



**LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS**

Confidential Support for Legal Professionals

# Reducing Stigma to Avoid Chronic Stress & Burnout

*There is Help and There is Hope*

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## LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Confidential Support for Legal Professionals

### Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers – How Can LCL Help?

- LCL provides free, confidential peer and professional assistance to Minnesota lawyers, judges, law students, other legal professionals, and their immediate family members on any issue that causes stress or distress. This includes up to four free counseling sessions, a 24/7 hotline, support groups, and referrals to resources.
- LCL is a statewide program and is absolutely confidential.
- LCL partners with bar associations, Minnesota CLE, legal employers, law schools, and other organizations to offer programs on well-being, impairment, stress management and other topics, often for Elimination of Bias or Ethics credit.
- LCL provides coaching on how to reach out or support a friend or colleague who may be struggling. We can help address general concerns, make supervisory referrals, suggest community resources, discuss interventions, and much more.
- LCL can provide critical incident response if a tragedy or crisis impacts a firm, organization, or family.
- LCL can help with access to treatment and related services. We have a need-based fund to help lawyers and law students pay for substance use and mental health treatment and related services.
- LCL, founded in 1976, helps approximately 400 new clients every year and is funded through lawyer license fees and donations. We truly appreciate your support!
- LCL volunteers are the lifeblood of our service to the profession. Contact us to learn more or join LCL.
- LCL is committed to well-being in our profession and supports our colleagues and their families in their recovery from any issue. Call us, we can help!

## Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Myths & Facts

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**MYTH:** LCL will report me to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners or the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility.

**FACT:** LCL does not and will not report to any licensing board, employer, or agency, even if information is requested by those sources or our clients request that we do so.

**MYTH:** You can do it yourself.

**FACT:** Isolation is the enemy of recovery. The likelihood of being successful in recovery from any issue greatly increases with appropriate professional and peer support in place.

**MYTH:** LCL only helps with alcohol issues.

**FACT:** While LCL does provide services and support regarding drug and alcohol issues, we offer so much more. We also assist with stress and mental health matters such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and problem gambling, along with aging and retirement, couples and family, career, financial, and practice concerns, and any other issues that may cause stress or distress.

**MYTH:** LCL is a Twin Cities program.

**FACT:** LCL is a statewide program that serves lawyers, judges, law students, other legal professionals, and their families throughout Minnesota.

**MYTH:** I can use my employer's Employee Assistance Program with the same result.

**FACT:** Your employer's EAP can be a great resource. LCL counselors understand the stress of the legal profession and LCL offers ongoing connections, peer support and other services and resources.



# LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

## Confidential Support for Legal Professionals

### **Implicit Bias in the Legal Profession: Including Mental Health**

*By Joan Bibelhausen, Executive Director, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers*

Are disability issues diversity, equity, and inclusion (D E & I) issues? Of course they are. There are laws against disability discrimination. Disability is included in diversity committee missions. We know there can be assumptions, biases and stigma that affect individuals with disabilities and potentially disabling conditions just as they affect members of other represented groups in our profession. Yet there are challenges to consideration of disability issues at the same level. People may choose not to disclose so there is less tracking of success in hiring, promotion and retention than in other D & I areas. Only recently has a disability bar association been created in Minnesota, one of the few in the country. Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) has long advocated for the inclusion of mental health and other disabilities in the D E & I discussion and this has been welcomed.

This concerns all of us because every single lawyer has the potential to need accommodation for a temporary or permanent disability, whether a sensory, mobility, psychiatric, or other issue. It impacts all of us because we may have colleagues, clients or family members who suffer from mental health or other issues. The most common disabling conditions in the legal profession involve mental health, including substance use issues.

There is a great deal of stigma around asking for help or even acknowledging that there is a problem, and it can mean the end of a career if someone does not get the help they need. LCL also recognizes that individuals from other diverse groups within the legal profession may experience additional stress because of explicit or implicit bias or disparate treatment. Fortunately, we have a champion.

Paulette Brown, past-president of the ABA, spoke about stigma and mental health in the legal profession at the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs annual conference in October 2016. She remarked on the outstanding work that LAPs are doing in this area, and that LAP resources and innovative approaches have helped many to find success in a profession that they love. Ms. Brown discussed the ABA Diversity and Inclusion [360 Commission](#), with its focus on the concept of implicit biases, those unconscious influences on our decisions and actions. She noted that implicit bias can be and is manifested toward those who suffer from mental health issues, depression, anxiety and substance problems in our profession. Here are some highlights of her remarks.

