



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lee Eakin Awarded National Certified Guardian Excellence Award**

During the National Guardianship Association's Annual Conference in Portland, Ore., Lee Eakin, ACSW, NCG, was recognized with the National Certified Guardian Excellence Award. One of the highest honors bestowed by the Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC), the award recognizes the person's exemplary work as a CGC National Certified Guardian and demonstrated knowledge of advanced guardianship concepts, ethics and issues.

Since 2002 when Eakin began working as a Case Manager in the Guardianship Program in Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service in West Palm Beach, Fla., he has served 165 persons under guardianship. In 2006, he assumed his current post as Director of the Guardianship Program, which has six full-time employees.

Because Eakin stands in the shoes of each vulnerable person under guardianship, he works diligently to preserve the dignity of their rights. He focuses on bringing respect and a sense of personhood to his clients. For example, Eakin visits frequently with a 96-year-old person under guardianship. Every visit, she retells a particular story of her travels as a younger woman. Although hearing the story has no clinical value, he listens as if he is hearing the story for the first time. He knows that recounting this story brings his client great joy.

Eakin not only advances the National Guardianship Association's Standards and Model Code of Ethics in his own practice, but also has been instrumental in advancing them in the state of Florida. He was the driving force behind the state association's adoption of a policy that professional members of the association must read and affirm by signature that they have read and will practice in accordance with the National Guardianship Association's Model Code of Ethics.

To bring information and sensitivity about ethics to colleagues, Eakin encouraged the organizers of the 2011 State Guardianship Conference to highlight the topic of Ethics in Guardianship. He also makes presentations himself; Eakin has presented for two years at the Elder Law Section's "Elder Concert," expanding the interface and positive relationship among the legal and guardian communities.

Eakin has an unusual ability to connect with his clients, regardless of their age or disability. He believes in ethical values, which means he takes the extra time to do things which allow clients to feel recognized and to maintain some self-worth. Eakin comprises the characteristics that being the first NCG Excellence Award recipient requires.

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CGC was founded in 1997 by the National Guardianship Association and is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA. CGC has 1,700 National Certified Guardians and 63 National Master Guardians. For more information about national guardianship certification or to find a guardian, conservator or fiduciary in your area, please visit [www.guardianshipcert.org](http://www.guardianshipcert.org).