

Conference:



Meeting Our  
Responsibilities:

# Substance Abuse and Law Schools

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June 24, 2003

New York City, N.Y.

A northeast U.S. regional conference on the role of law schools in addressing the issue of substance abuse in the legal profession

# Meeting Our Responsibilities: Substance Abuse and Law Schools

## What:

A northeast U.S. regional conference on the role of law schools in addressing the issue of substance abuse in the legal profession

## Where:

Headquarters of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York  
42 W. 44th Street, New York City, NY

## When:

Tuesday, June 24, 2003  
8:15 am – 3:45 pm

## Audience:

Law School Deans; Student Service Professionals; Faculty, especially teachers of Professional Responsibility & Legal Ethics; Bar Association Executives; Judges; Representatives involved in Attorney Admissions; Character Review & Grievance Committees; Lawyer Assistance Program Directors; State & Local Lawyer Assistance Committees

## Committee:

William Kane, *New Jersey Lawyer Assistance Program Director*  
Ken Rosenblum, *Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Touro Law School*  
Eileen Travis, *Association of the Bar of the City of New York LAP Director*  
Bonnie Waters, *Executive Director, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Massachusetts*  
Barbara Smith, *LAT Director*

## Agenda:

**8:15 – 9:00 AM**  
**REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

**9:00 – 9:10 AM**  
**WELCOME**  
James C. Moore, *Chair, NYS Lawyer Assistance Trust*

**9:10 – 9:30 AM**  
**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
Hon. Judith S. Kaye,  
*Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals*

**MESSAGE:** *Here's the problem, let's focus on the solution; there's been a change in the profession, how can we approach substance abuse problems differently? Be part of the solution.*

**9:30 – 10:45 AM**  
**Law Schools and Substance Abuse**

Robert Stein, *ABA Executive Director*  
John Sebert, *ABA legal education consultant, former Dean of the University of Baltimore Law School*  
Michael Distelhorst, *AALS Study, Capital University Law School*  
Hon. Robert Childers, *ABA CoLAP Member*

*Panelists will discuss the role which law schools play in initiating or facilitating substance abuse in students and faculty, touching on the 1993 study by the Association of Law Schools; they will articulate the*

*extent of the problem in law schools and identify why substance abuse is not given significant attention in law schools, and discuss plans underway by the ABA's Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs*

**10:45 – 11:00 AM BREAK**

**11:00 – 11:45 AM**  
**STUDENT STORIES**  
W. David Harmon  
*(Facilitator) Director, Counseling Center, St. John's University*

*Panelists will speak from personal experience about the roadblocks to admitting their substance abuse problem, to finding help and navigating through law school and the bar admission process*

**11:45 – 12:45 PM**  
**Overcoming Obstacles to Implementing Drug & Alcohol Policies at Law Schools and Encouraging Lawyer Assistance Services**

Robert Muldoon, *Board of Bar Examiners, MA*  
Michael Cohen, *Director, Florida Lawyer Assistance Program*  
Martha Treese, *Staff Counsel, NJ Character Committee*

*Panelists will discuss the*

*status of confidentiality provisions and their impact on applicants for admission; the need for and lack of information about applicable confidentiality provisions; conditional admission as an alternative.*

**12:45 – 1:45 PM**

**LUNCH**  
**THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS & AWARD PRESENTATION**

Joseph Bellacosa, *Dean, St. John's Law School, Former NYS Court of Appeals Justice*

**1:45 – 2:30 PM**  
**BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

**Deans Only**  
*Facilitator—*  
Hannah R. Arterian, *Dean, Syracuse Law School, to discuss faculty performance issues, law school structure*

**Character & Fitness**

*Facilitator—*  
Robert Davis, *Ajunct Professor, Widener Law School, to discuss admissions issues, availability of advisory opinions*

**Student Services**

*Facilitator—*  
Frank Shih, *Assistant Dean of Students, CUNY Law School, to discuss cross-cultural counseling issues; cultural attitudes*

## Faculty Members

*Facilitator—*  
Aviva Orenstein, *Visiting Professor of Law, Cardozo Law School, how to address drug and alcohol abuse in the curriculum*

**2:30-3:30 PM**  
**Solutions**

Ken Rosenblum,  
*Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Touro Law School*  
Mark Byers, *Director, Office of Student Life Counseling, Harvard Law School*  
Ray López  
*NYSBA LAP Director*

*This panel will discuss innovative ideas designed to provide information and services to students and faculty*

**3:30 – 3:45 PM**  
**CONCLUDING REMARKS**  
James C. Moore



# Conference Sponsors:

American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs • Connecticut Bar Association Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Committee • Maine State Bar Association Alcohol & Substance Abuse Committee • Boston Bar Association • Massachusetts Bar Association • Massachusetts Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers • New Hampshire Bar Association Lawyers Assistance Committee • New Hampshire Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers • New Jersey Bar Association • New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program • New York State Bar Association • Association of the Bar of the City of New York • Women's Bar Association of the State of New York • New York State Lawyer Assistance Program • New York City Lawyer Assistance Program • New York State Lawyer Assistance Trust • Pennsylvania Bar Association • Pennsylvania Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers • Rhode Island Bar Association • Vermont Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers • Vermont Bar Association