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# May 2022 Newsletter

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26th Annual Golf Tournament

Presented by:  
**KeyBank**



Join us for for our 26th Annual Golf Tournament!

We're thrilled to announce that registration is open for our upcoming yearly golf tournament, to be held on **September 19th, 2022**, at **Wanakah Country Club**. Enjoy a day filled with excitement and fun all while making a difference for your community.

This year we'll be returning to our "shotgun style," start format. Registration includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, and on-course refreshments and snacks! Golf spots and sponsorships are already selling so register today!

**Register Now!**

- or visit -

[www.tinyurl.com/CELJGOLFTOURNAMENT](http://www.tinyurl.com/CELJGOLFTOURNAMENT)



# ANNUAL REPORT **2021**



## Annual Report 2021

We're excited to share our 2021 Annual Report! Last year was an eventful one for our agency. We saved taxpayers across New York State **\$889,542** and helped our clients save or recover **\$3,984,390.77**. Our presence in the community as pandemic restrictions lifted flourished from 134 to 209 events serving **151,988** attendees. With new grant funding and continued support from donors like you, our programs grew to better serve the community through the diligence of our dedicated staff, who themselves received numerous well-deserved awards and recognitions.

Check out the report to catch up on the latest about our programs, people, and community! This past year wouldn't have been the success it was without your dedicated support.

[Read it Now!](#)





## Fidèle Menavanza

### Board Member Interview

The Center for Elder Law & Justice (CELJ) is thrilled to be welcoming Fidèle Menavanza to our board. In some ways, stepping onto the board is a return for Fidèle, he worked for CELJ for 7 years in the Kinship and Immigration units, but if you were to ask him, he doesn't think of it that way.

**"I never really left CELJ by the way. I feel like I'm home when I'm talking about CELJ...I kept CELJ with me...I have been there (all along), I was just away and am back in a different capacity."**

These days you can find Fidèle working on compliance for Jericho Road, an organization providing health care and supportive programs for underserved communities, where Fidèle also served as a board member for many years. When asked about what kind of experience he would be bringing to his new role, he responded, "I would say it's kind of a circle."

"I took from CELJ, I brought that here to Jericho Road, and I'll take the experience I'm building here and bring it back to CELJ...working for CELJ helped me to get my hands on different types of law...I brought that experience to Jericho Road and it helped me to cover a lot of legal questions or non-legal questions...I'm thankful to have worked for CELJ and with the people surrounding me at that time."

Fidèle certainly made the most of his time with CELJ, receiving the prestigious Liberty Bell Award from the Erie County Bar Association for his exemplary work strengthening the American system of Freedom under the law.

When asked what motivates him to volunteer, Fidèle said, "I gained a lot from this community, from CELJ, and there is no reason why I should not give back. I'm very blessed, I'm very privileged, to be a part of this community and to have worked in an active way for CELJ."

Finally, when asked what about the mission draws him in, Fidèle had this to say, "Specifically because CELJ is the voice of the voiceless. Having CELJ as a way of expressing the need and concern for those that don't have a voice or cannot be heard by their community or society, definitely makes CELJ a good organization. The work CELJ does makes the difference."

"The way we treat people, the way we take care of them, the way we support them. We go alongside them and assure they can be with dignity in a society that is broken...The need is there and CELJ has its place in this community, in the city, in the state, and in this country. The future is bright, that's my sense."

We are so happy to welcome you back Fidèle, even if you never really left.

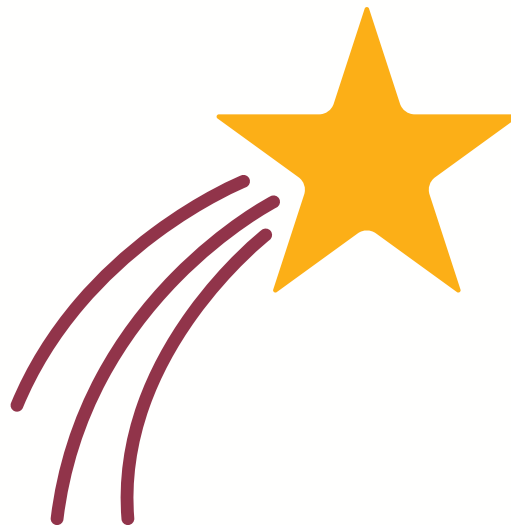
# RISING STAR 2019-2022



## Supervising Attorney Kelly Barrett Sarama Named Rising Star

It is a pleasure to share that one of our hard-working attorneys, Kelly Barrett Sarama, has been recognized in this year's issue of ***Upstate New York Super Lawyers Magazine*** (by Thomson Reuters) for the work she's done for our community. Kelly is also a top rated administrative law attorney in Buffalo.