*While there has been some progress on expanding opportunities for lawyers of all races and ethnicities, women and members of the LGBTQ community, the same cannot be said for those with mental illness or substance use disorders. Mental health and substance use disorders are by far the most pervasive and ignored disability issues in our profession. It is similar to issues faced by people in the LGBTQ community – you can't tell by looking. It must be acceptable for people to 'come out' with mental health issues just as it is becoming acceptable to do so in the LGBTQ community.*

*Implicit bias and stigma force our colleagues into the shadows. It is important to address these conditions before they become issues. We cannot avoid them and hope it they will go away. Our colleagues do not feel safe revealing a mental health or substance issue. Many will not seek the assistance they need unless and until the stigma is removed. This can only begin to happen **if** we recognize and acknowledge our implicit biases in this area. Like other areas of diversity and inclusion, the legal profession is far behind many other professions in how it treats those who struggle with mental health and substance use issues.*

*Implicit bias permeates everything we do. Lawyer Assistance Programs see it in the work they do every day where someone is treated differently (or perceives they are treated differently) because they asked for help. When we think about disability issues in our profession, mental health is bar far the most common area of disability. It should be recognized in discussions, trainings and other efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion in our profession. Perhaps then people needing help can seek the attention they need with less trepidation about reaching out. It is the only way to remove stigma.*

*A discussion about open and equal treatment is necessary. These issues need to be part of conversations on diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. We should not be reticent about talking about it anywhere, any place. All must work together to reduce stigma about mental health and substance issues in our profession. If we could convey this message over and over on a broad-based stage, how many more could we serve?*

I would add, how many more could we save?

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers provides free and confidential peer and professional support to lawyers, judges, law students, other legal professionals, and their family members on any issue that causes stress or distress. LCL offers help to those affected by alcohol, drugs and other addictions; depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses; stress and other life-related problems; and any condition which negatively affects the quality of one's life at work or at home. There is someone to talk to 24 hours a day and counseling is offered throughout Minnesota. You can help us reduce the stigma. If you'd to learn more or would like to get involved, go to [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org), call 651-646-5590 or email [help@mnlcl.org](mailto:help@mnlcl.org).

## Implicit Bias Resources

ABA 360 Commission - <https://www.americanbar.org/diversity-portal/diversity-inclusion-360-commission.html>

ABA Section on Litigation - <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/initiatives/task-force-implicit-bias.html>

Harvard Implicit Association Test - <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Harvard Mental Health Implicit Association Tests - <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/user/pimh/index.jsp>

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity - <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/>

Mitchell Hamline School of Law Center for the Study of Black Life & the Law - <https://mitchellhamline.edu/black-life-and-law/>

Mindfulness articles:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeenacho/2016/07/14/10-scientificallly-proven-benefits-of-mindfulness-and-meditation/#127564036e91>

<http://abovethelaw.com/2016/07/scientificallly-proven-reasons-for-why-lawyers-should-practice-mindfulness/>

Above the Law – Impact of implicit bias on diversity in the legal profession - <http://abovethelaw.com/2015/02/implicit-bias-the-silent-killer-of-diversity-in-the-legal-profession/>

Stress in America: The Impact of Discrimination, released 3/10/2016 by the American Psychological Association. <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/stress/2015/impact-of-discrimination.pdf>

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers – [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org), 651-646-5590, [help@mncl.org](mailto:help@mncl.org). Experiencing bias is stressful. Growing as we explore our own bias is stressful. LCL offers up to 4 free counseling sessions on any issues that cause stress or distress. It's not just for when something is wrong - it can help you to move forward in the right way.

## **Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 8.4 – Misconduct**

### **RULE 8.4: MISCONDUCT**

It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to:

(g) harass a person on the basis of sex, race, age, creed, religion, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, status with regard to public assistance, ethnicity, or marital status in connection with a lawyer's professional activities;

(h) commit a discriminatory act prohibited by federal, state, or local statute or ordinance that reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness as a lawyer. Whether a discriminatory act reflects adversely on a lawyer's fitness as a lawyer shall be determined after consideration of all the circumstances, including:

- (1) the seriousness of the act,
- (2) whether the lawyer knew that the act was prohibited by statute or ordinance,
- (3) whether the act was part of a pattern of prohibited conduct, and
- (4) whether the act was committed in connection with the lawyer's professional activities[.]

