

## Elder Law Section Profile: Lobbying efforts for long-term care reaping success

By Michael Amoruso

What an exciting time to be a member of the Elder Law Section! During this state budget season, we are reminded of the purpose for which we serve our membership and the clients we represent.



**Amoruso**

In recent years, the budget season marked a time for our section to rally

the troops in an effort to eliminate draconian eligibility and program proposals to the Medicaid program. Six years ago, in response to these proposals, the section offered an alternative to these unimaginable measures through the introduction of the Compact for Long Term Care. The Compact provides a cost neutral solution for New York that balances the desires of our clients to avoid potential bankruptcy due to long-term care expenses while paying a fair share toward their care. This is particularly

important for those who cannot medically qualify for long-term care insurance or afford the premiums.

### Making an impact

For the past six years, the section has continued to pursue passage of this major public policy initiative, which also was endorsed by the American Bar Association. During these years of political uncertainty in Albany, the Elder Law Section Compact Working Group's resolve remained steadfast as the days of the

draconian budget measures remained fresh in our minds.

It is my honor to report that, this year, the governor has included a Demonstration Project in the budget that is designed to test the core principles of the Compact. This is a day for us to be proud of the Elder Law Section, the State Bar and all those who did not waiver in their support of the Compact. This is proof positive that getting actively involved in the State

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## Section's lobbying efforts seeing results

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Bar truly can give you the opportunity to affect public policy.

The section's job is far from over this year. We continue our lobbying efforts against provisions of the proposed state budget that adversely impact our clients, tirelessly working to revise the new Power of Attorney legislation, and continuing to add greater value for our membership.

Clearly, the Elder Law Section offers many opportunities for you to be

involved at a pace and time commitment comfortable for you. The State Bar offers so much to those of us who embrace the challenge of balancing our practice with professional involvement. Remember, my friends, though we all live very busy lives, the time to be involved is now—renew your commitment to the State Bar. ♦

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