The objective of Super Lawyers is to create a credible, diverse, and comprehensive list of attorneys that can be used as a resource for attorneys or consumers seeking legal services.





# Client Stories:

At 101 years old, Wanda Bell\* thought it would be simple to have her leaky roof repaired. This wasn't the case however, as she hired **2 different contractors** that cashed her deposits and never returned to do the work they promised.

Wanda was connected with **The Elder Advocacy Program** in Dunkirk and our office set to work. We secured a money judgment order against the first contractor allowing those lost funds to be legally pursued in collections.

When Troy Davison\* found himself in a difficult situation, he wasn't sure how to get help. His adult daughter was physically abusive with him and his spouse and he couldn't visit our office on his own.

Ultimately, Troy was able to speak with a staff attorney in the community at a **Mobile Legal Unit** event where he learned about his options and where they can seek help in the future if they decide they want to.

\*All names changed to protect the identity of our clients

# ELDER LAW DAY 2022

Save the Date for the **2022 Virtual Elder Law Day Summer Series!** Co-hosted by CELJ and the Erie County Department of Senior Services, this series is designed to provide information on legal issues affecting older adults to assist them (and their caregivers) in making informed choices about their health, financial well-being, and long term health care needs.

This year, the series will kick off on **Tuesday, July 12th**, with presentations available every Tuesday and Wednesday at **10:00am**.

Topics will include:

- Basic Estate Planning
- Asset Protection for Long Term Care
- Guardianship 101
- Mediation of Family Matters
- Adult Care Facilities - What Residents and Families Need to Know
- Housing Issues Facing Seniors
- Financial Planning for Retirement
- Scam Prevention
- and more!

Sign up to receive updates and reminders about future Elder Law Day presentations below:

[Get Reminders!](#)

- or visit -

<https://tinyurl.com/55tk5a>

Contact Liam McMahon at [lmcmahon@elderjusticeny.org](mailto:lmcmahon@elderjusticeny.org) or (716) 853-3087 x257 for more information or to request accommodations. Request required at least 1 week in advance.



# Crypto Scams Webinar Recap

At the end of April, technology-based legal services attorney Erin Riker delivered a webinar breaking down cryptocurrency scams, what cryptocurrency is, and how to avoid losing money to these scams. Below are some of the top tips!

## Top Tips:



4.) What is Cryptocurrency? Cryptocurrency is a digital form of currency that is not regulated by any central authority or government. It's virtually impossible to counterfeit and can be equally as difficult to track.



3.) What is a Crypto-scam? A crypto-scam could be any scam that requires payment in cryptocurrency (like a romance or imposter scam) **or** a scam that tries to convince you to invest in a fake or risky cryptocurrency.

2.) Scammers like to use cryptocurrency because it's gaining in popularity but many people do not understand it. It also makes it easy for scammers to claim stolen funds but avoid being tracked.

1.) Cryptocurrency is gaining popularity! According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) scams using cryptocurrency rose from the 7th to the 2nd riskiest type of scam.

**Watch the Webinar Here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FymrQ6nIRj8>

**Sign Up for Future Webinar Reminders Here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/36dz956s>

# Upcoming Events



## Details:

**May  
12**

**10:00am - 2:00pm**

### Senior Health and Resource Fair

BFLO Event Center (In Eastern Hills Mall)  
4475 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Come visit CELJ at this free resource fair for older adults and caregivers; over 40 expert vendors will be on hand to answer your questions and provide information on home care, senior living, assisted living, estate planning, senior real estate, social day centers, downsizing specialists, Medicare, memory care/Alzheimer's, geriatric care, and much more!

**May  
12**

**1:00 - 5:00pm**

### Educational Mental Health Fair

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

The Mental Health Awareness Flash Mob will be returning to downtown Buffalo's Central Library on May 12th. This year, in the aftermath of the pandemic, we'll be focusing on youthful alternatives for wellness. Come and meet local community organizations and services! CELJ staff will be available to hand out informational materials and answer questions about our services.