#### **Comment**

[4] Paragraph (g) specifies a particularly egregious type of discriminatory act -harassment on the basis of sex, race, age, creed, religion, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status. What constitutes harassment in this context may be determined with reference to antidiscrimination legislation and case law thereunder. This harassment ordinarily involves the active burdening of another, rather than mere passive failure to act properly.

[5] Harassment on the basis of sex, race, age, creed, religion, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status may violate either paragraph (g) or paragraph (h). The harassment violates paragraph (g) if the lawyer committed it in connection with the lawyer's professional activities. Harassment, even if not committed in connection with the lawyer's professional activities, violates paragraph (h) if the harassment (1) is prohibited by antidiscrimination legislation and (2) reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness as a lawyer, determined as specified in paragraph (h).

[6] Paragraph (h) reflects the premise that the concept of human equality lies at the very heart of our legal system. A lawyer whose behavior demonstrates hostility toward or indifference to the policy of equal justice under the law may thereby manifest a lack of character required of members of the legal profession. Therefore, a lawyer's discriminatory act prohibited by statute or ordinance may reflect adversely on his or her fitness as a lawyer even if the unlawful discriminatory act was not committed in connection with the lawyer's professional activities.

[7] Whether an unlawful discriminatory act reflects adversely on fitness as a lawyer is determined after consideration of all relevant circumstances, including the four factors listed in paragraph (h). It is not required that the listed factors be considered equally, nor is the list intended to be exclusive. For example, it would also be relevant that the lawyer reasonably believed that his or her conduct was protected under the state or federal constitution or that the lawyer was acting in a capacity for which the law provides an exemption from civil liability. See, e.g., Minn. Stat. Section 317A.257 (unpaid director or officer of nonprofit organization acting in good faith and not willfully or recklessly).





## LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

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# Legal Profession Racial Trauma Resources

- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers: LCL provides free, confidential peer and professional assistance to Minnesota lawyers, judges, law students, other legal professionals, and their immediate family members on any issue that causes stress or distress. This includes up to 4 free counseling sessions. We help other legal professionals on a case-by-case basis. [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org). A recent LCL blog post refers to a strong article on workplace difficulties. <https://www.mnlcl.org/today-i-watched-george-floyd-die-again-but-sure-ill-have-that-memo-to-you-by-500/>.
- Professor Rhonda Magee, How Mindfulness Can Defeat Racial Bias at [https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how\\_mindfulness\\_can\\_defeat\\_racial\\_bias](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_mindfulness_can_defeat_racial_bias). Professor Magee has also written a book, *The Inner Work of Racial Justice*.
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness has created a comprehensive resource page at <https://namimn.org/bipoc/>. Additional materials are at <https://namimn.org/education-and-public-awareness/nami-resources-for-multicultural-communities/>.
- Jeena Cho, author of the *Anxious Lawyer*, has great guided meditations for legal professional on her website at [www.jeenacho.com](http://www.jeenacho.com).
- Local attorney Spiwe Jefferson is a resource for mindfulness resources and practices. [www.spiwejefferson.com](http://www.spiwejefferson.com).
- Mental Health America offers BIPOC mental health resources that address self-care, racial trauma and other topics at [www.mhanational.org/bipoc-mental-health](http://www.mhanational.org/bipoc-mental-health).
- The Legal Rights Center Toolkit and Restorative Journal is at [www.legalrightscenter.org/toolkit-and-guides.html](http://www.legalrightscenter.org/toolkit-and-guides.html)
- The Karuna Community is a local organization that provides compassion-based mindfulness training for people impacted by the Criminal Justice System. [www.karunacmn.org](http://www.karunacmn.org).
- Resources for white people about racism may be found at <https://blog.fracturedatlas.org/resources-for-white-people-to-learn-and-talk-about-race-and-racism-5b207fff4fc7>



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### Mindfulness, the Breath, and Well-Being

Joan Bibelhausen, Executive Director, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

“Take just a few minutes to pay attention to your breath—how you’re breathing can ease the mind.”

