



**MELISSA JOHNSON, J.D.**

Partner

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**How Melissa Can Help You**

- Guardianship
- Disabled Adults
- Elder Exploitation
- Minors
- Probate
- Disabled Adults
- Elder Exploitation
- Trust Litigation
- Land Trusts
- Elder Law
- Estate Planning
- Estate Administration

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In dealing primarily with elderly and disabled clients, I see the outrageous ways in which they are often taken advantage of. I fight for their rights the way I would want someone to fight for mine.

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## About Melissa

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Melissa joined Generation Law in 2015 as its litigation counsel, and became the firm's managing attorney and partner in 2020.

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She has handled hundreds of contested motions and trials throughout her career. Her focus at Generation Law is on contested probates and guardianships for disabled adults with an emphasis on citation proceedings involving the financial exploitation of the elderly and presumptively void transfers. In addition, Melissa vigorously represents clients in the areas of trust litigation, including land trusts, elder law, estate planning and estate administration.

Melissa began her career with the Law Offices of Howard Lee Schiff in Connecticut, followed by seven years as a litigator and managing attorney at Freedman Anselmo Lindberg LLC.

### Professional Highlights

- Successfully recovered over \$200,000 in personal assets and real property from a caregiver found to have exploited an elderly couple in Lake County.
- Obtained summary judgment on a contested land trust issue involving a deadlock among beneficiaries.
- Successfully defeated an action by his stepchildren to remove an elderly man from his home via a Motion to Dismiss in chancery.
- Served as court-appointed special trustee for a contested trust administration matter.
- Prevailed after trial against a former probate judge on a contested guardianship involving a ward suffering from Huntington's Disease and objecting to the appointment of a guardian.

## Melissa is a member of the DuPage County Bar Association where she has been a featured speaker on a variety of topics.

She is also a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys where she serves as the chair of the Litigation and Education committees and as vice president for the Illinois chapter.

Both of Melissa's grandmothers are alive and in their 90s, so there is a personal connection to making sure the elderly are well represented. She takes on each client's cause as if it were her own. By the end of the case, clients may feel that Melissa is part of their family.

She is married with three young boys and a baby daughter and stays busy with them as a travel hockey team manager and president of the Parent Teacher Organization. She loves to read, attend concerts and offer up her sarcastic wit around the office. She is addicted to Diet Coke and will not start the day without one. It's what allows her to win all of her cases.

### Speaking Engagements

- "Presumptively Void Transfers," DuPage County Bar Association's Mega Meeting, February 2018.
- "Essential Disability Planning Tools," Huntington's Disease Society of America's Illinois State Conference, April 2019.

### Previous Experience

- Freedman Anselmo Lindberg LLC
- Law Offices of Howard Lee Schiff

### Professional Associations and Memberships

- Illinois State Bar Association
- DuPage County Bar Association
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

### Education

- Illinois State Bar Association
- JD, DePaul University College of Law
- BA with Honors, DePaul University