

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fellows of the American Bar Foundation to Present CLE on  
the Role of Law on Advance Care Planning**

CHICAGO, Jan. 10, 2020 -- [The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation](#) (ABF) will present a [CLE Research Seminar](#), "Speaking for the Dying: Life, Death and Law," from 2–3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Austin, TX. This seminar is one of several events hosted by the Fellows of the ABF during the 2020 American Bar Association (ABA) Midyear Meeting, which takes place from Feb. 12-15 in Austin, Texas.

The recent publication of *Speaking for the Dying: Life-and-Death Decisions in Intensive Care*, by ABF Research Professor, [Susan P. Shapiro](#), coincided with the passage of a new ABA resolution that reconsiders the role of lawyers in advance care planning. This research seminar marries these empirical and policy perspectives.

Drawing on more than two years of observations in two intensive care units, *Speaking for the Dying* describes how decision makers for patients without capacity to speak for themselves make life-and-death decisions on their behalf and the limited role of advance directives in this process. In addition to describing the new ABA guidance for lawyers, the panel will also provide the perspective of an ethics consultant facing these wrenching decisions on the ground, day after day.

The seminar will feature Shapiro, ABF Research Professor, author, and sociologist. Shapiro's research focuses on the social construction, social organization, and social control of fiduciary, trust, and principal-agency relationships. Her past research has examined white-collar crime, ethics, conflict of interest, the professions, the news media and most recently, surrogate decision making.

Shapiro will be joined by two other panelists: Virginia A. Brown, Assistant Professor at Dell Medical School - The University of Texas at Austin; and Charles P. Sabatino, Director of the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging.

The moderator of the seminar will be Jo Ann Engelhardt, ABF Patron Fellow, Managing Director and Senior Client Advisor at Bessemer Trust Co of Palm Beach, FL. She is the former co-chair of the American Bar Association's Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section. Engelhardt is also a member of the ABA's Council for Diversity in the Educational Pipeline and the Resolution and Impact Committee.

"This panel will provide an opportunity to learn about the realities of life-and-death decision-making on behalf of loved ones," said ABF Executive Director Ajay K. Mehrotra, "These experts, including the ABF's very own Susan Shapiro, will provide guidance to lawyers in creating advance care planning for their clients."

This program is sponsored by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, ABA Health Law Section, ABA Judicial Division, ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section, ABA Section of Family Law, ABA Senior Lawyers Division, ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division, and ABA Young Lawyers Division.

The CLE program is free for anyone [registered](#) for the ABA Midyear Meeting.

#### **Event Details:**

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation

Fellows CLE Research Seminar

Friday, February 14, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

JW Marriott Hotel: Lone Star Ballroom, Salon H

110 E. 2nd St

Austin, Texas

#### **Contact:**

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#### ***About the American Bar Foundation***

*The [American Bar Foundation](#) (ABF) is among the world's leading research institutes for the empirical and interdisciplinary study of law. The ABF seeks to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. To further this mission the ABF will produce timely, cutting-edge research of the highest quality to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and society in the United States and internationally. The ABF's primary funding is provided by the [American Bar Endowment](#) and the [Fellows of The American Bar Foundation](#).*