



THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

"A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE SUPPORTING ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA"

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A National Advocacy Voice for Elder Justice in America

704 Member Coalition

John B. Breaux
Honorary Chair

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EJC Year-End Report

The year 2010 saw the Elder Justice Coalition achieve a significant part of its mission when Congress passed the Elder Justice Act and President Obama signed it into law on March 23rd. This culminated a more than seven year legislative effort spearheaded by the work of the Coalition. The new law (P.L. 111-148) authorizes \$777 million over 4 years for the most comprehensive and coordinated federal response to the growing problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Since the enactment of the EJA, the Coalition has been advocating for funding for the 13 different programs that were authorized in the new law. This advocacy has focused primarily on Fiscal Year 2011, which began on October 1, 2010 and also FY2012 which begins on October 1, 2011. Meetings and communications to both Congress and the Administration have been held throughout the year. These included meetings with appropriations committee staff and Members: Nancy-Ann Min DeParle, Director of the White House Office of Health Reform; Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee; and, most recently, Robert Gordon, Associate Director at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB.)

As the 111th Congress prepares to adjourn, no funding has been appropriated for the Elder Justice Act. The Coalition's continued focus will be on securing funding for FY2012 and beyond.

EJC salutes the following leaders who will be part of the 112th Congress:

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)-author of the Elder Justice Act in the Senate
Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisc)-author of the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act (P.L. 111-148)

Rep. Peter King (R-NY)-author of the Elder Justice Act in the House

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill)-co-author of the Elder Justice Act in the House.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc)-author of the Senior Financial Empowerment Act

In addition, we thank Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee for her distinct leadership on behalf of the elder justice in the Administration.

Additional EJC Activities in 2010

- EJC National Coordinator Bob Blancato testified for the EJC on behalf of the Senior Financial Empowerment Act in May 2010 at a hearing

held by the House Judiciary Committee-Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. This bill passed the House in 2010.

- The EJC continued to push for the Senate to join the House in passing the Elder Abuse Victims Act (H.R.448/S.1821) and the National Silver Alert Bill of 2009 (H.R.632/S.557.)
- The EJC was a partner in the NCOA/Witness *"An Age for Justice"* Video Advocacy Project.
- The EJC submitted a letter and advocated for the Preventing Affinity Scams on Seniors (PASS) Act (H.R.6305.)
- On behalf of the EJC, Bob Blancato participated in Senator Harry Reid's Health Care Reform Implementation Summit in June 2010.
- Bob Blancato presented testimony at the February Administration on Aging (AoA) listening session in DC. Testimony focused on ways to strengthen the existing Title VII of the Older Americans Act as well as achieve integration with the relevant provisions of the EJA.
- The EJC worked with Congressman Patrick Murphy (D-PA) and his staff on development of the Office of Financial Protection for Older Adults, a part of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.
- EJC held several meetings with domestic violence prevention organizations related to the VAWA scheduled to be reauthorized next year.
- The Coalition sent out a total of 22 EJC Updates/Calls to Action to the EJC membership on EJA, related elder abuse legislation and other items of interest.
- Coalition membership grew from around 600 members to over 700 members.
- As National Coordinator of the EJC, Bob Blancato delivered numerous presentations and advocacy workshops on EJA and elder justice including, but not limited to:
 - **Elder Justice: Emerging Legal and Legislative Stories for Ethnic Elders** (University of California Center, DC)-February 2010
 - **ASA/NCOA Conference Session on Elder Justice**(Chicago, Illinois)-March 2010
 - **Virginia Guardianship and Elder Rights Conference** (Richmond, Virginia)-April 2010
 - **Senator Orrin Hatch (UT)**-Senior Day-EJA Presentation (Salt Lake City, Utah)-April 2010

- **Elder Abuse Task Force** (Prince George's County, Maryland)-May 2010
- **n4a session on EJA** (St. Louis, Missouri)-July 2010
- **Harmony Information Systems Conference-Keynote Address** (Burlington, Vermont)-August 2010
- **24th Annual Selenia E. and Joseph C. Valley Conference on Aging: Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in an Aging America** (Houston, Texas)-September 2010
- **17th Annual NYS Adult Abuse Training Institute-Breakthrough: Adult Abuse and the EJA** (Albany, New York)-September 2010
- **NICOA (National Indian Council on Aging) Conference, Elder Justice Session** (Traverse City, Michigan)-September 2010
- **Dr. Sidney Katz Policy Lecture** (Benjamin Rose Institute, Cleveland, Ohio)-September 2010
- **NAPSA (National Adult Protective Services Association) Conference-EJA Session** (San Diego, California)-November 2010
- **NYS Elder Abuse Summit-Keynote Address on EJA** (Albany, New York)-November 2010
- **GSA (Gerontological Society of America) Interest Group Meeting on Elder Abuse** (New Orleans, Louisiana)-November 2010
- **Baltimore County 8th Annual Advocacy Conference-Safeguarding the Golden Years: Working Together to Prevent Elder Abuse** (Baltimore, Maryland)-December 2010

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to work closely with you in 2011!