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[Estate Planning 101](#)
[H&Z Attorney Rebecca Geyer Urges Lawyers to Plan Ahead](#)

September 9, 2011 (CARMEL) Even though she's an estate planning attorney herself, Rebecca Geyer readily admits "I'm not always good at following my own advice. Attorneys procrastinate as much as the clients we represent, too often getting caught up in daily endeavors and failing to make sure our own affairs are in order."

In a recent article in [Indiana Lawyer](#), a publication of Indianapolis Bar Association, Geyer offers "Estate Planning 101 for Lawyers."

Now that fall is here, Rebecca is making time to review her own estate planning and encourages her legal peers to do the same.

Geyer offers five key issues to consider:

Wills and Trusts. If you have yet to do so, Rebecca strongly recommends taking the time to put a will or trust in place. Wills and trusts provide a mechanism for you to designate how and to whom your assets will pass following your death and who should administer such distribution.

Planning for Disability. Just as important as wills and trusts are documents designating someone to make financial and health care decisions on your behalf should you be unable to make such decisions yourself. A Power of Attorney allows you to designate someone to handle financial transactions for you should you be unable to act on your own behalf.

Health care documents are also extremely important. An Appointment of a Health Care Representative or Health Care Power of Attorney allows you to designate someone to make medical decisions for you if are unable to speak for yourself.

Review Your Existing Plan. If you have an existing estate plan, when was the last time it was reviewed? Numerous changes in Indiana and federal law may result in unintended consequences if your estate plan is not updated.

Review Your Practice Contingency Plans. Do you have plans in place for your legal practice should you be unable to work or die? Now is the time of year we pay our annual dues to remain active lawyers in the state of Indiana. Part of the annual registration process is the designation of an attorney surrogate to cover your practice should you become disabled or die. Have you considered who this individual should be for your practice?

Geyer's entire article can be found at: <http://www.theindianalawyer.com/iba-estate-planning-101-for-lawyers-ndash-are-you-prepared/PARAMS/article/27052>

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