Jeena Cho, co-author of *The Anxious Lawyer*.

“I can’t breathe.” George Floyd

As lawyers, we are bombarded with high expectations, emotional cases, and sometimes a struggle to maintain our jobs or practice, especially in these times. If you are preparing a deposition and remember the aggressive behavior of opposing counsel from a previous encounter, how might you respond? You may become anxious, quickly judge that person and the situation, and form impressions of the worst that can happen. By using your breath, by taking a breath, you can arouse your curiosity and look for options. Why did I react that way last time? What lesson is here for me? Use your conscious mind to counter your unconscious or implicit impressions. You can become the driver, not the passenger along for the ride.

Professor John A. Powell writes that “[t]he unconscious, more than the conscious mind, controls our daily decisions and actions, including how we relate to other people, especially those who look different from us.” This applies to a colleague who questions whether someone who looks different is up to the job as well as the colleague who wonders if someone who looks different will support them in doing their best work. Our unconscious reaction, based on years of living our lives, is connected with our drive to survive. When registering a threat, we retreat to fight, flight, or freeze. Our analytical brain is pushed to the background. Mindfulness can bring it back.

Mindfulness is not new to us. As a child, perhaps you were advised to engage in the mindfulness activity of counting to 10 when angry or distressed. Mindfulness is an in-the-moment awareness of what is around us and how we are responding to it. It can help us with that deposition, it can help us to improve our overall well-being as we face traumatic cases and the pressure of law practice, and it can help us as we think about the role of lawyers in our society. By being aware of our inner selves, we can feel that we are leading our lives rather than being hijacked by external factors beyond our control. We cannot control opposing counsel’s behavior, but we can govern our reaction to it.

Professor Rhonda McGee writes about mindfulness and reducing bias. She says that in addition to raising awareness in the moment “mindfulness and compassion practices assist in regulating emotional responses and specifically reducing anxiety, increasing empathy and perspective-taking, and increasing overall gratitude and well-being,”

This is important for our profession and for our own well-being. In LCL’s statement following the death of George Floyd, we cited Robert Benham, former Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. He noted that the first professions in society were the clergy, who healed the spirit, the doctors, who healed the body, and the lawyers, who healed the community. Lawyers and judges will be involved in every single aspect of the aftermath of George Floyd’s death as we ensure all voices are heard. The community needs us as healers now, but we must also care for ourselves. To help our clients, colleagues, and communities, we must be actively mindful of our emotions. We must put our oxygen masks on first, be attentive to our well-being and proactively engage in practices to enhance it.

LCL provides free, confidential, peer and professional support and services to lawyers, judges, law students, family members, and staff in legal organizations throughout Minnesota who are facing mental health, substance use or other life challenges. This includes up to four free counseling sessions, someone to talk to 24/7, support groups, referrals to resources, and much more. 651-646-5590 or [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org).



## LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

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### **Reducing Stigma to Avoid Chronic Stress & Burnout** **Selected Resources**

Steven Keeva, Transforming Practices: Finding Joy and Satisfaction in Legal Life (American Bar Association 2011, [2014](#); Amazon)

Dr. Jacqueline Kerr, "[Ending the Self-Perpetuating Cycle of Burnout and Bias](#)"  
Dr. Jacqueline Kerr Blog

Shauna Faye Kieffer, "[This moment and this breath: a Public Defender Writes about Loss, Survival and Extreme Sports](#)" Minn. Bench & Bar  
78(10)(November 2021)

Cathy Krebs, "Practical Tips for Addressing Burnout" ABA Children's Rights Litigation Articles (Alexandra Michel, "[Burnout and the Brain](#)" Association for Psychological Sciences (Jan. 29 2016).

Emily Nagoski, PhD and Amelia Nagoski, DMA, Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle (Ballantine 2009) Visit [Website](#) for book, discussion guides, resources.

