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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO HOST LEGAL
SEMINAR FOR THE ELDERLY**

The circumstances surrounding the death of Terri Schiavo in Florida in 2005 have raised awareness among the elderly about the need for living wills. Unfortunately, many in El Paso do not have the financial means to obtain legal advice regarding end-of-life decisions. A living will is a written, legal document that spells out the types of medical treatments and life-sustaining measures you do and do not want, such as artificial respiration and tube feeding.

To educate seniors regarding legal matters affecting them and inform them about the services available to improve their lives, El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez has organized the second "Annual Legal Day for the Elderly".

The free event will take place on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the El Paso Community College Administrative Services Building located at 9050 Viscount.

The event will include a "living wills clinic", where seniors will be provided legal assistance in executing living wills and long-term legal planning. Other activities include a "safety" fashion show that will highlight the uniforms of employees with companies or agencies that may have a legitimate need to enter a senior's home and ask for personal information.

The Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) will be providing free flu shot to seniors with Medicare and Medicaid, and will be providing them to the public for \$30.

In addition, attorneys with the County Attorney's Office will also offer seminars on abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly, deceptive business practices and fraud prevention. Many fraud schemes, while not always directed at seniors, take their toll on the elderly population because they are not able to protect themselves against smooth con artists and technically complicated schemes. According to the Council of Better Business Bureaus, in 2005 almost 9 million Americans were victim of identity theft and they lost more than \$56.6 billion to telemarketing fraud. While the senior population has to deal with these threats to their bank accounts, they also are susceptible to unique scams such as home-care worker fraud.

The event is open to the public and **free** of charge. There will be simultaneous Spanish translation and free refreshments.

For more information, or to register, please call the Elder Protection Unit of the El Paso County Attorney's Office at (915) 546-2239.

WHAT: 2nd Annual Legal Day for the Elderly

WHO: El Paso County Attorney's Office

WHEN: Tuesday October 3, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: El Paso Community College Administrative Services Building, at 9050 Viscount.

INFO: Elder Protection Unit at (915) 546-2239