



## **Attorney Merrell Bailey to Speak on Same-Sex Estate Planning Issues at Jacksonville Conference**

**Maitland, FL – October 7, 2013** – Your Caring Law Firm, a boutique law firm focused on the practice areas of probate, wills, trust and guardianship services, as well as business succession, asset protection and estate planning, today announced that managing partner Merrell Bailey will be addressing an audience of Florida attorneys representing LGBT clients, Friday, October 18 at the *“Out of the Closet and In Your Office Conference.”*

Sponsored by the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida, Bailey’s presentation—entitled, *“Married There but not Here: Legal Inconsistencies Because Florida Does Not Recognize Your Marriage”*—will address the issues and implications for same-sex couples resulting from DOMA Section 3 being deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

According to Bailey, there are significant and often, complex tax and estate planning implications for same-sex couples that attorneys must be aware of at both the state and Federal level.

“Same-sex clients who are married elsewhere, but live in Florida, have some of the most sophisticated planning issues an attorney can face right now. They are considered married under federal law, but not under Florida law. For example, the status of “spouse” is very important under Florida law, because they inherit homestead, have preference as guardian and personal representative and can own assets together with their spouse. However, these benefits are not available to same-sex married couples because Florida does not recognize same-sex marriages as legal. It’s an important topic with wide-sweeping implications and I look forward to sharing this with my astute attorney colleagues,” Bailey said.

### **About Your Caring Law Firm**

Your Caring Law Firm is a boutique law firm founded by longtime local attorneys Merrell Bailey and Hallie Zobel. Located in the heart of Central Florida, the firm offers probate, wills, trusts and planning services to clients throughout the region. With deep roots in the community, Bailey Zobel Pilcher prides itself on its ability to deliver a rare combination of sophisticated legal advice that draws upon sound business, tax and accounting knowledge, while providing a caring, attentive environment for clients to make some of the most important decisions of their lives. For more information, visit [www.YourCaringLawFirm.com](http://www.YourCaringLawFirm.com).