Ellen Ostrow, "[Clear the Obstacles to a Balanced Life](#)" The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (reprinted with permission) (August 2003)

Judith Rush, LCL Blog "[The Benefit of Balance in Avoiding Burnout](#)" (Nov. 29 2022)

Judith Rush, “[A Hidden Gem Worth Finding](#)” Minn. Bench & Bar 80 (4)  
May/June 2023)

Dyan Williams, “[The Practice of Being: Mastering Stress & Finding Meaning as a Lawyer](#)” Minn. Bench & Bar 67(3) (March 2010)

## **Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers**

2550 University Avenue West, #313N · St. Paul, MN 55114  
651-646-5590; 866-525-6466 · [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org) · [help@mnlcl.org](mailto:help@mnlcl.org)

### **SELECTED RESOURCES ON MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND COMPULSIVE BEHAVIORS**

#### **Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (Minnesota)**

651-646-5590; 877-525-6466 (toll-free)

[https://www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org); [help@mnlcl.org](mailto:help@mnlcl.org); <https://www.facebook.com/mnlcl>.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers is the provider of Minnesota's Lawyers Assistance Program for lawyers, judges, law students, other legal professionals, and their immediate family members. We offer free, confidential help with addictions, mental health disorders, chronic stress, and personal and career-related issues. Our services include 24-hour crisis response; professional clinical assessments and referrals; interventions; short-term counseling; support groups facilitated by licensed counselors; peer mentoring and support; and education.

#### **Sandcreek EAP**

651-430-3383; 888-243-5744 (toll-free)

<https://allonehealth.com/allone-health-locations/sandcreekeap/>

LCL's Employee Assistance Program partner hosts a website with articles and resources in many areas. Go to <https://allonehealth.com/allone-health-locations/sandcreekeap/> and click on "MEMBER PORTAL & APP" to use or create your account. Use the Company Code "lawyers" when creating your account.

#### **U.S. Surgeon General**

"Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health"

The full report is available at the link below. You may also access an Executive Summary, a Vision for the Future, and find related resources.

<https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/>.

#### **National Alliance on Mental Illness**

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) The Minnesota chapter website is <https://namimn.org>.

NAMI has information on various mental illnesses, including ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, Personality Disorders, Depression, Eating Disorders, OCD, PTSD, and others. There are also national and local support resources. A comprehensive Adult Mental Health Resource Guide is at <https://2a392k31wksy2wejf1y03dp-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/188/2019/12/NAMIHopeForRecoveryBookletRevised11-19FINAL.pdf>

#### **American Psychological Association**

<https://www.apa.org>

This site offers numerous resources on many mental health and wellness topics.

#### **Make it OK**

<https://makeitok.org/>

"Make It OK" is a campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illness. It is committed to changing hearts and minds about the misperceptions of mental illnesses by encouraging open conversations and education on the topic.

#### **Help Guide**

<https://www.helpguide.org/>

This website is operated by a nonprofit dedicated to bringing evidence-based information about mental health to the general public.

#### **Minnesota Recovery Connection**

<https://minnesotarecovery.org/>

MRC provides peer support and advocacy to support recovery. The site includes a comprehensive list of resources. [https://minnesotarecovery.org/resources\\_search/](https://minnesotarecovery.org/resources_search/)

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## American Bar Association

The American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) supports lawyer assistance efforts nationwide. This includes conducting and supporting research.

A recent ABA CoLAP and Hazelden Betty Ford joint study provides updated information on substance use, mental health, and help-seeking behaviors. Krill, Patrick, Johnson, Ryan, Albert, Linda, “The Prevalence Of Substance Use and Other Mental Health Concerns Among American Attorneys,” *Journal of Addiction Medicine*: Jan./Feb. 2016.

[https://journals.lww.com/journaladdictionmedicine/Fulltext/2016/02000/The\\_Prevalence\\_of\\_Substance\\_Use\\_and\\_Other\\_Mental.8.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/journaladdictionmedicine/Fulltext/2016/02000/The_Prevalence_of_Substance_Use_and_Other_Mental.8.aspx).

“The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change” is a follow-up report that offers strategies and guidance for multiple stakeholders to change the legal profession’s culture.

<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/abanews/ThePathToLawyerWellBeingReportRevFINAL.pdf>.

A well-being toolkit released in August 2018 provides general guidance and a workbook with a wide variety of exercises. [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/lawyer\\_assistance/lis\\_colap\\_well-being\\_toolkit\\_for\\_lawyers\\_legal\\_employers.authcheckdam.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/lawyer_assistance/lis_colap_well-being_toolkit_for_lawyers_legal_employers.authcheckdam.pdf)

This ABA Template provides guidance to legal employers.

