

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program: **Providing confidential, discrete and respectful assistance since 1989**

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) is a crisis counseling, peer assistance and referral program that helps Texas law students, lawyers and judges challenged by substance abuse and other mental health issues, including depression, anxiety and stress.

TLAP staff, TLAP Committee members, and TLAP volunteers are able to help by providing discrete and respectful personal outreach, appropriate referrals and ideas for concrete solutions. TLAP can help save lives and careers.

One of the foundations supporting TLAP is its STATUTORY CONFIDENTIALITY granted by the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 467.

Pursuant to Section 467, all communications with TLAP are confidential. TLAP staff, TLAP Committee members and TLAP volunteers sign a confidentiality acknowledgement that details both the policy and statutory requirements concerning TLAP and confidentiality. As most lawyers know, there are limited exceptions to this confidentiality, such as when an individual is a danger to himself or others.

In addition to statutory confidentiality, TLAP staff, Committee members and volunteers personally pledge to keep all information confidential. Many volunteers also follow the principles of 12-step recovery, established by Alcoholics Anonymous, wherein anonymity and confidentiality are the spiritual foundations of the programs. A TLAP volunteer best summed it up by saying, "We never talk."

TLAP lawyer support group meetings operate in the major cities in Texas to provide group support for lawyers with substance use and depression issues. These groups also fall under the confidentiality umbrella of TLAP services and participants adhere to the philosophy of "who we see here, what we hear here, let that stay here."

You can reach TLAP at (800) 343-8527 (Lawyers' Hotline) or (800) 219-6474 (Judges' Hotline).