterans Disability Benefits,” Speaker, 1st Annual Ask-A-Lawyer Day, Metuchen-Edison Area Branch of the NAACP, Edison, New Jersey
- ~ “Elder Care Planning,” Speaker, Wells Cathedral, Newark, New Jersey
- ~ “Estate Planning for Seniors,” Speaker, Wells Cathedral, Newark, New Jersey
- ~ Guest, Spotlight New Jersey, News 12, Edison, New Jersey

PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- ~ President, New Jersey Chapter NAELA
- ~ New Jersey State Bar Association, Member of the General Council
- ~ President-Elect, Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Certified Elder Law Attorney by ABA Accredited National Elder Law Foundation
- ~ Former Vice President, New Jersey Chapter of NAELA
- ~ Vice President, Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Former Treasurer, Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Young Lawyers and Associates Committee, New Jersey State Bar Association—Elder and Disability Law Section
- ~ Member, Metuchen-Edison Area Branch, NAACP
- ~ Former Member Adjunct Faculty, Kean University, Union, New Jersey

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http://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html

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