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**In Honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, SeniorLAW Center and CARIE Sponsor
Conference: Elder Justice: Protection and Advocacy**

State College, Pennsylvania, Friday, June 15, 2012 – Every day, headlines throughout the U.S. paint a grim picture of seniors who have been abused, neglected, and exploited, often by people they trust the most. Elder abuse is a national crisis: millions of older Americans are abused, neglected or exploited each year. Financial exploitation alone costs older Americans \$2.5 billion nationally. Research indicates that more than *one in ten* elders may experience some type of abuse, but only *one in five* cases or fewer are reported. This means that very few seniors who have been abused get the help they need. Their stories are compelling and shocking, demanding response.

June 15, 2012 marks the seventh annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, intended to give abuse and neglect of older adults a global relevance that will sustain and move prevention efforts forward throughout the years to come. On this day, activities that promote awareness of the mistreatment of older adults are occurring throughout the world.

CARIE and the SeniorLAW Center have been working to bring attention to this vexing issue and help to develop collaborative responses to assist in education and training aimed at identifying and supporting victims to get help they need to be safe. This conference, the last of four regional conferences sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, will provide a forum for those who help Senior Victims to find ways to work together to combat this critical problem, celebrate the efforts Pennsylvanians are making to protect older adults, and work to promote justice for elders.

The June 15 Conference will feature a Keynote address by David Hoffman, Esq., including the history of the Adult Protective Services system, “Origins, Current Challenges and Visions for the Future,” followed by a presentation about Elder Abuse Task Forces in PA, a critical resource in targeting this important issue. Leaders and direct services provider panels will share case studies, opportunities, barriers and best practices in the field of elder abuse.

Abuse and exploitation take many forms throughout the life cycle. We invite you to hear the stories of those who serve and protect victims in the twilight of their lives. Join us in taking a stand against elder abuse, a Pennsylvania crisis, a national crisis.

ABOUT CARIE and SeniorLAW Center:

CARIE, established in 1977, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for vulnerable older adults through advocacy, education and action. CARIE pursues this through its many programs, including the CARIE LINE, a free resource for a wide range of people seeking to resolve elder care issues, the PA SMP program, the Philadelphia Long Term Care Ombudsman program, education and training programs, policy advocacy and community outreach. You can reach CARIE toll free 1-800-356-3606 or visit www.CARIE.org. Help is free and confidential.

SeniorLAW Center is a nonprofit organization which improves the lives of older Pennsylvanians and protects their rights through legal representation, education and advocacy. Founded in 1978 SeniorLAW Center provides free legal services, community legal education, professional training, advice, information and referral services, and advocacy to over 7,000 seniors each year, addressing critical legal issues of elder abuse, housing, consumer protection, family law, and health and financial decision making. You can reach SeniorLAW Center toll free at 877-727-7529 or visit www.SeniorLAWcenter.org.

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