

WisLAP services

- Educational training programs on preventing, recognizing, and addressing addiction, stress, depression, and other mental health issues
- Early identification of impairment
- Consultation and referral to appropriate treatment resources
- Referral to a trained peer assistant – an attorney who has committed time to assist a struggling colleague by providing support, understanding, and guidance
- Intervention and motivation to seek help
- Information and consultation for those who are concerned about a legal professional

Because life is hard.

If you, someone in your family, or a colleague are experiencing mental, emotional, or physical problems, WisLAP can help.

**Confidential support is
available 24/7 by calling:
(800) 543-2625**

WisLAP
Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program

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5302 Eastpark Blvd. • P.O. Box 7158 • Madison, WI 53707

(800) 543-2625 – 24 hr. helpline

(608) 250-6172 – WisLAP coordinator

(608) 257-5502 – fax

www.wisbar.org/wislap

WisLAP

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Because life is hard.

For life's problems, confidential help
is available 24 hours a day.

(800) 543-2625



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

“WisLAP is a highly valued program that offered unrestrained help to myself and my family.”

— WisLAP Client



The Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP)

is a member service of the State Bar of Wisconsin which provides confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and their families.

The program is designed to help legal professionals build on their strengths and provide support through the enhancement of physical, mental, and emotional health.

24 hour helpline

WisLAP maintains a professionally staffed telephone helpline and a support network of trained volunteers. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including holidays) at (800) 543-2625.

Confidentiality is the cornerstone

Personal struggles are hard to talk about, especially for attorneys. WisLAP treats each request for help with the same confidentiality as the lawyer-client relationship. WisLAP is exempt from reporting professional misconduct to the Office of Lawyer Regulation under the provisions of Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules 20:8.3 (c).



Lawyers helping lawyers

In consultation with clinical staff, WisLAP uses trained lawyers to provide support, referral, and assistance.

WisLAP recognizes:

- Lawyers are achievers and perfectionists
- They work challenging and stressful jobs
- They experience the same problems as other professionals but at a higher rate

The American Bar Association estimates that 15 - 20% of attorneys suffer from addiction or mental illness compared to 9% of the general population. When these estimates are applied to Wisconsin lawyers it means nearly 4,000 of our state's legal professionals could be impaired by these problems.

Identifying a troubled lawyer

“Nonetheless, a lawyer may not shut his eyes to conduct reflecting generally recognized symptoms of impairment.” ABA Formal Opinion 03-431.

Signs of impairment may include:

- Missing court dates or deadlines
- Failure to file documents or perform tasks
- Coming in late or leaving early without notice
- Appearing in court intoxicated or otherwise impaired; changes in mood, behavior, or hygiene

Education

WisLAP offers CLE programs tailored to each group's needs, addressing the following topics: addictions, mental illness, stress management, life balance, and compassion fatigue. Programs can be offered to county bar associations, specialty bars, law schools, or conference audiences.

WisLAP is committed to prevention, identification, and treatment of impairment among legal professionals.

WisLAP can help you

Attorneys are human and humans experience problems such as:

- Depression and Anxiety
- Stress and Burnout
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Marital and Family Problems
- Gambling
- Career Concerns/Unemployment
- Eating Disorders

Whatever the problem, WisLAP is ready to assist you. **You don't have to manage it alone.**

“Wisdom is nothing more than healed pain.”

— Robert Gary Lee