

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Committee

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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

Note: 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.

Time Frame	Strategic Plan Goal/Strategy	Description of Activity
5/19-9/19	3.1	ICLE initiative on lawyer wellbeing – Seminar Series Published
	3.2	SCAO initiative – LJAP/Ethics posters in every Michigan courthouse.
	1.1	Law school initiatives – Wellness as competence that must be maintained.
	3.2	Well being and ABA tool kit for legal employers to law firms and bar associations.
	3.1	Lawyers Wellness Foundation Board of Trustees established and functioning.
10/19-5/20	2.2	Support of SBM On Balance Podcast
	3.1	Outreach to stakeholders on lawyer well-being
	1.1	Discussion of Character & Fitness delays for individuals with diagnoses.
	2.2	Education of all SBM members on well-being as competence
Current Projects	1.2/3.2	Dealing with COVID-19 anxiety
		Dealing with changing demands of work
	3.3	Developing well-being blog
	1.3	Developing online presentations on pertinent topics
	1.1	Supporting On-Balance Podcast

Future Goals	3.2	Continue outreach through networking and presentations
	1.1	Continue to be aware of processes for applicants involved in Character & Fitness hearings
	2.2	Expand education about lawyer well-being to all SBM members
	2.2	Explore innovative methods of reaching more members
	3.2	Collaborate with other committees.

Recommended Committee Changes: None.

Additional Comments: This committee anchors SBM's commitment to well-regulated and healthy community of lawyers and judges. It is an essential committee and should remain intact.