

ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs

The Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) has a mission to assure that every judge, lawyer and law student has access to support and assistance when confronting alcoholism, substance use disorders or mental health issues so that lawyers are able to recover, families are preserved and clients and other members of the public are protected. This mission is carried out by supporting the work of state and local Lawyer Assistance Programs (LAPs) as they provide hands-on services and support to those in need of their assistance.



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CoLAP would like to collaborate with anyone interested in advancing well-being within the profession. The Commission can help plan and produce panels and presentations, provide guest speakers, assist with articles and publications, and help establish policies and programs.

Too often, lawyers do not seek help until it is too late.

Let's partner to improve our outreach.

National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being

The Task Force is a coalition of entities within and outside the ABA, including the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP), National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC) and Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL), with a mission to “create a movement to improve the health and well-being of the legal profession.”



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Two recent studies* reveal alarming rates of substance use and mental health issues among lawyers and law students. Responding to those findings, the Task Force released "A Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change." It provides recommendations – along with state action plans with simple checklists – to multiple legal stakeholders, including legal employers, regulators, the judiciary, law schools, professional liability carriers and bar associations.

Join us as we work to change the culture of the legal profession so that well-being is a priority.

ABA Working Group to Advance Well-Being in the Legal Profession

An ABA Presidential Working Group created by President Hilarie Bass, consisting of representatives from lawyer assistance programs, law firms and malpractice insurance carriers.



The Working Group to Advance Well-being in the Legal Profession will create and advance model policies for law firms and legal employers that address substance use disorders and mental health issues.

Let's fast track the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations through policy.

*Jerome M. Organ, David B. Jaffe & Katherine M. Bender, Ph.D., Suffering in Silence: The Survey of Law Student Well-Being and the Reluctance of Law Students to Seek Help for Substance Use and Mental Health Concerns, 66 J. Legal Educ., Autumn 2016, at 1, 116–56

Krill, Patrick R. JD, LL.M.; Johnson, Ryan MA; Albert, Linda MSSW (February 2016) The Prevalence of Substance Use and Other Mental Health Concerns Among American Attorneys. Journal of Addiction Medicine. Volume 10 - Issue 1 - p 46–52