[https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/lawyer\\_assistance/well-being-template-for-legal-employers-final-3-19.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/lawyer_assistance/well-being-template-for-legal-employers-final-3-19.pdf).

Numerous articles are linked at [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer\\_assistance/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_assistance/) for lawyer assistance resources and information across the country.

## Other Lawyers Assistance Programs

Lawyer Assistance Programs (LAPs) are available nationwide. Some are independent, some are under the auspices of the court, and some are part of the bar association. They are listed at

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer\\_assistance/resources/lap\\_programs\\_by\\_state/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_assistance/resources/lap_programs_by_state/)

## Minnesota Courts

The Minnesota Supreme Court hosted a Well-Being Call to Action conference in February 2019. Materials, including keynote videos, are at: <https://www.mncourts.gov/lawyer-well-being.aspx>.

## U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [clearinghouse for alcohol and drug information]

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

This federal agency has information for individuals seeking help, professionals, and researchers.

## Recovery Month

<https://www.samhsa.gov/443/recovery-month>

SAMHSA sponsors this annual event held every September. It features events and resources for those with substance use issues and those who care about them.

## American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Public Policy Statement: Definition of Addiction - <https://www.asam.org/resources/definition-of-addiction>. This includes short and extended statements as well as frequently asked questions.

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## National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>

NIAAA supports and researches the impact of alcohol use on human health and well-being.

## National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://nida.nih.gov/>

This division of the National Institutes of Health provides information on the science of drug and alcohol addiction. There are links to a wide variety of substances. An excellent pamphlet, “The Science of Addiction,” is available by mail or PDF download in English or Spanish.

## National Institute of Mental Health

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/>

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the lead federal agency for research on mental disorders. Resources, fact sheets, and other downloadable information on all facets of mental health are available. The NIMH is one of the National Institutes of Health.

## International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG)

<https://www.icrg.org/>

ICRG is a nonprofit group funding scientific research on gambling addiction. The mission of this organization is to help people with gambling addictions.

## Rob Weiss resources on sexual compulsivity

<https://www.robertweissmsw.com/>

This site has a blog and many other resources related to intimacy, sex and love addiction, and gender differences.

## Mayo Clinic Stress Management Resources

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/basics/stress-basics/hlv-20049495>

## Authentic Happiness

<https://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/home>

This site provides numerous resources and self-assessments related to Positive Psychology. Positive Psychology is the scientific study of the strengths that enable individuals and communities to thrive.

## “The Practice of Being: Mastering Stress & Finding Meaning as a Lawyer”

This article by attorney and coach Dyan Williams discusses mindfulness, acceptance and authenticity. Originally published in Bench & Bar; LCL archives this resource at <https://www.mnlcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/67BenchBMinn26.pdf>

## Online Resources Focused on Lawyers

### Lawyers with Depression

<https://www.lawyerswithdepression.com/>

Daniel Lukasik, a lawyer who has experienced depression, created this comprehensive resource devoted to providing support and information for lawyers facing depression.

### Lawyers Depression Project

<https://www.lawyersdepressionproject.org>

The Lawyers Depression Project is a group of legal professionals (attorneys, paralegals, law students, and admin)



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who have suffered from depression, anxiety, bipolar, OCD, eating disorders, trauma, sexual abuse, addiction, and other mental health conditions, or who just don't feel quite right.

## The Anxious Lawyer

<https://jeenacho.com>

Jeena Cho, one of the authors of *The Anxious Lawyer*, actively blogs offering tips for reducing anxiety through mindfulness.

## Lawyer Mental Health and Ethical Issues

*The Chemically Impaired Lawyer: A Malpractice Insurance Company's Perspective*, Molly Eiden and Todd C. Scott, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual (2018).

<https://www.mlmins.com/Library/The%20Chemically%20Impaired%20Lawyer.pdf>

"Ethics and Lawyer Well-Being," Joseph Balkenbush, Oklahoma Bar Counsel.

