

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The North Dakota Lawyer Assistance Program was established in 2004 pursuant to North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 49. Participation in the program, including communications between participants, committee members and volunteers, is confidential and may not be disclosed without the consent of the affected party. N.D. SUP. CT. ADMIN. R. 49 § 4.

The program is designed to help judges and attorneys who are having issues with alcohol or drug abuse, stress, depression, or practice management. In 2014, the program will be expanding to assist UND Law Students as they begin their career.

We provide referral and ongoing support services to Attorneys struggling with emotional and substance abuse issues.

Signs of Lawyer Impairment

ATTENDANCE

- Often late or leaving early
- Long lunches or not returning after lunch
- Missing appointments or scheduled appearances

PERFORMANCE

- Missed Deadlines
- Decreased Efficiency
- Poor Judgment
- Inability to concentrate

ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR

- Deterioration of personal appearance
- Withdrawal or avoidance of others
- Irritability, angry outbursts, hostile attitude, or mood swings

NORTH DAKOTA Lawyer Assistance Program

Serving North Dakota attorneys and their families
NorthDakotaLAP@gmail.com



**CONFIDENTIAL.
FREE. HERE TO HELP.**

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Contact us today!

Some of the traits that make attorneys effective advocates for our clients can also make us reluctant to reach out for help.

As lawyers, we are trained to be rational and objective. We tend to be argumentative, competitive, and aggressive. Our training devalues emotional concerns and feelings. These traits may lead to social isolation from our peer and family support networks.

LAWYERS AND DEPRESSION

It is estimated that lawyers experience depression at a rate 3.6 times the average of the general working population and the risk of suicide is 6 times greater among lawyers than that of the general population.

The most common mental health impairments are depression, bipolar disorder, and anxiety.

LAWYERS AND ADDICTION

The ABA estimates that 15% - 20% of U.S. lawyers suffer from alcoholism or substance abuse issues. Chemical Dependency is a chronic (an addict is never 'cured'), progressive (symptoms will not get better without treatment) and, if untreated, fatal disease.



If you are concerned that an attorney or judge has a problem with drugs, alcohol, or another condition that appears to be interfering with their practice, contact Lawyer Assistance.

Our services are 100% confidential. We can provide referral and ongoing support services.