



505 Main Street, Suite 50
P.O. Box 2027
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901-2027
Telephone: (865) 522-6522
Facsimile: (865) 523-5662
www.knoxbar.org

MEDIA RELEASE

Knoxville Bar Association Offers FREE LawTalk Program

For Immediate Release

Contact: Marsha Wilson (865) 522-6522

Topics like debt, mortgage foreclosures, and wills and advance directives are never easy to think about or discuss. But, with an aging population and the economic downturn, it is critical for every person, regardless of their age or financial security. The seminars offered through the **Community Law School** program will educate local residents about how to protect themselves against fraud, make sure their wishes are observed at important moments, and provide them with peace of mind regarding healthcare and financial decisions. The Community Law School is a public education program sponsored by the Knoxville Bar Association that offers free seminars on areas of the law that concern every citizen. This program,

formerly known as the “People’s Law School”, has been a great success, with over 6,500 graduates over the last twenty years.

The Community Law School will be held this year on **Friday, March 6, 2015** at the O’Connor Senior Center (611 Winona Street) and **Saturday, March 7, 2015** at Fellowship Church (8000 Middlebrook Pike).

Persons interested in understanding the importance of basic estate planning so that their wishes will be observed should attend the “**Wills & Estate Planning for Everyone**” program **from 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.**

Approximately half of senior citizens have neither a living will nor have discussed end-of-life decisions with their children. Many Tennesseans think they've already made their plans known, but they don't know that because of recent changes in the law, their old living wills may not be adequate. Many more Tennesseans haven't completed the necessary documentation in order that their wishes will be observed at important moments in their life. Attendees will learn about changes in the law that has had an impact on estate planning, including the gift and tax law changes in 2014.

Many in our community are facing critical economic and healthcare decisions and don’t know where to turn

for basic legal information about their rights and responsibilities. The Community Law School will offer a session from **11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** entitled **“Consumer Rights & Responsibilities: Protect Yourself and Your Assets.”** Learn about legislation aimed to help vulnerable consumers avoid foreclosure and steer clear of rescue scams. Understand your rights if you are trying to pay off a debt and what to do if you are sued by a creditor. Learn how to avoid identity theft and what to do if your identity is stolen. This course will review how these issues impact you and your personal financial situation. The more information people have about these topics, the better they will be able to plan and implement decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

Good advance planning for financial and health care decisions is, in reality, a continuing conversation--about values, priorities, the meaning of one's life, and quality of life. The Community Law School is intended to provide unbiased information on the topics presented, including forms which can be utilized by the public. Both sessions will be offered on Thursday and Friday by attorneys who are volunteers with the Knoxville Bar Association.

For more information, please call the Knoxville Bar

Association at 522-6522 or register and view directions at www.knoxbar.org.

Program Partners:

East Tennessee Personal Care Service, Knox County Office on Aging and Knoxville Bar Foundation

To register or for more information, please call the Knoxville Bar Association at 522-6522 or register online at <http://www.knoxbar.org/>.