

Starting Soon...



**MEDICAID  
MONDAY**  
PIERRO, CONNOR & STRAUSS, LLC

# **Hot Topics at the 31<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder Law Forum: A Preview**

May 11, 2026

**Louis W. Pierro, Esq.**  
Founding Partner

**Aaron E. Connor, Esq.**  
Managing Partner

**Frank E. Hemming, Esq.**  
Partner





# Our Team Of Attorneys



Louis Pierro



Aaron Connor



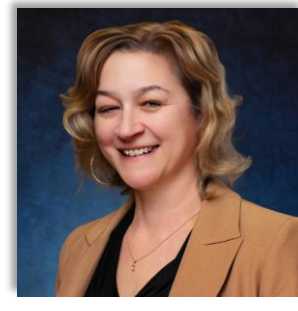
Frank Hemming



Peter Strauss



Anthony Khatchoui



Theresa Skaine



Arkley Mastro



Verley Brown



Michael Mullaney



Patricia Whelan



Tommaso Marasco



Adrianna Mihalek



Ethan Van Vorst



Avery Mickle

## **Serving New York State Residents Through Offices in:**

Albany, New York City, Hudson, Garden City, Ronkonkoma, Lake Placid, Utica  
Serving Clients in NJ, CT, and FL



# Agenda

- **When, Where and How to register for the Forum**
- **Ask Your Questions Here – Get Answers at the Forum!**
- **CE Credits for Licensed NYS Social Workers**
- **State Budget and Policy updates**
- **Medicaid Home Care**
- **Affording Long-Term Care – private options**
- **Plus – 3 dynamic panel sessions!**



**31st Annual**  
**ELDER LAW  
FORUM**

**Thursday**  
**May 14, 2026**  
**8:30AM – 4:00PM**

**REGISTER:**  
[www.pierrolaw.com/events](http://www.pierrolaw.com/events)

**Free to Attend**

**Two ways to Attend**  
**Crowne Plaza - Desmond**



**OR**





# At the Desmond

**8:00-8:30AM Registration, Coffee and Danish**

**8:30AM-4:00PM Program  
Lunch – Koi Pond**

**Meet over 30 Exhibitors  
– chance to win an Oura Ring raffle**





# NYS Licensed Social Workers

- Earn 6 CE Credits for Attending the Forum, whether you attend in Albany or by Zoom
- Sponsored by NYS Education Department  
Accredited non-profit:



Register  
[https://www.pierrolaw.com/  
annual-elder-law-forum-  
social-workers/](https://www.pierrolaw.com/annual-elder-law-forum-social-workers/)

- Administrative Fee: \$140



# We've Come a Long Way in 31 Years



<b>1995</b>	Small seminar for about 30 people
<b>1996</b>	Governor's Task Force on LTC Reform
<b>2005</b>	Elder Law Section report on Long Term Care Compact for Long-Term Care Bill
<b>Next 20 years</b>	The Age Wave LTCI Falters Medicaid budget explodes - \$120 bil. in 2026 Staffing Shortages cripple LTC Facilities and Agencies Institutional failure – Hospitals, Nursing Home closings Families forced to make difficult choices – children, spouses, parents Medicaid eligibility expanded but the path to home care is treacherous
<b>2026</b>	



# Then and Now: Have the Issues Changed!?!

- ▶ **New York's aging population is rapidly expanding**
- ▶ **Medicaid Spending = ~40% NYS Budget**
- ▶ **Congress passed deep Medicaid cuts that take effect in 2027**
- ▶ **Majority want to age AT HOME but it's become harder to find help**
- ▶ **Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care: -funding, staffing retention pressures**



***Who Has Solutions??***



# The Senators: Policies, Programs and Budgets



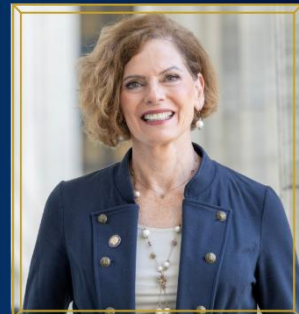
**BENITA ZAHN, NBC-HWC**  
Certified Health and  
Wellness Coach



**JACOB ASHBY**  
NYS Senator, 43rd District  
Committee on Aging (Ranking)



**CORDELL CLEARE**  
NYS Senator, 30th District  
Chair, Committee on Aging



**PATRICIA FAHY**  
NYS Senator, 46th District  
Chair, Disabilities Committee

## Elder Law Forum Opening Session

Dr. Benita Zahn, Certified Health & Wellness Coach –  
Moderator

### 8:40-9:30AM

Cordell Cleare, Chair, Aging Committee  
Jake Ashby, Committees on Aging, Health, Disabilities  
Pat Fahy, Chair, Committee on Disabilities

**What will the budget agreement announced by the  
Governor on Thursday mean for funding and policies to  
care for NY's aging and disabled residents?**



