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The Value of a Mentor

By **Jerold E. Rothkoff**

Everyone needs a mentor. My professional mentor was Timothy L. Takacs. The first time I met Tim Takacs was in 2005 when I traveled to Hendersonville,

Tennessee, located 15 miles north of Nashville to spend two days at his elder law office. I had heard a great deal about Tim over the preceding few years, particularly how he incorporated health care advocacy into his elder law practice. At that time, I had been practicing elder law for about five years, and I realized I needed to do more to assist our clients and families. I wanted to experience firsthand how Tim and his staff assisted clients. As I left Tim's office after my thirty-six-hour visit, I was awestruck how transformational incorporating health care advocacy into an elder law practice could be. I left determined to incorporate such advocacy into my practice.

For over thirty years, Tim has and continues to practice elder care law based in Hendersonville, TN. I, along with countless other elder law attorneys



Jerry and Timothy presenting a Life Care Planning seminar.

nationwide, have benefited from Tim's revolutionary guidance and vision. His innovations have transformed the practice of elder law in the United States and

have set a new standard of excellence in the field.

After Tim had been practicing law for about 10 years, an older gentleman walked into Tim's office. "My wife just went into a nursing home," he told Tim, "and I don't know what to do." Tim said, "I don't know either. But I'm going to find out how I can help you." Tim found out how to help this gentleman. In the mid-nineties he began adding non-lawyer health care professionals to his staff, including registered nurses and a licensed master social worker, to address quality of life and care issues that the challenge of old age and disability presents to his clients. Since then, he has never stopped trying to make life better for the thousands of clients and families who have sought his help.

Since 2005, I have continued to learn

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2023 Rothkoff Law Group Elder Care Symposium

Thank all who joined our 6th Annual Elder Care Symposium on October 19! Your unwavering support, involvement, and contributions have helped make the event a success, helping us foster a community that is committed to enhancing the quality of life for our elders. We look forward to continuing this journey together, creating pathways for more enriched and compassionate elder care.

Caregiver professionals throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey had the opportunity to nominate an outstanding caregiver in their community who offers exceptional service to an elderly person. Congratulations to Shakora Rose, of NursePartners for her exceptional care for seniors and for taking home this year's Caregiver Award. A wonderful job, as well, to our semi-finalists, Halyna Khalupa, of The Lambertville Estate and Katrina Garfield, of Serving Spirit Home Care. We appreciate all of the support and the valuable participation of our speakers, sponsors, and attendees. We look forward to seeing you at our 2024 Elder Care Symposium.



Shakora Rose receives the 2023 Caregiver Award from presenter Kathleen Magee, Rothkoff Law Group Director of Care Coordination.



Peter R. Abraldes, Chief Operating Officer, NursePartners Inc., 2023 Caregiver Award winner Shakora Rose, and Neena Vyasan, Clinical Coordinator, NursePartners Inc.

The Value of a Mentor *(Continued from front page)*

from Tim. Over countless dinners, discussions involving some quality bourbon, champagne or wine, Tim continued to instill knowledge and practice management skills. Tim saw something in me in 2005 that I did not know at the time I had. We have since become good professional friends, along with his former partners, Barbara McGinnis and Chris Johnson.

Tim and I have lectured together to other elder law attorneys nationwide, co-authored articles, founded a

consulting company with partners from both of our offices to teach other law firms how to incorporate an interdisciplinary team of experts to provide integrated client care services, and co-authored a book titled "A Life Care Plan," with members of both Rothkoff Law Group and Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law.

Thank you Tim for

your faith in me and your generosity and guidance. Rothkoff Law Group was the first elder care law firm to incorporate health care advocacy into its practice in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

However, we were able to do so because you provided the roadmap. We are forever transformed by our decision to take the journey down that road.



2024 Elder Law Numbers

2024 Medicare Numbers

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the new Medicare premiums, deductibles, and co-payments for 2024:

Basic Part B premium:	\$174.70/month (was \$164.90 in 2023)
Part B deductible:	\$240 (was \$226.00 in 2023)
Part A deductible:	\$1,632 (was \$1,600 in 2023)
Co-payment for hospital stay days 61-90: . . .	\$408/day (was \$400 in 2023)
Co-payment for hospital stay days 91-150: . .	\$816/day (was \$800 in 2023)
All costs for each day beyond 150 days	
Skilled nursing facility co-payment, days 21-100:	\$204/day (was \$200.00 in 2023)

Also, individuals with annual incomes over \$103,000 and married couples with annual incomes over \$206,000 will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium, with a minimum monthly premium of \$244.60.

2024 Medicaid Numbers

Maximum Community Spouse Resource Allowance:	\$154,140 (was \$148,620 in 2023)
Minimum Community Spouse Resource Allowance:	\$30,828 (was \$29,724 in 2023)
Maximum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance:	\$3,853.50 (was \$3,715.50 in 2023)
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance:	\$2,465 (thru June 30, 2024)
Medicaid Waiver Benefits Income Cap:	\$2,829 per month (was \$2,742 in 2023)
Pennsylvania Medicaid Penalty Divisor:	\$379.65/day , as of 1/1/24
New Jersey Medicaid Penalty Divisor:	\$384.57/day , since 4/1/23

2024 VA Aid and Attendance

Single Veteran	\$2,300/mo.
Married Veteran	\$2,727/mo.
Widowed Spouse	\$1,478/mo.
Net Worth Limit	\$155,356



2024 Rothkoff Law Group Calendar

Now available! We are pleased to present the 2024 Rothkoff Law Group Create-A-Calendar which features artwork created by New Jersey and Pennsylvania senior care community residents and staff. Thank you to all our long-term care community partners and their residents for their valuable contribution to the 2024 Rothkoff Law Group calendar. Request a copy: rothkofflaw.com/resources

THE ROTHKOFF QUARTERLY – Published for clients and friends of ROTHKOFF LAW GROUP

The success of our firm is a direct reflection of our clients and the referral sources who have supported us. Therefore, we actively welcome your referrals as well as your input regarding the contents of this newsletter. We also welcome comments on the quality of legal services our offices provide.

Request a complimentary guide!



rothkofflaw.com/resources

Events Calendar

Visit our **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** page on our website!

Do you receive our Monthly eNewsletter?
 See the **JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER** section on our home page: rothkofflaw.com

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Rothkoff Law Group Client Appreciation Event



Thank you to all our clients and their families who attended our Client Appreciation Event at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on December 9, 2023. It was so wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves with their families, including many with multiple generations of family members attending. We wish all our clients and their families a wonderful and fulfilling 2024.

