

ALAF Mission Statement

To provide funds in the form of loans to members of the legal profession in the state of Alabama who suffer from addictions or other types of mental health disorders and who are unable to pay for treatment.

What is the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation (ALAF)?

Incorporated in 2001, the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation (ALAF) is a nonprofit corporation [501(c)(3)] under the management of an elected Board of Directors. The goal of the foundation is to work with the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program (ALAP) and the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee (LHL) to ensure lawyers in need receive the financial help necessary to secure treatment. ALAF is committed to assisting colleagues in getting appropriate care so they can return as valuable members of the profession and the community.

Here's How It Works

Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program

The Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program (ALAP) is a program of the Alabama State Bar that provides immediate, confidential and continuing help to lawyers, judges and law students who suffer from addiction and other types of mental health disorders.

ALAP provides evaluation, assessment and referral services with peer and facilitated support programs.

ALAP provides professional monitoring to ensure accountability in the recovery process. ALAP also presents educational programs

to the bench and bar on identifying these problems and directing individuals to appropriate help.

Identifying and intervening early in the disease process not only increases the chance of long term recovery, but also helps protect the interests of clients from harm caused by lawyers practicing impaired.

Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee (LHL)

The Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee (LHL) is a formal committee within the Alabama State Bar. The members consist of volunteers from the bench and bar committed to helping colleagues in need. They serve as monitors, peer support and advocates in helping ALAP carry out its purpose.

Commonly Asked Questions

How will the funds be used?

Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to recovery. Funds loaned to qualified candidates will be used to enable timely access to treatment.

Payment will be made directly to the treatment care providers. Repayment is mandatory, but may be deferred until recipients are on the road to recovery.

How great is the need?

Roughly 1 in 5 lawyers are addicted to alcohol.

Lawyer depression rates are two times greater than the general population rate and range between 18-24%.

When a lawyer or judge practices impaired it reflects negatively on all members of the legal profession.

These are educated colleagues with devastating illnesses and 50 - 70 percent have no financial means to pay for treatment.

Why do you need my help?

Addiction in the legal profession is a reality. It is a difficult, dangerous and an expensive illness to contend with but doing nothing is irresponsible and jeopardizes public safety.

Rarely can people do it alone. The stigma attached to addiction or other types of mental health problems inhibit many lawyers from seeking help.

It takes courage to address lawyer impairment, talking about it and bringing it to the forefront helps remove the stigma and enables lawyers to get help.

Lawyers in Alabama are denied access to help simply because they lack financial means to pay for care.

Your help can make the difference in a colleague's life.



Did you know:

- Lawyers are two times more likely than the general population to suffer from an addiction or other type of mental illness?
- Fifty percent of lawyers referred to ALAP are financially incapable of paying for their own treatment?
- In Alabama at least one lawyer a month dies from suicide?
- An addiction or another type of mental health disorder is present in 50-70 percent of lawyer discipline which results in suspension or disbarment?
- Addiction and mental health disorders are medical diseases. They have nothing to do with moral character—they defy stereotypes and cross all gender, age, racial, income and geographic boundaries?
- These illnesses are treatable and lawyers can and do recover?

The costs to the individual addict, their family, their clients and to our profession is unimaginable?



Benefits of participation

- This is the only foundation specifically designated to help lawyers in need.
- You are supporting an important cause that benefits lawyers, their families, and the legal profession.
- By making a donation to the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation, you are ensuring the next lawyer in need can get the treatment necessary to begin recovery.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of appointees by the Alabama State Bar (ASB), the ASB Board of Commissioners and the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee.

Information on the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation is available by calling (334) 834-7576 or online at the Alabama State Bar's Web site: www.alabar.org



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Helping Lawyers Help Themselves

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