Distinguished Co-Honorary Chair
Representing Financial & Legal Services Thought Leadership
Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement

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Brief Backgrounder

Martin M. Shenkman, CPA, MBA, PFS, AEP (distinguished), JD, is an attorney in private practice in Fort Lee, New Jersey and New York City. Shenkman Law is a boutique firm focused on the legal needs of high-net-worth individuals, professionals, close business owners, and real estate owners and developers. Founded in 1989, the firm has offices in New York City and Fort Lee, New Jersey, and consults with clients in other jurisdictions through local counsel.

Marty earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Wharton School, concentration in accounting and economics; MBA from the University of Michigan, concentration in tax and finance; and a Law degree from Fordham University School of Law. He's admitted to the bar in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. CPA in New Jersey, Michigan, and New York, and a Registered Investment Adviser in New York and New Jersey.

Is a leading author 42 books and more than 1,200 articles; his credentials include Editorial Board Member of Trusts & Estates Magazine Interactive Legal, and CCH (Wolter's Kluwer),. He has previously served on the editorial board of Matrimonial Strategist and many other tax, estate and real estate publications. He is a frequent presenter and resource for national publications, guest expert appearances on major financial and other television and radio shows.

He is active in many charitable and community causes and organizations. Founded ChronicIllnessPlanning.org which educates professional advisers on planning for clients with chronic illness and disability and which has been the subject of scores of articles. Wrote books for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the COPD Foundation; presented more than 70 lectures around the country on this topic for professional organizations charities and others.

Marty's wife Patti was diagnosed with the chronic illness multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2006. They realized that her diagnosis had triggered changes that forever affected their lives and plans for the future. With that in mind, Marty and Patti educated themselves about living with MS and its potential long-term emotional and financial costs, which can be extensive along with all the planning changes. He also observed that the legal, financial planning and certified public accounting professions were frequently overlooking the nuances of estate and financial planning for the at least 130 million Americans living with chronic illness, as well as disabilities he set out to change that reality in order to educate professional advisers, spur awareness and raise funds to for many charities serving those living with Chronic Illness including the American Brain Foundation, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, and the American Cancer Society.

His efforts are driven by his love for Patti and helping the 130 million people living with chronic illness and the charities serving them. "Watching someone you love struggle with an incurable disease like MS is disempowering. Being proactive to help Patti also helps others with health challenges, is empowering."
