
To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Elena Sallitto, Member; and Morris Klein, Section Chair

Date: February 12, 2020

Subject: **HB477** – Estates & Trusts- Guardianship of the Property of Disabled Persons – Court-Appointed Attorneys

Position: **Support**

The Elder Law and Disability Rights Section of the Maryland State Bar Association **supports HB477.**

This bill simply allows for the payment of attorney's fees for guardians of the property for indigent persons or where payment is the responsibility of the local Department of Social Services in the same manner as already in the law for guardians of the person. A comparison of the language in effect for Estates and Trusts Code Section 13-705(d) (for guardians of the person) with the language in this legislation shows the similarities.

There is simply no reason to distinguish payment of attorney's fees for guardians of the property and guardians of the person. This legislation removes this difference. Our section supports this legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact Elena Sallitto, Esq. 410-268-9246 elena@stavelylaw.com; or Morris Klein, Esq. 301- 652-4462, morrisklein@morrisklein.com.