# State Leaders: Health Care and LTC Policy

**9:30-10:30AM**

**Dr. James McDonald**

Commissioner  
NYS Department of Health

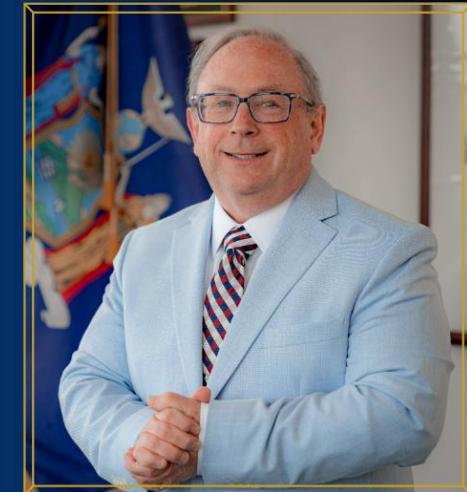
**Greg Olsen**

Director  
NYS Office for the Aging

## UPDATE FROM THE NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



**GREG OLSEN**



**DR. JAMES MCDONALD**



# Medicaid Home Care Update

**11:00 – 11:40AM**

**ADL rules**

**CDPAP transitions**

**NHTD waiver**

**Fair Hearing changes**

**...and more**



**VALERIE BOGART**

Medicaid Advocate and Of Counsel to the New York Legal Assistance Group

**DON'T MISS THE LATEST  
MEDICAID UPDATES AT THE FORUM**



# Preventing & Prosecuting Elder Financial Exploitation



**AARON CONNOR, ESQ.**  
Managing Partner,  
Pierro, Connor & Strauss



**LEE KINDLON**  
Albany County District Attorney



**BETH FINKEL**  
State Director,  
AARP New York



**ANDRE LINGHAM**  
CEO,  
Safe Aging Strategies, Inc.

**11:40AM – 12:30PM**

**Growing crisis- fraud, scams, theft**

In 2024, adults age 60+ in New York lost \$257,658,301 to elder fraud\*

NYS ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among top states in complaints and financial losses among older victims\*

\*Source: AARP NY



# Don't Believe the Noise: Consider LTC Insurance NOW

**1:20-1:50 PM**

**Insuring Long-Term Care:  
Value, Flexibility and Options**

**Traditional vs. Hybrid**

**Life Insurance w/ Rider**

**Reimbursements vs. Indemnity**

**New Community Medicaid II program  
in NY, paired with state tax incentive**



**ROBERT VANDY**  
President,  
Advisors Insurance Brokers



**SHAWN BRITT**  
Director, LTC Initiatives,  
Advanced Consulting Group,  
Nationwide



# Home Care: Can We Keep the Promise?



**LOUIS PIERRO**

Founding Partner & Conference Host  
Pierro, Connor & Strauss



**BECKY PREVE**

Executive Director,  
Association on Aging in NY



**JOSEPH TWARDY**

President, Health Plans CAO,  
Nascenia Health



**AL CARDILLO**

President and CEO,  
Home Care Association of NYS



**ANNE SANSEVERO**

Co-Founder,  
Holistic HomeCare Associates

## 1:50-2:50PM

- **Care is fragmented.**
- **Families are overwhelmed.**
- **Costs are rising.**
- **The workforce is shrinking.**

**CAN WE STILL MAKE AGING IN PLACE WORK?**



# When Home Care Won't Work

**2:50-3:40PM**

**Transitioning to Assisted Living  
and Nursing Care:  
Making the Right Move**

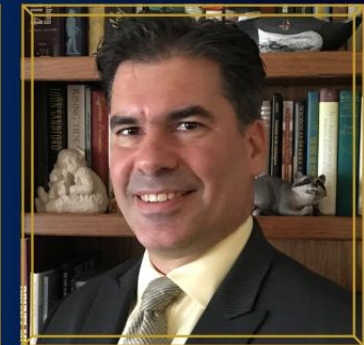
**What actually happens when a  
loved one can't safely remain at  
home, and what options exist?**



**FRANK HEMMING**  
Partner,  
Pierro, Connor & Strauss



**JOSH BRODY**  
Counsel,  
NYSARC Trust Services



**PAUL BELITSIS**  
COO & CFO,  
Promenade Senior Living



**SANDRA SULLIVAN-SMITH**  
VP of Residential Services,  
St. Peter's Health Partners, The Eddy



**DIANE MICKLE GOTEBIOWSKI**  
Vice President,  
EverHome Care Advisors

31st Annual  
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**If you haven't reserved your spot, now is the time.**

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**REGISTER:**  
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**Questions? [info@pierrolaw.com](mailto:info@pierrolaw.com)**



# **NEXT MEDICAID MONDAY WEBINAR**

**“Medicaid and Special Needs:  
Preserving Benefits.  
Protecting the Future.”**

**June 8, 2026  
12:00-12:30PM**

**REGISTER:  
[pierrolaw.com/events](https://pierrolaw.com/events)**



**VIEW OUR VIDEO LIBRARY:  
[pierrolaw.com/videos](https://pierrolaw.com/videos)**



**THANK YOU!**

**Schedule a  
Consultation :**  
[pierrolaw.com/contact](http://pierrolaw.com/contact)

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