
STRONG ADVOCATES FOR FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION VICTIMS

The University of Illinois College of Law’s Elder Financial Justice Clinic is the first law school clinic in the country focused on combating elder financial exploitation. The clinic provides free legal services in Illinois to people 60 and over and vulnerable adults who have been victims of any type of financial fraud or abuse. EFJC’s success includes:

• Winning a $13,900 verdict for an elderly woman in Macon County against unlicensed and unqualified roofers.
• Convincing a Champaign County judge to set aside a will that would have granted a deceased man’s landlord the first $175,000 of the decedent’s estate.
• Recovering an apartment building valued at $180,000 from a client’s daughter who had stolen our client’s $300,000 life savings.

MAKING NEW LAW TO PROTECT SENIORS

In March 2015, Professor Andres proposed legislation to Illinois Representative Tom Bennett to allow all victims of financial exploitation to bring a civil cause of action for financial exploitation.

• Professor Andres’ proposal became Illinois House Bill 1588.
• HB 1588 passed unanimously through the legislature and was signed by Governor Rauner on August 5, 2015.
• The new law, Public Act 99-0272, will take effect January 1, 2016 and will allow financial exploitation victims to recover three times the amount lost and attorney’s fees from their abusers.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In November, Professor Andres was one of 30 experts on elder financial exploitation from across the country invited to participate in the National Center for Victims of Crime’s first-ever Roundtable on Elder Financial Exploitation in Washington, D.C., and he is now working with the National Center to develop model legislation for a financial exploitation civil cause of action.

2013-15 EFJC RESULTS

34 CLIENTS
14 ILLINOIS COUNTIES
$266,347 RESTITUTION

TYPES OF FRAUD CASES

44% FAMILY/FRIEND/CARETAKER
29% CONTRACTOR
15% CONSUMER
6% SCAMS
3% MORTGAGE
3% INVESTMENT

Do you know someone who needs assistance? Contact the Elder Financial Justice Clinic at (217) 244-9494 or law-clinics@illinois.edu