



NICOLE M. HAWKS

Member

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OVERVIEW

Nicole Hawks is a member with the firm's Estate Planning and Elder Law practices. She has extensive experience working with seniors and their families to address the myriad concerns of older Americans and has successfully completed the examination process to earn certification as a specialist in Elder Law from the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF). She is one of only 38 attorneys in the State of Ohio to have earned the NELF certification. She is also a Certified Specialist in Elder Law by the Ohio State Bar Association. Nicole assists clients in estate and retirement planning, powers of attorney, and Medicaid planning strategies, as well as working with Veterans in navigating VA pension benefit programs.

Nicole is a frequent speaker on elder law issues and presents informative seminars regularly to local organizations that represent the concerns of seniors, as well as to retirement and senior communities across Northeast and Central Ohio.

EDUCATION

Capital University Law School, J.D.

Ohio University, B.A., *cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

Ohio

United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Accredited Attorney

PRACTICE AREAS

ELDER LAW

- CAPACITY ASSESSMENT
- LONG-TERM CARE ASSET PROTECTION
- MEDICAID PLANNING AND APPLICATIONS
- SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING
- VETERAN'S BENEFITS

ESTATE PLANNING, PROBATE, AND TRUST ADMINISTRATION

- CHARITABLE PLANNING
- GUARDIANSHIPS
- SOPHISTICATED ESTATE PLANNING

CERTIFICATIONS

National Elder Law Foundation Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA)

Ohio State Bar Association Certified Specialist in Elder Law

RECOGNITIONS

- Ashland Young Professionals Award “4 Under 40,” Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce (2024)
- Noted for Elder Law and Trusts and Estates in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch (2023-2024)

AFFILIATIONS

- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ashland County Bar Association

IN THE COMMUNITY

- United Way of Ashland County
 - Board Member (2022-current)
 - Board President (2023-current)
 - Allocations Committee (2022-current)
- Ashland Area YMCA
 - Board Member (2020-current)
 - Board Secretary (2022-current)
- Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce Board Member (2022-current)
- Leadership Ashland – Class of 2020
- Ashland Pro Bono work assisting Veterans in obtaining VA Improved Pension Benefits
- Past lay Guardian ad Litem for CASA of Franklin County

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Frequent speaker on elder law issues (Veteran’s Benefits, Medicaid Benefits, Long-Term Care Counsel and Application Support)