

RUBIN

LAW

A Professional Corporation

Special Needs Legal & Future Planning

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Legal and future planning for our fellow Illinois families of individuals with special needs, including intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and/or mental illness, is not one thing we do, it's the only thing we do; it's not one area of our practice, it's our only area of practice.



Brian Rubin – Mitchell Rubin – Benjamin Rubin

What we do:

Special Needs Trust(s)

**Government Benefits Planning
(Medicaid/SSI/Medicare/SSDI)**

Estate & Estate Tax Planning - Wills & Trusts

Guardianship & Alternatives

Powers of Attorney

Letters of Intent

**Navigating the Illinois "MAZE" of children & adult
services**

Estate, Probate, & Trust Administration

Consulting on Special Needs Family Divorces

Consulting on Special Needs Med-Mal/PI Settlements

many related matters

ATTORNEYS

Brian Rubin (***Parent***)

Benjamin (Benji) Rubin (***Sibling***)

Judith (Judie) Smith

Melanie Hoffman

Jolie Kaplan (***Sibling***)

SUPPORT STAFF

Jill Yonover, Paralegal

Nicole Rosenthal, Legal Assistant & Office Manager (***Sibling***)

Linda Rubin, Legal Assistant (***Parent***)

Karen Muschkat, Legal Assistant

Carmen Cuzmanko, Administrative Assistant (***Parent***)

Mitchell (Mitch) Rubin, Clerical Support

(Brian's & Linda's son, Benji's & Nicole's brother, ***who has Autism***)

Attorneys & Staff

Attorney Brian Rubin, the founder of Rubin Law, a former IRS Agent and former IRS Attorney, has been a practicing attorney since 1976, has been married to his wife Linda for the past 42 years, is the parent of three children (41, 38, and 34), one of whom, Mitchell, has Autism. Brian's law practice, for nearly four decades, since 1982, when Mitchell was one year old, has been dedicated to serving the legal and future planning needs of his fellow Illinois families of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or mental illness. Brian is a Past President (2017-2018) of the Special Needs Alliance, the national, non-profit, association of experienced special needs planning attorneys (membership is by invitation only), served on the Special Needs Law Section Steering Committee of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, was a Charter Member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, and is a Faculty Member and Text Book Author for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE) on the topic of special needs legal and future planning, as well as a Speaker for the American Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association on those topics. Brian has been elected as a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and has received the highest attorney rating from Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Preeminent™, and AVVO's highest attorney rating of Top Attorney. Brian is a Past President of The Arc of Illinois (2007-2011), served on The Arc of Illinois Board for 15 years (2004-2019), is a Past Chairman of the State of Illinois Statewide Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities (2002-2004), is the Immediate Past Chairman of the State of Illinois Autism Task Force (Chairman 2005-2015) established by the Illinois Legislature in 2005, serves as a member of the State of Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission since 2013, served on the State of Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General Quality Care Board for 6 years, among many other State of Illinois Committees and Commissions. Brian has been a member of the Board of Directors of Clearbrook (an organization serving more than 8,000 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, including his son, Mitchell) since 1989, is a member of the Board of Trustees of Life's Plan, Inc. which serves as Trustee of both Pooled Special Needs Trust and individual Special Needs Trusts, served as a member (Past Chairman) of the Board of Directors of the Special Leisure Services Foundation, the foundation supporting the Northwest Suburban Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), served as the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of The Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL Foundation), served on the Board of Directors of KESHET (Jewish Parents of Children with Special Needs), serves on the Advisory Council of Encompass (Encompass in partnership with Jewish Child & Family Services, Jewish United Fund, JVS Chicago, JCC Chicago, Keshet, and The Center for Enriched Living and Center for Independent Futures), served for 7 years on the Board of Directors of Pact, Inc., now known as DayOne Pact, which serves as Trustee of Special Needs Trusts as well as Guardian for individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and/or mental illness, and served on the Board of Directors of Northpointe Resources, also an agency serving individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Attorney Benjamin (Benji) Rubin, Brian's youngest son, Mitchell's "little/big" brother, has been a member of the Law Firm since 2010. Benji graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law, Magna Cum Laude, received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, and his Graduate Law Degree, an LL.M. (Tax), with honors, also from Northwestern University. Benji is a member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, a member, by invitation, of the Special Needs Alliance (the national not for profit association of special needs planning attorneys with membership by invitation only), is Chairman of the American Bar Association Special Needs Planning Committee, serves as the President of SIBS (Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters), the Illinois chapter of the national Sibling Leadership Network, an organization of adult siblings of individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. Benji is a member and officer (Treasurer) of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Illinois, is a member of the Clearbrook Associate Board, an organization serving more than 8,000 individuals with disabilities, including his brother, Mitchell, serves on the Board of Directors of DayOne PACT, which serves as Trustee of Special Needs Trusts as well as Guardian for individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and/or mental illness, serves on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of The Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL Foundation), serves on the Advisory Council of Encompass (Encompass in partnership with Jewish Child & Family Services, Jewish United Fund, JVS Chicago, JCC Chicago, Keshet, and The Center for Enriched Living and Center for Independent Futures). Benji is also a Faculty Member for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE) on the

