ESTATE PLANNING
AND
WILL DRAFTING
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAEL E. O'CONNOR, ESQ.

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He is a past president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, New York Chapter, and is executive editor of the ABA *Family Advocate* magazine and editor emeritus of the *New York State Bar Journal*; chairman of the board of editors of the nationally published *The Matrimonial Strategist*; and author of *New York Matrimonial Practice, 2d Edition*, published by The West Group. He is a former council member of the ABA Section of Family Law; is a Master and past president of the New York Family Law American Inn of Court; and past chair of NYSBA's General Practice Section. His lecturing schedule to judges and lawyers includes seminars sponsored by bar associations and civic organizations throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Mr. DaSilva, a magna cum laude graduate of New York University and member of Phi Beta Kappa, received his law degree at Columbia University Law School. He is a widely quoted commentator in the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report* and the *New York Law Journal*, which has referred to him as the "Dean of Matrimonial Lawyers." He has appeared on both network and syndicated television programs such as the Today Show, the Phil Donahue Show, Regis Philbin Show and NBC Network News, and on radio programs throughout the United States, among other news media.

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As a member of the Joint Public Policy Task Force of The Florida Bar's Elder Law Section and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, Mr. Krooks works to protect the rights of the state's most vulnerable citizens. He was invited to join a special sub-task force to review policies of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) that may not comply with federal law. The special task force will also determine whether DCF policies have followed proper rule-making procedures.

Mr. Krooks is certified as an elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation and is a member of the Council for Advanced Practitioners of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). He is a member of the NAELA board of directors, where he serves as vice president. He was honored with the designation of NAELA Fellow in 2009.

He serves on the Executive Council of the Elder Law Section of The Florida Bar as the NAELA liaison. He is a past chair of NYSBA's Elder Law Section and continues to serve on NYSBA's Executive Committee. Mr. Krooks was named The Florida Bar Elder Law Section Member of the Year in 2010. He was chosen as a Florida Super Lawyer from 2007 to 2011; a Metro New York Super Lawyer from 2008 to 2010; named to *Florida Trend* magazine's Florida Legal Elite in 2007, 2010 and 2011; recognized as a 2011 Top Attorney in Palm Beach and Martin Counties by *Palm Beach Illustrated*; and has an AV Preeminent peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell—the highest rating afforded an attorney.

Mr. Krooks received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award from the New York Chapter of NAELA for serving as co-chair of a Special Committee on Medicaid Legislation formed by the NYSBA Elder Law Section to oppose New York Governor George Pataki's budget bills containing numerous restrictive Medicaid eligibility provisions that, if enacted, would have severely impacted the frail elderly and disabled populations. He was also recognized for serving as co-chair of the NYSBA Elder Law Section Compact Working Group, which is receiving national attention for developing alternative methods of financing long-term care. Additionally, Mr. Krooks chaired a special committee created by NYSBA's Elder Law Section to address the Statewide Commission on Fiduciary Appointments formed by Chief Justice Judith Kaye.

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