

Lawyers & Judges Assistance – Standing Committee

Jurisdiction

Propose and support measures to advance the well-being of lawyers, judges, and law students by:

- Recommending, developing, and supporting programs and educational presentations that provide assistance to law students, lawyers, and judges regarding substance use issues, mental health issues, anxiety, and general wellness
- Reviewing and making recommendations concerning proposed statutes and court rules affecting assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to substance use and mental health issues
- Monitoring national trends and data on attorney and judge wellness and treatment
- Determining how the committee’s work might interact with and support work of the Professional Ethics, Judicial Ethics, Character and Fitness, and Client Protection Fund committees, including by conferring and coordinating regularly with them on trends, data, insights, and **metrics**
- Being aware of and discussing **metrics** measuring the effectiveness of national and state efforts to reduce attorney drug and alcohol addiction and depression
- Reviewing and evaluating **metrics** measuring the effectiveness of efforts to promote attorney wellbeing, including evaluating available online wellness assessment tools for lawyers

Committee Chair: Emily Conway

Staff Liaison: Tish Vincent

Meetings: In-person: 3; Electronic or phone: 2

Committee Activities

1. Outreach to law firms, courts, affinity bars, law schools and other stakeholders to secure scheduling for presentations on lawyer well-being. Act as emissaries for the issue of well-being and services available to members of State Bar of Michigan on LJAP offerings for the purposes of education and re-establishing well-being when needed.

Goal 1: Strategy 2: Supporting each active member’s professional competence and continuing professional development

2. The Lawyers & Judges Assistance Committee has voted on issues of interest to the well-being of applicants to the State Bar of Michigan. They have reviewed documents pertinent to the issues and shared their professional opinions.

Goal 1: Strategy 1: Helping new lawyers to be practice ready

3. Lawyers and Judges Assistance staff and some committee members have communicated with the Attorney Grievance Commission and the Attorney Discipline Board to support

attorneys who are struggling in a recovery effort. The monitoring agreements offered by LJAP are an integral component of the regulatory structure in the state.

Goal 3: Strategy 1: Working with our partners to effectively regulate the legal profession in Michigan

4. LJA Program staff provide continuing education on managing stress, seeking professional help when a medical or mental health condition may impair a practitioner's ability to practice.

Goal 3: Strategy 2: Educating members on ethical rules and regulations

Special Committee Characteristics

The LJAP committee may develop and carry out programming consistent with this jurisdiction and within allocated budgetary resources, without explicit approval by the Board of Commissioners or Professional Standards committee. This committee may have more than 15 members and may include non-State Bar members.