

## **RICHARD A. COURTNEY, CELA\*, CAP\*\***

### Personal Profile

\* Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation

\*\* Council of Advanced Practitioners of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

RICHARD A. (“Rick”) COURTNEY has practiced law since 1978 and is a founding partner of the Jackson law firm of Frascogna Courtney, PLLC, where he chairs the Courtney Elder Law Associates planning group. His primary areas of practice are elder law, public benefits law (Medicaid, Medicare and SSI), personal asset protection and estate planning, trusts and trust administration, special needs planning for persons with disabilities, guardianships and conservatorships, nursing home and disability rights, and probate administration. Rick is the first attorney in Mississippi designated a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the American Bar Association-accredited National Elder Law Foundation. Rick is a former Director of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) where he serves on the Trusts and Special Needs Law Sections Steering Committees; the Trusts and Estates Section of the Mississippi State Bar (former Chair); and the Special Needs Alliance, Inc., a national organization of special needs planning attorneys (former President). He has been selected as a member of the Council of Advanced Practitioners of NAELA, and is a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Rick is named in *Best Lawyers in America*® in elder law and trusts and estates and has been designated a *Mid-South Super Lawyer* annually since 2006 in the field of elder law by Law & Politics, Inc., through professional review and peer recommendation. In 2009, Rick was awarded the 15th Annual Theresa Award by the New York-based Theresa Foundation, for community service and professional advocacy on behalf of children and adults with special needs. In 2014, he was inducted as a Fellow of NAELA, that organization’s highest honor. Rick was asked to testify before Congress in September 2015 in support of legislation that now helps adults with disabilities create special needs trusts. He is the author of *A Lawyer’s Guide to Working with Special Needs Clients* published by the American Bar Association.

Rick and his wife, Ruthie, have adult twin daughters, one of whom has a disability. Rick has been active in special needs work as a Director of Mustard Seed, Inc., President and Director of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Mississippi, Inc., a director of the Heritage School for children with learning disabilities, and member of the Occupational Therapy Council of Advisors for the Mississippi State Department of Health. He has written articles and delivered many presentations for lawyers, health-care professionals, and community groups on special needs and estate planning topics.

The Courtney Elder Law Associates Purpose Statement:

***Legal Solutions for Lifetime Health and Wealth –  
Older Persons, Families and Persons with Disabilities***