

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March XX, 2009

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MEDIA / CALENDAR ADVISORY

WHAT: National Healthcare Decisions Day at Albany Law School

Only 42 percent of all adults – and only 11 percent of adults between 18 and 24 – have designated a healthcare proxy who could make medical decisions on their behalf if they had an irreversible terminal condition that prevented them from making their own medical decisions.

Speakers from the medical and legal communities will discuss health care proxies, New York state law for people without a proxy, the authority of a proxy, who can serve as a proxy, the big picture of end-of-life care, pain control, artificial hydration and nutrition, possible upcoming changes surrounding advance directives, and organ donation, as well as related ethical considerations.

The event, which is a collaborative effort by Albany Law School, Albany Medical Center, St. Peter's Health Care Services, The Center for Donation and Transplant, and The Community Hospice, is free and open to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, and to complete a proxy designation with the help of law students and supervising attorneys.

National Healthcare Decisions Day (www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org) is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

WHEN: Thursday, April 16
4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Albany Law School
80 New Scotland Ave., Albany