

Lawyer's Assistance Program – Draft Vision Statement

The Lawyer's Assistance Program (LAP) provides support to attorneys who are struggling with substance abuse and/or mental illness. The LAP provides a range of services and levels of support that are tailored to the circumstances of each individual that it works with. While the goal of LAP is to rehabilitate attorneys whose work is impaired due to substance abuse or mental health issues, this program is uniquely situated to protect the public by working to avoid problems before they occur and remediate them when they do occur.

- LAP provides outreach services, training, and continuing legal education on how to identify and deal with problems of substance abuse, stress, and mental illness in yourself and in colleagues;
- LAP makes *confidential* referrals to counseling and free assessments for attorneys who are experiencing stress, mental illness or are struggling with substance abuse;
- LAP works with the Office of the Chief Trial Counsel to monitor and support attorneys who have come to the attention of the Chief Trial Counsel and who may be eligible to enter into a stipulated agreement (an Agreement in Lieu of Discipline);
- LAP works with the State Bar Court's Office of Probation to assist with the monitoring of attorneys who have been ordered to participate in the LAP as a condition of their discipline before the State Bar Court.