

JULIE OSTERHOUT

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Of Counsel*

LANCE MCKINNEY

Certified Elder Law Attorney

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*Certified Elder Law Attorney
Certified Circuit Civil Mediator*

BRITTON G. SWANK

Elder Law Attorney

If you have clients who need assistance with finding the right place for their ill family member to live and determining how to pay for it, **we can assist them with becoming eligible for Medicaid.**

If you have clients who are unable to care for themselves and make their own decisions, **we can assist their loved ones with becoming their guardian.**

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WORDS TO THE WISE

May 2008

Alzheimer's Safety Program

May is Older American's Month and more than five million Americans are now living with Alzheimer's disease according to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America website. Therefore, we thought it would be a good time to remind our readers about a safety program for those suffering from Alzheimer's and their caregivers, provided by the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center in Fort Myers. The Center's Safety Program includes tools to alert emergency workers rescuing a caregiver that a memory impaired adult lives in the home. Instructions are provided about how to contact the designated respite caregiver to ensure that the Alzheimer's person is not left alone in the home. The packet also includes an application for an identification bracelet to help identify a memory impaired adult and reunite them with their caregiver in the event they become lost. The bracelets are available to all Lee County residents. To get a Safety Program Packet, call the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center at 239-437-3007.

Sources: www.alzfdn.org/AboutAlzheimers/statistics.html; www.alzheimersswfl.org/

GlaxoSmithKline Betting on Wine

Pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) announced last month that it will buy American biotechnology company Sirtris Pharmaceuticals. The purchase is of particular interest during Older American Month because Sirtris has been researching resveratrol, a red wine ingredient, and its effect on aging. The chief executive of Sirtris was quoted in a recent New York Times.com article as saying that drugs which mimic resveratrol, by activating enzymes called sirtuins, could treat in a safe, natural new way, many of the major killers of western society. GSK will pay \$720 million in cash for Sirtris.

Source: www.nytimes.com/2008/04/23/business/23wine.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Lee County Emergency Preparedness Conference for People with Disabilities

A free conference focusing on how caregivers and disabled individuals can prepare for emergencies such as natural disasters will be held on June 27, 2008. The day-long conference begins at 8:30 am and will be held at the Three Oaks Banquet and Conference Center, located at 20991 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida 33928. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided free of charge. The event is sponsored by the Health Planning Council of SW Florida, the Governor's Task Force on Disabilities, and local agencies. Seating is limited so call 239-433-6700 to register by phone.