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Catherine V. Kilgore to Receive National Aging and Law Award



Catherine V. (Ginny) Kilgore, director of the Elder Law Project for the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, has been selected as the 2011 winner of the prestigious National Aging and Law Award. The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to justice for older persons. This year, the award focused on outstanding achievements in legal services and elder rights advocacy at the state and local level. Representatives of the National Aging and Law Conference (NALC) will present the award to Kilgore on November 11 at the National Aging and Law Institute, hosted by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and co-sponsored by NALC, in Boston, Massachusetts.

“With few and scattered resources, Ginny is a role model for tenacious and brilliant advocacy, forging important bonds among courts, attorneys, law schools and state agencies,” said Alfred J. Chiplin Jr., on behalf of the NALC cosponsors. “I have known Ginny for 30 years and am thrilled that she is being honored,” added Chiplin, who is managing attorney for the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.

Kilgore has been the director of the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services Elder Law Project for more than 26 years. The Project has a long history of providing consistent, high-quality civil legal services to Mississippians aged 60 and older who reside in the 39-county service area, and is funded through a partnership of six Area Agencies on Aging in North Mississippi. Specifically, the Project provides community legal education, will days at senior centers and legal instruction for area agencies on aging and other service providers. Through partnerships with the area agencies on aging and the University of Mississippi Law School, Kilgore also produces the annual Elder Law Conference in Mississippi (now in its twentieth year) that offers Continuing Legal Education for members of the Mississippi Bar and for social workers. Previously, Kilgore was honored as the 2002 recipient of the University of Mississippi Law School Public Service Award and the 2000 recipient of the Mississippi Bar Legal Services Lawyer of the Year Award.

“It is a great honor to be recognized for the work that I love to do,” said Kilgore. “For elderly people in North Mississippi, having access to legal services often means that income, health care, food, clothing and shelter can be maintained.”

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The National Aging and Law Conference (NALC) is a coalition formed by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, the

National Senior Citizens Law Center, The Center for Social Gerontology, the National Consumer Law Center, the AARP Foundation Litigation and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities.