

CLE PROGRAM • MAY 14-16, 2021



Buddy Stockwell was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court on July 1, 2020, as the new Executive Director of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP). Stockwell comes from south Louisiana where he has been a volunteer and program monitor for

the state's Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse since 1993, and the Executive Director of Louisiana's Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP) for the last ten years. He is a Certified Clinical Interventionist and has personally been in recovery from alcoholism for over 37 years. Stockwell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Louisiana State University in 1989 and a Juris Doctor degree from LSU Law School in 1993. Stockwell is a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain and seasoned ocean mariner. He also served in the Navy prior to college.



Julie Bonasso, Esquire is a master certified life coach and former AmLaw 100 attorney. She is a personal transformation coach with fifteen years of experience coaching leaders in demanding positions. As an attorney, she understands the

ambitious professionals desire to excel in all areas of life. Burned-out in the workplace and suffering chronic health issues related to stress and anxiety, she tapped into a deep knowledge of holistic wellness and sought guidance from a coach, developing new insights and making changes that improved her health and well-being. As a result, her life and business were transformed, and she was inspired to pursue her life purpose of helping others in high-performance roles. Her clients come from varying backgrounds, but have one thing in common – the desire to have a healthier life without compromising income or productivity. Julie's commitment to personal and professional well-being for her clients has been shaped by her experiences seeing how one can reverse the impact of stress on the body and mind in the context of hard-charging work environments.

Laurie Besden is an attorney and the Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania. Laurie had a privileged upbringing. She graduated college with a 3.97 GPA, and was in the top 15% of her law school class. On paper, Laurie is the definition of success. Laurie also has a substance



use disorder that wanted her dead but settled for her freedom. Laurie will candidly share her story. It is a remarkable story of crippling addiction, and ultimately, redemption. Ms. Besden filmed the "Besden Redemption" for CoLAP's Law School Assistance Committee setting out to create a video that law students could relate to, encouraging those who are reluctant to seek help to take the first step. The premise of "The Besden Redemption" allows folks who think, "It can't happen to me," realize that it can happen to anybody. As Laurie puts it, "these diseases do not discriminate. But recovery doesn't either."

Stephanne Cline Thornton is the Criminal Justice Specialist for Public Defender Services'. Ms. Thornton holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University; a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University; and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Georgia. She began work as a mitigation specialist for death



penalty and aggravated felony cases in Georgia and has managed an outpatient dual diagnosis clinic in Denver, Colorado, and a felony drug court program in Athens, Georgia. Ms. Thornton has been clinically licensed as a social worker and addictions counselor since 2004 and currently holds a Master Addiction Counselor certificate, is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, a Certified Addiction Counselor Level III, Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider, and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional. Ms. Thornton is also trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and somatic treatment for trauma.