

LAP Needs Your Help **Judges Have A Critical Role in LAP Services**

Judges play in a critical role as trained LAP volunteers. Peer interventions are more successful when at least one judge serves as a member of the intervention team, and when a judge is the subject of concern, multiple judges may be involved.

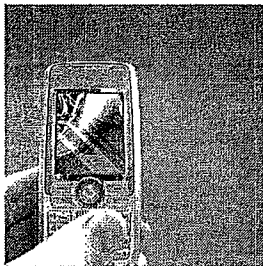
LAP needs judges from all regions of the State to participate in the LAP volunteer intervention training. An interested judge need not be in recovery—all that is necessary is that the judge be a caring person who wants to help and is open to learning about the issues and solutions.

Call LAP at

800-860-4914

In ABQ, dial

228-1948



Confidentiality is the Cornerstone

All interactions with the Lawyers Assistance Program are held in strict confidence according to a Supreme Court Order issued in 2005. Whether you seek assistance for yourself or for a colleague or family member, you can count on complete confidentiality.

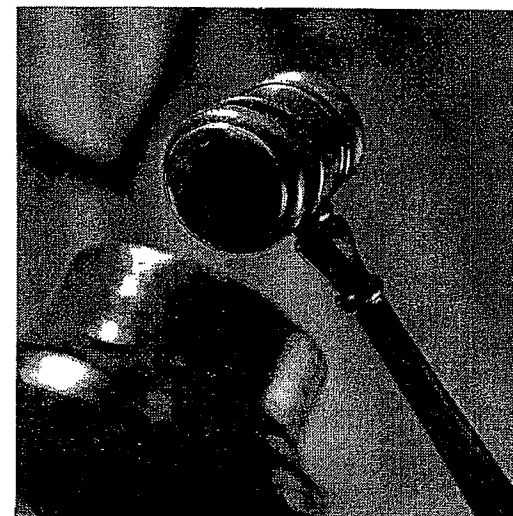


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**NM STATE BAR
LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(LAP)**

Confidential Assistance for New Mexico Judges



**800-860-4914
228-1948 in ABQ**

When A Judge Needs Assistance LAP Can Provide Confidential Help

Like all members of the legal profession, judges sometimes face problems—stress, depression, balancing work and family, drug or alcohol abuse, and compulsive behaviors. The very nature of the judge's role in the legal system makes it more likely that his/her problem will go unnoticed and untreated.

Judges work in isolation, frequently shielding problems from colleagues and associates. They are often reluctant to seek help because of fear, denial, or embarrassment. Above all, they're concerned their problems will become known and negatively impact their status and reputation.

LAP understands these concerns and can ensure that all responses to judges who call for help are handled with complete confidentiality and discretion. Services include referrals to professional counseling and treatment programs, and peer support from judges who are trained LAP volunteers.



Concerned About A Judicial Colleague?

LAP Can Help You Help Them



Judges are often in the best position to observe problems or impairment in colleagues on the bench. Lawyers are reluctant to initiate judicial intervention for fear of retaliation by the impaired judge or alienation of other judges.

Judges can help other judges most effectively with the support of LAP volunteer judges who understand the issues and are genuinely concerned about their judicial colleagues. When impairment is caused by alcohol/other drug dependence, LAP volunteer judges and professional staff meet with concerned individuals to educate them about the intervention process and prepare them to effectively intervene with the impaired judge with the goal of getting the judge to treatment.

Interventions can interrupt the progressive and destructive effects of chemical dependence and compulsive gambling and most importantly, save lives. Helping a colleague is the honorable thing to do and the intervention process is always conducted with respect and genuine concern.

Has an Impaired Lawyer Appeared Before You?

Judges Are In A Position To Help



Judges are in a unique position to recognize impairment in the lawyers who appear before them. Sharing concerns with other judges about an attorney's behavior can help identify someone who needs help. Most warning signs, such as changes in personality and job performance, clearly indicate something is wrong.

A perceptive, understanding, but assertive judge can cut through the denial, enabling, and indifference to reach the impaired lawyer as no one else can. LAP is always available to answer questions and provide assistance when a judge expresses concern about an attorney.

Services include referral to treatment, peer support from volunteer lawyers who have successfully confronted the same problem (e.g., alcohol/other drug dependence, depression), and planned intervention to assist the attorney who may not understand he/she needs help. LAP also provides a monitoring program for individuals in need of additional structure and support.