

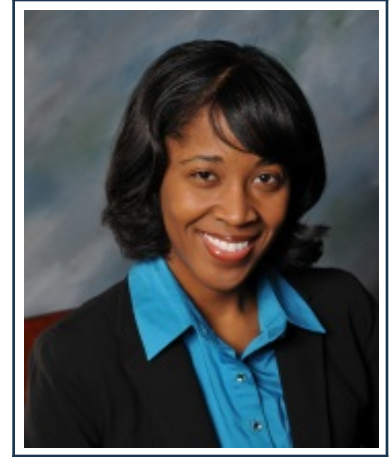
Crystal West Edwards, Partner

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Crystal West Edwards is Certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the ABA-accredited National Elder Law Foundation 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), the Elder and Disability Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA). She is a member of the Board of Directors for NAELA, a Past President of the New Jersey Chapter of NAELA and a Past President of GSBA. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a former adjunct faculty member at Kean University (Union, New Jersey). She was honored in 2012 by the State of New Jersey with a Senate Resolution for "her meritorious history of professional leadership and exemplary dedication" and 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."

PRACTICE AREAS

- ~ Elder and Special Needs Law
- ~ Estate, Gift & Charitable Planning

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; 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

- ~ Selected to the 2019 New Jersey Super Lawyers® * list, featured in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine, in the field of Elder Law
- ~ Included on the list of Morris/Essex Health & Life Magazine's 2018 "Top Lawyers" in Elder Law
- ~ AV® rated, the highest rating conferred by Martindale-Hubbell® for legal ability and professional ethics, based upon a peer review of the Bar and the Judiciary
- ~ Recipient of 2017 Distinguished Leader Award from the New Jersey Law Journal
- ~ Named to New Jersey Law Journal's 2016 Top Women in Law List
- ~ Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by ABA-accredited National Elder Law Foundation
- ~ Recipient of 2014 Garden State Bar Association Young Lawyer Award
- ~ Received State of New Jersey Senate Recognition for professional leadership and exemplary dedication
- ~ Repeatedly selected to the New Jersey Rising Stars® * list, featured in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine, in the field of Elder Law
- ~ Chosen as one of the *New Jersey Law Journal's* 2014 "New Leaders of the Bar"

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- ~ Co-moderated the 18th, 19th and 20th Annual Elder and Disability Law Symposium, New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NJICLE), New Brunswick, New Jersey
- ~ Co-authored, the Affordable Care Act and Its Impact on Individuals with Special Needs
- ~ "Advising Powers of Attorney and Guardians," NJICLE, Fairfield, New Jersey
- ~ "Administration of Special Needs Trusts," NJICLE, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- ~ "Elderly Immigrants and Language Loss," NJICLE, Princeton, New Jersey
- ~ "How to Deal with Government Agencies and Nursing Homes when Applying for Government Benefits," NJICLE, Iselin, 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
- ~ "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
- ~ “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

- ~ Board of Directors, NAELA
- ~ General Council Member, New Jersey State Bar Association
- ~ Diversity and Inclusion Trusted Advisors, Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University
- ~ Board of Directors of the Dickinson Law Alumni Society of the Pennsylvania State Alumni Association
- ~ Past President, New Jersey Chapter, NAELA
- ~ Past President, Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Life Member, Garden State Bar Association
- ~ Member, National Bar Association
- ~ Member, New Jersey Women Lawyers Association
- ~ Certified Elder Law Attorney by ABA Accredited National Elder Law Foundation
- ~ Member, Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, New Jersey
- ~ Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- ~ Former Adjunct Faculty Member, Kean University, Union, New Jersey

* The Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists are issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found at [Super Lawyers Selection Process](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.