

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHY



Arthur P. Bergeron

Of Counsel

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Practice Groups and Specialty Areas

Elder Law
Trusts and Estates
Estate Planning
Probate and Trust Administration

Art has been practicing law for over 45 years. He joined Mirick O'Connell in 2010 to focus his practice exclusively on elder law in general, while continuing to handle land use permitting matters in his native Marlborough and neighboring Hudson communities.

Art is passionate about helping seniors and their loved ones plan for and cope with issues surrounding aging and the personal and economic hardships facing those affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. His elder law practice focuses on all aspects of lifetime and estate planning for seniors; specifically planning that incorporates protection for seniors and families in crisis who may need additional assistance to deal with dementia symptoms. These plans typically involve some combination of wills with testamentary trusts, inter vivos trusts (both revocable and irrevocable), powers of attorney, health care proxies, asset restructuring, and the use of other planning tools that maximize eligibility for MassHealth and other government benefits.

Art currently is:

- Working as a member of the Ignation Volunteer helping develop and implement planned giving strategies for **Nativity School**, a Jesuit-inspired school for children in grades 4-8. Nativity provides tuition-free all-day (7:30AM – 7:30PM) education to 60 children from Worcester and surrounding communities who can benefit from their structured environment and empowering educational model.
- On the Board of Directors and providing planned giving assistance at **Better Day**, a non-profit full-day program providing a safe and affirming place for seniors with memory loss and providing respite for those who are caring for them.
- On the Board of Directors and providing planned giving assistance at **Mass Parks for All**, a statewide non-profit dedicated to supporting the efforts of state parks and state forests friends groups big and small and making every state park and forest a welcoming haven for us all.
- On the Board and providing planned giving assistance at **The Friends of Our Island Home**, a non-profit dedicated to providing programming and other support for the residents of Our Island Home, the only publicly owned nursing home in the Commonwealth, and to their families and the staff there.

In 2017, Art received the Deborah Blumer Community Health Leadership Award from the MetroWest Health Foundation for his work in promoting dementia-friendly communities. Also in 2017, he and the Council on Aging Directors from Hudson, Marlborough and Northborough were jointly awarded the "Innovator of the Year" award by the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA) for their work in building dementia-friendly communities. In 2015, Art was named "Person of the Year" by BayPath Elder Services, the regional non-profit agency that deals with the needs of seniors in 14 communities.

Education

JD, Boston University Law School
AB, *cum laude*, Princeton University

Bar and Court Admissions

Massachusetts

Professional/Community Affiliations

Massachusetts Bar Association
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Massachusetts Chapter
Better Day, Board of Directors
Dementia Friendly Communities Sub-Committee, co-chair, Public Policy Committee member

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Publications/Presentations

- Quoted in “My family is stealing my disabled parent's inheritance. Should I get involved?,” *Business Insider*, January 17, 2023
- Quoted in “You’ve Got the Power (of Attorney),” *AARP*, February 4, 2022
- “[Staying at Home](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (January 26, 2022)
- “[Avoiding Family Feuds](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (November 2, 2021)
- “[Living with Memory Loss](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (September 2, 2021)
- “[Wills and Trusts](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (July 15, 2021)
- “[Planning for the Last Year of Life](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (June 3, 2021)
- “[Financial Planning for the ‘Rest of your Life’](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (May 17, 2021)
- “[Tax Issues for Seniors](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (March 23, 2021)
- “[Planning Ahead to Protect Your Home as You Age](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (March 2021)
- “[What Seniors Need to Know About MassHealth](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (January 13, 2021)
- “[Massachusetts Elder Law: Gifting](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (January 2021)
- “[Medicare Open Enrollment](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (November 16, 2020)
- “[Keeping Control and Avoiding Family Feuds as You Age](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (July 20, 2020)
- “[Alternatives to Nursing Homes During COVID-19](#),” *On Air with Mirick O’Connell* legal podcast (April 28, 2020)
- Presents annually over 75 free legal advice clinics at local senior centers in Ashland, Holden, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Northborough, Southborough and Sudbury.
- Contributor to Council on Aging monthly newsletters in Ashland, Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Northborough and Southborough with ‘Frank and Mary’ columns that address the many elder law issues that keep seniors up at night.
- Contributor to Mirick O’Connell’s Estate Planning and Elder Law Blog
- Films monthly installments of “Elder Law 101,” a 12-part series of seminars dealing with the estate planning issues for seniors from age 60 until after they die. These pre-recorded 30-minute programs are broadcast on local community cable stations in Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Holden, Holliston, Hudson, Marlborough, Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Northborough, Southborough and Westborough. These programs are usually scheduled for weekly broadcast on those local public access stations.
- Films occasional “Bergeron Briefs,” 15-minute zoom-based interviews with professionals regarding specific topics of interest to elders. Recent Bergeron Briefs episodes have discussed Medicaid-qualifying annuities, long-term care insurance, HELOCs, reverse mortgages, and various assisted-living options.
- All seminars and Bergeron Briefs episodes can be seen on YouTube at www.youtube.com/ElderLawFrankAndMary.