

NANCY M. SPAIN

PARTNER



Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

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PRIMARY PRACTICES

Estate Planning

Estate Settlement

Trusts & Estates

Partner Nancy M. Spain, a founder of the firm, Spain, Spain & Varnet P.C., which joined [Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP](#) in 2022, focuses her career in general and probate-related law. She began her legal career in Cleveland, prior to relocating to Chicago in 1981 where she first worked in the trust department of the former Lake Shore Bank, prior to practicing law at Spain, Spain & Varnet P.C.

Throughout her career, Nancy has been actively involved in drafting legislation and working with state and local bar committees and state legislators to affect the passage of legislation involving probate and guardianship issues. She is often an invited speaker on the topics of guardianship and trust matters before local bar and bankers' associations and special needs support groups in surrounding communities and school districts.

Nancy earned her undergraduate degree, with distinction, from Connecticut College, and her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University's School of Law. She also completed several courses in estate planning in the LL.M. program at John Marshall Law School. Nancy is a member of the [Chicago and Illinois Bar Associations](#).

An active volunteer in the Chicago community, she is involved with several organizations that are working to enhance the lives of local residents.

In addition to speaking on guardianship and trust matters before local bar and bankers' associations, Nancy counsels Chicago area corporate entities regarding their duties as legal guardians of a disabled person or as Trustee in the administration of Special Needs Trusts. She has also authored chapters on multiple topics in handbooks for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Nancy is admitted to practice in Illinois and Ohio and is currently licensed in Illinois.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Ohio
- State of Illinois

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D
- Connecticut College, B.A.

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Trust Administration for the 2020 IICLE Handbook
- Ancillary Concerns for the 2018 IICLE Handbook
- Best Practices for Structuring and Using Special Needs Trusts
- Planning Ahead: Future Finances and Supports (La Grange Area

- Department of Special Education)
- Special Needs Presentation
- Trust Administration for the 2024 IICLE Handbook (Updated)
- Drafting and Managing Special Needs Trusts (Northwest Suburban Estate Planning Council)
- Planning Ahead: Future Finances and Supports (LaGrange Area Department of Special Education)
- Annual Special Needs Presentation (2025)

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Newberry Library (independent research library that focuses on the humanities), Board Member, 2016-present; Board Secretary, 2023-present
- The Antiquarian Society, board of trustees, fostering and promoting charitable, educational, literary, and research activities in the visual and decorative arts
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS), pro bono legal services volunteer
- Academy of Special Needs Planners, charter member
- Chicago Public Schools, volunteer tutoring CPS student in partnership with Chicago Bar Association