

Attorney Well-Being Task Force MISSION

To oversee issues related to the well-being of our legal community and to develop practical, evidence-based resources to educate, support and empower all members of the legal community; law student through retiree. The Task Force will examine factors which negatively impact the health and well-being of the legal community, including those discussed in the 2017 ABA's Report of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, and develop a report detailing attainable, measurable recommendations for mitigation efforts which can be implemented across New York's legal landscape.

Scope

In order to accomplish its mission, the Task Force will examine nine critical areas of the legal landscape which empirical data have identified as effecting the well-being of attorneys. These nine areas include: Law Education; Law Culture and Employment; Physical Well-Being; Emotional Well-Being; Substance Use and Disorders &Addiction; Judiciary and the Courts; Public Trust and Ethics (* Chaired by Marian Rice); Bar Associations; and Continuing Legal Education.

Substance Use Disorders & Addiction

Chair: Hon. Sallie Krauss

Lawyer Assistance Committees and programs have been bringing resources and awareness to the legal community for decades. Yet, significant stigma and education is lacking about predisposition, risk factors, and warnings signs of substance abuse and addictions. In fact, coping mechanisms habitually performed in the extreme or to the detriment of personal well-being are addictions, with or without substance abuse. The Group will address the current state of lawyer assistance in New York State, the scope and impact of addiction, including but not limited to, substance abuse. Additionally, the Group will make recommendations about efforts which can be implemented at the local and state level to increase awareness, reduce stigma, and provide services, community and support to lawyers.