topic of special needs planning, as well as a Speaker for the American Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association on those topics. Having Mitchell as a brother profoundly shaped who Benji is today, and thus the type of law he chose to practice. His personal experiences as a sibling offer a unique perspective into the responsibilities that come with caring for a sibling with special needs. Now as an adult, those sometimes present and future responsibilities he has regarding his brother's care are a concern that he shares with all brothers and sisters of individuals with special needs.

Attorney Judith (Judie) Smith, has been licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois since 1985. She has been associated with Brian Rubin since 1996. Judie's practice, since 1996, has been limited to special needs estate planning and administration for families of individuals with special needs. Judie has handled countless adult guardianship matters for clients in Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage and Kane Counties. Her courtroom experience includes preparation and court approval of Medicaid "Pay Back" Trusts (also referred to as "OBRA '93 Trusts" and/or "d4A Trusts"), preparation and court approval of trust and estate budgets, as well as preparation and approval of trust and estate annual accountings and annual reports. Judie is a member of the Special Needs Alliance. Judie is also a Faculty Member for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE).

Attorney Melanie Hoffman has been licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois since 1993. She began her career with the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, working on behalf of abused and neglected children, and subsequently working in the Disabled Adult Division, responsible for estate administration and guardianship matters. Melanie has been associated with Brian Rubin since 1995. Melanie's practice was limited to estate planning, estate administration and guardianship for families of individuals with special needs. Melanie is an affiliate member of the Special Needs Alliance. Melanie is also a Faculty Member for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE).

Attorney Jolie Kaplan has been licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois since 1996 and became an associate of Brian Rubin in 1997. Inspired by her own experiences having a sibling with special needs, Jolie's practice was limited to estate planning, estate administration, and guardianship for families of individuals with special needs. After a period spent raising her family, Jolie renewed her affiliation with Brian Rubin in 2019.

Paralegal Jill Yonover joined Rubin Law in 2017. Jill has an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and a graduate degree from New York University.

Office Manager and Legal Assistant Nicole Rosenthal, Brian Rubin's daughter, and Benjamin's and Mitchell's "big sister" (and assistant mother) joined Rubin Law as office manager and legal assistant in 2001. Nicole's undergraduate degree is in nursing and she is a Registered Nurse (RN/BSN). Nicole, as an older sibling, brings an unparalleled understanding of the day-to-day obstacles, and successes that her fellow families of individuals with special needs endure.

Legal Assistant Karen Muschkat joined Rubin Law as a legal assistant in 2007. Karen has more than 25 years of extensive experience in the areas of estate planning & estate administration.

Legal Assistant Linda Rubin, Brian Rubin's wife, joined Rubin Law as a legal assistant in 2001. Linda, as Mitch's Mom, offers an experienced point of view as someone who has lived through all the trials & tribulations that fellow families of individuals with special needs weather.

Legal Assistant Carmen Cuzmanko joined Rubin Law in 2015 as a legal assistant. Carmen is a parent of child with autism.

Mitchell Rubin, Brian Rubin's son, who has autism among other diagnosed special needs, also works at Rubin Law on Mondays, shredding documents and greeting clients, among other assigned tasks.



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M E M B E R



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