**May  
20**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

### Mobile Legal Unit - Cheektowaga Silver Pride Coffee Hour

Cheektowaga Senior Center  
3349 Broadway Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Our mobile legal unit will be available at the Silver Pride Coffee Hour, hosted by the Pride Center for WNY. Our staff will be available to discuss LGBTQ services available at our office and to provide free legal consultations to seniors on most legal topics. Special focus will be given to advance medical directives and planning for the future.

**May  
25**

**12:00 - 1:00pm**

### Unit Presentation - Elder Advocacy Program

Masonic Lodge  
14 Temple Street, Portville, NY 14770

Spend some time with CELJ staff and learn about services available through our Elder Advocacy Program in Dunkirk. If interested, call the Nutrition Site to make your lunch reservation at (716) 9333-7080.

**May  
25**

**12:00 - 3:00pm**

### Mobile Legal Unit - Allegany County.

Crossroads Center  
6087 NYS Route 19, N. Belmont, NY

Our mobile legal unit will be available to residents of Allegany county at Crossroads Center. Free legal consultations for seniors will be available for most legal topics. Call the Allegany OFA at **585-268-9390** to reserve your spot.

For More Information or to Request Accommodations  
(Requests Required 1-Week in Advance):  
Liam McMahon - (716) 853-3087 (ext. 257)  
lmcmahon@elderjusticenyc.org

(Cont.)



# Upcoming Events



## Details:

**May  
25**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

### Joint Senior Center Health and Fitness Resource Fair

Clarence Town Park Clubhouse  
10405 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14031

Our goals for this resource fair are to increase knowledge of health/ wellness choices and important resources available to seniors in our community in order to foster personal health awareness; provide a variety of educational materials; and to motivate participants to make positive health and fitness behavior changes. CELJ staff will be on-site to hand out informational materials and answer questions about our services!

**May  
26**

**12:00 - 1:00pm**

### Webinar - Scams 101 Spot the Red Flags

Online Webinar  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8dvn8d>

Join the Center for Elder Law & Justice as we go back to basics for Scams 101! Learn about common scams facing older adults, how to spot red flags, and steps you can take to protect yourself.

**May  
27**

**10:00am - 2:00pm**

### Mobile Legal Unit - West Side Community Services

West Side Community Services  
161 Vermont Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Join CELJ for a Mobile Legal Unit event and meet with an attorney for a free one-on-one legal consultation. We can assist seniors with most legal matters and offer free legal & financial health check-ups. Representatives from Senator Sean Ryans' office & Assebmlymember Jon Rivera's office will be available for questions.

**June  
6**

**1:00 - 2:30pm**

### Unit Presentation - Health Care Advocacy Program

Town of Evans Senior Center  
999 Sturgeon Point Road, Derby, NY 14047

Join supervising and staff attorney Kelly Sarama and Robert Neil for a presentation explaining our Health Care Advocacy Program, what services are available, and a breakdown of Medicaid and Medicare! To be followed by a question and answer session.

For More Information or to Request Accommodations  
(Requests Required 1-Week in Advance):  
Liam McMahon - (716) 853-3087 (ext. 257)  
[lmcmahon@elderjusticenyc.org](mailto:lmcmahon@elderjusticenyc.org)

(Cont.)

# Upcoming Events



## Details:

**June  
18**

**7:45am - 5:00pm**

### Hope Chest Annual Buffalo Niagara Dragon Boat Festival

Buffalo RiverWorks  
359 Ganson Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

See the majestic sport of Dragon Boat Racing at the Hope Chest Annual Buffalo Niagara Dragon Boat Festival. Join us for a day of dragon boat racing and fun-filled activities for the whole family. CELJ staff will have table with informational resources and will be able to answer questions about our services.

**June  
22**

**12:45 - 3:30pm**

### Unit Presentation - Health Care Advocacy Program

Orchard Park Senior Center  
4520 California Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Join supervising and staff attorney Kelly Sarama and Robert Neil for a presentation explaining our Health Care Advocacy Program, what services are available, and a breakdown of Medicaid and Medicare! To be followed by a question and answer session. **Registration required, call (716) 662-6452.**

For More Information or to Request Accommodations  
(Requests Required 1-Week in Advance):  
Liam McMahon - (716) 853-3087 (ext. 257)  
[lmcmahon@elderjusticenyc.org](mailto:lmcmahon@elderjusticenyc.org)