

business beat



MEET THE

# Matlin

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LAW GROUP

By Rebecca Osberg  
Photography By LLee Ross  
Photography & Design

The Matlin Law Group has been practicing estate law in Northbrook since 1992. Concentrating in estate planning, estate administration and estate litigation, the Matlin Law Group provides a comfortable and safe environment where they work with clients to discuss difficult topics and

make important decisions about how disability and death will impact their lives and the lives of their family members.

“In our estate administration practice, we provide thorough

“in the trench” legal advice to guardians, executors and trustees with the goal of providing for an efficient, proper and complete estate/trust administration,” says Eric G.

Matlin, Partner. “We provide trust litigation services to fiduciaries and beneficiaries to address wrongful disinheritance, to prosecute or defend against accusations of improper fiduciary behavior and to combat elder exploitation.”

Eric founded the Matlin Law Group P.C. and has concentrated his law practice on estate planning.

“I have helped thousands of families achieve a meeting of the minds regarding their goals and have delivered quality representation to achieve them,” says Eric. “I believe in maximum transparency in pricing and service, which is why Matlin Law Group P.C. offers free initial estate planning consultations, coupled with flat-fee pricing for most clients.”

Eric has made it his life’s work to educate people about the importance of estate planning. He even published two books, *The Procrastinator’s Guide to Wills and Estate Planning* (Ozanam Publishing, 2022) and *Not Dead Yet So Plan Your Estate* (Ozanam Publishing, 2019).

“Since many of life’s most momentous events are not calendar entries, the time to plan is now,” says Eric. “In the late 1980s, I worked for a few years as an investment advisor, where I witnessed family nightmares caused by poor estate planning. Estate planning allows you to select fiduciaries who step into your shoes when you die or become incapacitated, without the

need for court, to distribute your assets in an intelligent way while exerting as much or as little control as your circumstances require. Grateful clients are an enormous reward, and it’s the main reason I love my job.”

Johannah “JoJo” K. Hebl is also a partner at Matlin Law Group, focusing her area of expertise in estate planning and estate administration. From a young age, Jojo knew she wanted to be a lawyer as she was always advocating for a cause regarding some injustice.

From 2005 to 2011, Jojo worked for a solo practitioner until he passed away. It was at that time that Eric hired her to grow the Matlin Law Group.

“I’m always looking for creative solutions to handle difficult problems,” says Jojo. “Our clients range in age from 18 to over 100 and to meet their future needs our attorneys also range from their 60’s to mid-20’s.” As we discuss their succession and legacy, I want to let them know that we have invested in our firm to ensure that we will be here for them in the future.”

Mary E. Vanek is the third partner at Matlin Law Group and

has been practicing law in the area of estate and trust planning and administration for over 30 years.

“Being a lawyer always fit me because I have always loved research and writing, and I have to admit that I like to be right,” laughs Mary. “When I started out in this profession, being a lawyer was mostly a cerebral activity for me. But as I get older, I see that my area of the law is really all about family and relationships and helping people navigate difficult situations with their loved ones. I still like to be right, but I won’t pursue that at the expense of my client’s emotional or financial well-being. Litigation is difficult because even when you “win” after you sue your sibling who stole all of mom and dad’s money, your client has still lost that relationship.”

“I am very results-oriented,” says Mary. “If I am not moving the ball forward, then I am not doing my job. I like to begin each matter, whether it is drafting an estate plan or filing a lawsuit, with the end in mind. Every step I take should move my client closer to their goal.”

Mary is also dedicated to managing her clients’ expectations and preparing them for what is ahead.

“To my litigation clients, I say that it is going to take longer and cost more than they expect. It is important to manage expectations,” says Mary. “To my estate planning clients who are hesitant to think about death, I tell them they will feel so much better when their estate plans are completed.”

*The Matlin Law Group is committed to providing quality legal services to our clients, as well as building on our success and ensuring the longevity of our firm. We have grown our team of talented lawyers who are able to provide these services.*

*To learn more about the Matlin Law Group, visit [MatlinLawGroup.com](https://www.MatlinLawGroup.com).*

