



Special needs require special attorneys.

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Contact: William Whitaker
Office: 520.232.9840 / Cell: 520.419.5384
wwhitaker@russellpublic.com

SNA MEMBER COURTNEY WINS THERESA AWARD

(JACKSON, Miss.) – **Special Needs Alliance (SNA)** member **Richard Courtney** and founding partner of noted Mississippi practice **Frascoigna Courtney PLLC** has received the 2009 **Theresa Award** from the **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)**. The award is given annually by the **Theresa Alessandra Russo Foundation** to a NAELA member whose advocacy and support preserves the dignity, protects the rights and improves the quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

Along with the award, the Theresa Alessandra Russo Foundation provides a cash grant of \$2,500 to an organization selected by the award recipient that assists and supports children with special needs. Courtney has selected Brandon, Mississippi-based **The Mustard Seed** (www.mustardseedinc.com) to receive this year's grant.

Courtney, who came to practice special needs law after learning in 1979 that one of his twin daughters, Melanie, had cerebral palsy, serves on the NAELA Board of Directors, lectures as an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, and has held both a board position and the presidency of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

"I have seen the strengths and struggles of my daughters and wife as we have dealt with Melanie's needs for 30 years," Courtney said, "and I am privileged to serve families dealing with disabilities in finding and fighting for resources, independence and quality of life. I applaud the Theresa Foundation for their great generosity to this community."

About the Special Needs Alliance:

The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is a national, not for profit organization of attorneys dedicated to the practice of disability and public benefits law. Individuals with disabilities, their families and their advisors rely on the SNA to connect them with nearby attorneys who focus their practices in the disability law arena. 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. The majority have been certified as Elder Law Attorneys (CELAs) by the National Elder Law Foundation, the certifying entity for the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

For more information about the Special Needs Alliance, or to locate a member attorney in your area, visit www.specialneedsalliance.org or call 1-877-572-8472.

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