



Special Needs Alliance— Membership Has Its Benefits!



Attorneys for special needs planning.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLIANCE

The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is an invitation-only national not for profit organization comprised of attorneys committed to the practice of disability and public benefits law. SNA membership is based on a combination of relevant legal experience in the disability and elder law fields, direct family experience with disability, active participation with national, state and local disability advocacy organizations, and professional reputation.

SNA Membership Benefits

Outstanding in-person and virtual educational opportunities

As a member, outstanding educational opportunities await you, whether attending in person at the Spring and Fall meetings, or virtually through SNA's Armchair Chat series offered 10 times a year. Our in-person events not only offer top-notch continuing legal education, but also foster camaraderie, networking, and the forging of valuable professional relationships among colleagues. Webinars are recorded and conveniently accessible on the members-only website for viewing at your convenience.

Registration fees at educational programs

Unlike other professional organizations, your SNA membership dues include attendance at two in-person meetings and 10 Armchair Chats per year. That means you do not have to pay any additional fees to attend our exceptional conferences.

SNA website

Over the years, SNA's public-facing website has evolved into a comprehensive hub of content and resources. It remains a valuable resource for families and professionals in search of SNT attorneys and information to assist their loved ones and clients. Our website offers SNA members unparalleled exposure and publicity, enhancing their visibility within the community. Your firm's listing on the SNA website is a benefit of your membership and comes at no extra cost.

Members-only website

SNA members have exclusive access to a members-only website featuring an extensive online library of timely and downloadable content that includes articles, presentation templates, past conference materials, audio recordings of educational sessions, and more.



The SNA is very important to me because it enables me to operate as if I am an integral part of a national special needs attorney law firm. Whenever I encounter a unique question or situation, I have immediate access to the expertise of the top 150 plus special needs attorneys in the country to help me solve my clients' problems. Unlike other special needs associations with open enrollment policies, where membership is contingent on dues payment alone, the SNA ensures that all its members possess exceptional skills and maintain the highest professional standing in the field. This high level of expertise throughout the organization and throughout the country makes the SNA invaluable to me and my clients.

- Lawrence E. Davidow, CELA



My membership in the Special Needs Alliance has been one of the most rewarding of my career. From its advocacy efforts at the national level and its ongoing educational efforts for our membership and for families who are facing a myriad of disability related concerns, the access, information, and collegiality is unmatched.

- Tara Anne Pleat, CELA

Access to a robust SNA Listserv

Our listserv is an invaluable service allowing you to exchange best-practices, ask questions, and brainstorm with your colleagues. Within this community forum, SNA members generously share their expertise.

Publications

E-Publications—*The Voice*® newsletter our *Loud & Clear* blog, reach thousands of subscribers—from attorneys and family members, referral sources, and important players in the special needs advocacy communities. These publications are available for SNA members to share with their clients and referral sources.

Handbooks and Brochures—SNA members have access to two handbooks (also available in Spanish): Handbook for Trustees, and What You Need to Know About Being an Adult with Disabilities: A Handbook for Self-Advocates, Parents, Guardians and their Loved Ones. In addition, we offer 10 brochures on topics such as "What Happens When I Turn 18?;" "Brief Guide to Special Needs Trusts;" "Buying a Home for a Person with Disabilities;" "Estate Planning for Parents of Children with Disabilities;" and more. The handbooks and brochures are available for download and can be printed and personalized for an additional fee.



When asked why I am a member of the SNA, I usually give a two pronged answer. There are the obvious benefits that you can gather by looking at the organization's website; access to the greatest brain trust of special needs attorneys, scholarly and marketing friendly articles to learn and help promote your business, annual conferences at great locations, and legitimacy as the acceptance to the organization is not an easy process. The not so obvious benefits are the friendships you develop with other attorneys working in the same field and with the same passions that you have for helping people. Then there is the cost effectiveness of membership. A \$4,000 a year membership costs \$11 a day. With SNA's national presence we get on average six (6) cases a year directly from membership in the SNA. Our cases are on average \$4,000, that's \$24,000 a year. That is a 600% return on my investment.

- Matthew T. Smith, MBA, JD



The SNA is unquestionably the most valuable organization I have been a part of during my professional career. The vast knowledge and expertise of our members in all aspects of planning for individuals with disabilities, protecting their benefits and advocating at state and federal levels in all areas of special needs is exceptional. Being a member of the SNA enables me to better serve my clients and the community in which I practice.

-Amy C. O'Hara, CELA



Being a part of the Special Needs Alliance is one of the professional accomplishments with which I am most proud. Setting aside the fact that the referrals I get via the website and from fellow members pay for the annual dues many times over, the true value of participating in this organization is the relationships with other members. We get to share ideas and learn from the greatest minds in the country, develop new friendships, to add to those many long-term ones we've had, and to bring that collective experience into the lives of our clients.

- Robert F. Brogan, CELA

SNA Membership Benefits (continued)

Advocacy and public policy efforts

As an SNA member, you stay informed about legislative developments pertinent to your practice. Furthermore, members enjoy the advantages of strategic national partnerships with advocacy organizations and participate in public policy advocacy at the national level. Some of the impactful public policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of SNA members include initiatives such as the SECURE Act, Childhood Disability Benefits Fairness Act, Special Needs Trusts Fairness Act, and others.

Public relations and marketing

SNA's strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn actively promotes our members and the important work they do. Through our public relations efforts, SNA members are positioned to be thought leaders in the field of special needs law.

A built-in network of your peers

The SNA's most valuable asset is its members. As an invitation-only, peer-reviewed association with members in almost 50 states, the SNA offers access to the finest and most esteemed special needs planning attorneys in the nation. As a member, you have the ability to reach out to attorneys eager to share their wealth of expertise, and receive *direct referrals* from them.

Member satisfaction

SNA boasts an impressive annual membership retention rate of more than 90%! Once accepted for membership, our members tend to stay with us throughout their careers. This remarkable loyalty speaks to several factors: SNA provides outstanding benefits and fosters a community where seasoned SNT attorneys can connect. However, what truly sets SNA apart is that it extends beyond the realm of special needs law—SNA members are more than just colleagues; they are friends, and many have formed lifelong friendships through their involvement.

For more information on membership in the SNA, contact Jihane Davidow at jihane@specialneedsalliance.org