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TO: Members, Elder Law & Special Needs, Health and Trusts & Estates Law Sections

FROM: Melinda Bellus, Chair, Committee on Client and Consumer Issues

DATE: February 2015

SUBJECT: Mitchell Rabbino National Healthcare Decisions Day 2016

For the past 21 years, the New York State Bar Association through the Elder Law and Special Needs Section has sponsored and promoted its Mitchell Rabbino National Healthcare Decisions Day to inform the public about advanced directives. We are writing to encourage section members to participate in one of the programs to be held **on or after April 16, 2016.**

The Programs usually last between forty-five minutes and one hour. As a speaker, you will provide attendees with information on healthcare and financial decision making, guardianship issues, wills and probate. Specific issues include:

- o The purposes of the power of attorney and health care proxy and how they differ.
- o How to choose an agent for the power of attorney or health care proxy.
- o The different kinds of powers of attorney and when they are effective.
- o Why a will is important.
- o What is probate?

Last year, there were over 70 programs at community facilities, senior centers, libraries and hospitals. We hope to increase the number of programs this year and educate even more New Yorkers on these important issues.

If you are interested in speaking at a 2016 Mitchell Rabbino National Healthcare Decisions Day Program, please complete the Attorneys Needed form which can be found at www.nysba.org/2016mrhdd and e-mail, fax or mail it to Kathy Plog at the New York State Bar Association ASAP. **We strongly encourage speakers to arrange their own Program at a location of their choice.** We will need speakers for other Program sites as well. Upon confirmation, we will send you a sample script and copies of the program materials. Materials for the attendees will be sent directly to the site unless otherwise requested.

Should you need any additional information, please call or email Kathy Plog at 518/487-5681 or kplog@nysba.org.

We hope you will agree to speak at a National Healthcare Decisions Day 2016 Program and take this opportunity to help educate the public on these important issues.

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