Elder law, a term coined in the 1980s, focuses on the legal problems of older adults. Why? Because they are the fastest growing part of the population. Elder law issues affect all income groups in the U.S. Elder law grew out of the field of wills and estates, but is now much broader. There are many kinds of elder law practices. They can include, for example:

- Health law and health care coverage, including managed care issues
- Guardianships, and other litigation focused on mental capacity issues, such as challenges to wills
- Nursing home negligence litigation
- Handicap and age discrimination cases
- Trusts and benefits for disabled people
- Counseling about investing in retirement communities
- Pension rights