

## Lawyers and Judges Assistance Committee

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 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
FY 2020	3.1	The newly established Lawyers Wellness Foundation Board of Trustees became solidified and began meeting regularly.
	1.2	Successfully transitioned face-to-face lawyers and judges 12-Step meetings to a virtual platform amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
	3.1	Expanded and facilitated outreach to law firms, affinity bars, and other stakeholders through networking and presentations.
	1.1	Expanded and facilitated outreach to law schools to stress the importance of wellness as a form of competence that must be maintained.
	1.4	Garnered an understanding of the SOLACE Program and how to contribute to the establishment of this Program in Michigan.
Current Projects	3.1	Continued growth with the Lawyers Wellness Foundation including development of a website and logo.
	1.4	Contributing to the establishment of the SOLACE Program in Michigan.
	3.2	Providing a response to the Board of Commissioners regarding a proposed amendment of MCR 9.261.
	3.1	Expanding outreach on well-being to stakeholders in the legal profession.

	1.1	Supporting On-Balance Podcast
Future Goals	3.1	Continued growth with the Lawyers Wellness Foundation, including fundraising.
	3.2	Submit response to Board of Commissioners regarding proposed amendment of MCR 9.261.
	3.1	Expanding outreach to all SBM members on lawyer well-being.
	1.4	Working with other committees, help fully establish the SOLACE Program in Michigan.
	1.2/3.2	Address anticipated pandemic fatigue with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommended Committee Changes: None.**

**Additional Comments:** The LJAC is an active committee made-up of members who are excited to contribute and work toward agreed upon goals. We have an exciting year ahead made-up of energetic members yearning to get involved. No changes recommended at this time.