



Kathleen D. Hayes the Owner and principal Attorney of The Office of Kathleen D. Hayes, LLC. Kathleen's practice is founded upon a platform of educating and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Kathleen's work is driven by a personal passion—Kathleen's relationship with her Uncle Danny, who has an intellectual disability. Kathleen's Uncle Danny formed her heart for advocacy. He taught her not only the beauty of disability, but also the incredible vulnerability, stress, and fear that families carry as they try to navigate a complex system that seems to plummet before every peak.

Kathleen guides families through the complex labyrinth of public benefits, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. She also prepares Special Needs Trusts; provides guidance on ABLÉ accounts; and assists in identifying decision making tools at age 18 and beyond. Kathleen is dedicated to ensuring that families understand the supports and service that are available for their loved ones, and that they develop a comprehensive and holistic plan for the present and future welfare and success of their loved one.

Kathleen graduated *magna cum laude* from Western New England University in 2013. Upon graduating, she served as a judicial law clerk for Justice David Borden and Judge Thomas West of the Connecticut Appellate Court. Kathleen subsequently worked as a special education attorney, prior to concentrating her practice on elder law and disability planning. She is on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Connecticut and the Connecticut Family Support Network. Kathleen also serves as Vice Chair of the North Regional Advisory Counsel for the Department of Developmental Services, and is the Treasurer of the Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. Outside the office, Kathleen is an avid volunteer with the Middletown Special Olympics team, along with her husband and father.