<https://www.okbar.org/barjournal/dec2017/obj8833balkenbush/>

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"The most terrifying part of my drug addiction? That my law firm would find out." Lisa F. Smith, *The Washington Post*, March 24, 2016. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/03/24/the-most-terrifying-part-of-my-drug-addiction-that-my-law-firm-would-find-out/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.790fa49d08ed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/03/24/the-most-terrifying-part-of-my-drug-addiction-that-my-law-firm-would-find-out/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.790fa49d08ed)

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# Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

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651-646-5590; 866-525-6466 · [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org) · [help@mnlcl.org](mailto:help@mnlcl.org)

## **Workplace Safety for Legal Professionals**

“Are You Being Bullied?” Merrilyn Astin Tarlton, *Attorney at Work* website, originally posted August 30, 2012, updated September 22, 2020. <https://www.attorneyatwork.com/are-you-being-bullied/>

“Violence Against Attorneys and Judges: Protecting Yourself Before and After a Threat”  
<http://www.forensic-psych.com/articles/artAskexp06.php>

“Fortress or Foyer? On Law Firm Security,” Todd C. Scott, MLM, *Bench and Bar*, August 2016;  
<https://www.mnlcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/73BenchBMinn24.pdf>

“Keeping Oneself and Firm Members Safe from Violence,” Rick Hendrickson, *Attorney At Law Magazine*, June 15, 2020. <https://attorneyatlawmagazine.com/keeping-oneself-and-firm-members-safe-from-violence>

“Lawyering Can be a Dangerous Job,” Diane Curtis, *California Bar Journal*, March 2004.  
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“You’re Being Bullied: Now What?” Merrilyn Astin Tarlton, *Attorney at Work* website, originally posted September 18, 2012, updated May 5, 2018. <https://www.attorneyatwork.com/youre-being-bullied-now-what/>

## **Online Resources** – the following sites will direct you to other resources.

<https://namimn.org/support/> Frequently updated list of Minnesota support groups

<https://aaminneapolis.org/> – includes links to St. Paul and greater Minnesota sites

<https://www.al-anon-alateen-msp.org/>

<https://womenforsobriety.org/> – includes online chat

<http://aaonline.org/> is one example of online A.A. meetings

<https://www.smartrecovery.org/> SMART Recovery

<https://www.gamblersanonymous.org/ga>

<http://www overeaters.org/>; <https://eatingdisordersanonymous.org/>

<http://www.minnesotarecovery.info/OtherMN12StepGroups.htm>

<https://saa-recovery.org/meetings/united-states/?state=MN> Sex Addicts Anonymous

<https://www.allinahealth.org/health-conditions-and-treatments/grief-resources> Dealing with grief

<https://www.ncadd.org/> National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

<https://www.usnodrugs.com/> U.S. No Drugs features a searchable directory of treatment centers and a glossary of common terms used in addiction research, reports, and treatment.

<https://addictionblog.org/> General information on addiction sponsored by the American Addiction Centers

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### **Publications and Literature**

*The Anxious Lawyer: An 8-Week Guide to a Joyful and Satisfying Law Practice*, Jeena Cho and Karen Gifford. The Anxious Lawyer provides a straightforward 8-week introductory program on meditation and mindfulness, created by lawyers for lawyers. The program draws on examples from Cho and Gifford's professional and personal lives to create an accessible and enjoyable entry into practices that can reduce anxiety, improve focus and clarity, and enrich the quality of life.

*King Baby*, Tom Cunningham. Discusses the "King Baby" personality (the childish ego traits seen in people who have reached adulthood without acquiring emotional maturity), frequently associated with people with substance use disorders.

"Law Students and Lawyers with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Problems: Protecting the Public and the Individual," Laura Rothstein, *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, vol. 69:531 (2008).  
<http://lawreview.law.pitt.edu/ojs/lawreview/article/download/106/106/0>

"Mental Illness Is Far More Normal Than We Think," Seth J. Gillihan Ph. D., *Psychology Today* blog (May 17, 2021), <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/think-act-be/202105/mental-illness-is-far-more-normal-we-think>

"Reducing the Stigma: The Deadly Effect of Untreated Mental Illness and New Strategies for Changing Outcomes in Law Students," Joan Bibelhausen, Katherine Bender, and Rachel Barrett, *William Mitchell Law Review*, vol. 41, no. 3 (2015). <https://www.mnlcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Reducing-the-Stigma-The-Deadly-Effect-of-Untreated-Mental-Illnes.pdf>

*Trauma and the Twelve Steps, Revised and Expanded: An Inclusive Guide to Enhancing Recovery*, Jaime Marich