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Hundreds Attend 2025 Elder Law Day Hosted by Erie County and Center for Elder Law & Justice

Erie County, NY – Erie County Senior Services, in partnership with the Center for Elder Law & Justice (CELJ), successfully hosted the 2025 **Elder Law Day** on **Tuesday, June 3** at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott in Amherst. The free, day-long event welcomed hundreds of older adults, caregivers, and professionals seeking trusted legal guidance, expert insight, and community support.

Now in its annual tradition, Elder Law Day continues to be a cornerstone event for empowering aging individuals in Western New York. Attendees engaged in educational seminars, interactive Q&A sessions, and a comprehensive resource fair that featured over two dozen organizations offering services and support for older adults and their families.

"We want to ensure that local senior citizens have access to information about important legal issues such as estate planning, wills, elder rights, health insurance options and scams that target the elderly," said **Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz**. "We were thrilled that so many residents took advantage of a free day full of experience advice that covered a wide range of important topics."

Event Highlights Included:

- **Free Legal Consultations:**
Dozens of pre-registered attendees received personalized, one-on-one guidance from experienced elder law attorneys on topics ranging from estate planning to Medicaid.
- **Educational Workshops on Critical Topics:**
Presentations covered key subjects including estate and trust planning, LGBTQI+ inclusive tools, scam prevention, long-term care planning, reverse mortgages, probate procedures, and strategies to reduce family conflict in caregiving situations.
- **Resource Fair:**
Community organizations shared information on a wide array of aging services, legal resources, and caregiver support programs.
- **Expert Q&A Panels:**
Legal and elder care professionals answered audience questions, offering clarity on complex issues affecting older adults.

“Elder Law Day is about empowerment through information,” said ***Commissioner of Senior Services, Randy Hoak***. “We are proud to provide older adults and caregivers with the tools and resources they need to make informed decisions about their futures.”

“At the Center for Elder Law & Justice, it is our mission to remain focused on the senior population to ensure that older individuals have the opportunity to age independently and with dignity in the Western New York community. We are so proud to partner with the Erie County Department of Senior Services every year to bring Elder Law Day to our community, highlighting issues of importance as well as resources for older adults, their caregivers, and families.” - ***CEO Karen Nicolson, Center for Elder Law and Justice***.

Now more than ever, staying informed is essential—especially when it comes to the services and benefits that so many older adults and caregivers rely on. New York State is home to approximately 3.56 million residents aged 65 and older, a number that has grown by nearly 30% in the last decade. At the same time, over 423,000 older New Yorkers are living in poverty, and nearly half of individuals over age 70 report having no retirement income. These financial challenges are compounded by rising threats such as scams, which cost New Yorkers over 60 an estimated \$203 million in losses in 2023 alone.

In a rapidly changing landscape of healthcare, housing, and legal protections, Elder Law Day serves as a vital bridge between individuals and the information they need to protect their rights, finances, and independence. Erie County and the Center for Elder Law & Justice remain committed to ensuring older adults have access to the tools and resources they need to age with dignity and security.

About Erie County Senior Services

Erie County Senior Services is dedicated to helping older adults maintain independence and engagement within their communities through access to essential services, wellness programs, and advocacy. For more information, visit <https://www3.erie.gov/seniorservices/>.

About the Center for Elder Law & Justice (CELJ)

The Center for Elder Law & Justice is a nonprofit legal services agency committed to safeguarding the dignity, safety, and independence of seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals. Learn more at <https://www.elderjusticenyc.org/>.