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## **Palm Beach County Bar Association's Law Week offers free advice on everyday issues**

By **MICHELE DARGAN**  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Nursing home litigation is one area of attorney Joe Landy's practice.

"I used to defend nursing homes in the '90s and now I sue them," Landy said.

Landy, of the West Palm Beach law firm Lesser, Lesser, Landy and Smith, is speaking on "Nursing Home Dangers" during one of the free community seminars offered during the Palm Beach County Bar Association's annual Law Week, which begins Monday.

Law Week is a series of free programs designed to inform the community about ways to deal with legal issues.

Topics for this year's seminar are: Medicaid Planning and Nursing Home Dangers; Mortgage Foreclosures and Rescue Scams; Condo and Homeowners — Can They Really Do That? and Small Claims Lawsuits and Mediation.

There will also be attorneys who will answer questions by phone in the Dial-A-Lawyer program, which runs Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 687-2800.

Landy has lectured numerous times regarding choosing and monitoring nursing homes, but it's his first time speaking about it during law week.

"I educate on how to pick the correct nursing home," Landy said. "That's half the battle — getting them in the right place. The other half is what to do in the right place and how to protect them."

Landy said the key to caregivers is to stay involved.

"Caregivers need to participate in the care plan meetings, visit often and vary the times of the visits, develop a good relationship with the staff, review the chart, be on the lookout for skin breakdown, be involved in considering the fall risk and what they can do to prevent it and be cognizant of nutrition and dehydration."

Tanique Lee, of Gelfand and Arpe P.A., and Magistrate Judge Sara Alijewicz are co-chairwomen of Law Week.

"The programs are free and it's important that the public take advantage of them, because these are topics that affect just about everyone in our community," Lee said. "These are issues that people deal with on a day-to-day basis. The Dial-A-Lawyer program is an opportunity to speak with attorneys who represent a large range of legal fields."

For more information, call 687-2800 or visit [www.palmbeachbar.org](http://www.palmbeachbar.org).