

New Hampshire Lawyers Assistance Program

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Executive Director, Cecie Hartigan

New Hampshire Lawyers Assistance, created in 2007 by Supreme Court Rule 58, is now in its third year of helping New Hampshire lawyers, judges and law students address mental health, substance abuse, and other personal or professional issues that may lead to impairment or otherwise negatively impact the practice of law.

Left unattended, the issues addressed by NHLAP can quickly lead to an adverse impact on the interests of the public as well as on personal and professional lives of lawyers.

We are happy to report that in the past year we have assisted over thirty New Hampshire lawyers, judges and law students. In addition, many Program participants utilize the continuing assistance available through support groups, monitoring contracts, and referrals to ongoing counseling.

It is clear that early assistance has a positive impact on preventing future harm to the public. We continue to educate the bar, bench and law school to recognize the need for help and seek assistance before their problems cause significant harm.

NHLAP Mission Statement

The New Hampshire Lawyers Assistance Program is a confidential, independent organization created for the sole purpose of providing confidential, immediate and continuing assistance to New Hampshire attorneys, judges and law students who are suffering from physical or psychological illness, substance abuse or emotional distress, age-related issues, or other personal or professional crisis.

Because of the sensitive nature of addiction and psychological problems, law students, attorneys, or judges who need help -- or want to assist someone else who might need help -- are often reluctant to seek assistance. Recognizing this

"I can say without hesitation and with gratitude that my practice is better now than ever and my family life is improving with each month that goes by. The program is a tremendous resource to the Bar".

NHLAP Participant

Client Stat: Gender

Men	61%
Women	39%

concern, and in order to foster early and confidential contact, NHLAP treats each request for help with confidentiality, as provided under Supreme Court Rule 58. Rule 58.8 protects the confidentiality of all contacts between those who utilize the program and the employees and volunteers of NHLAP. Any information between NHLAP employees and volunteers, and a lawyer, judge or law student who seeks assistance is strictly confidential and will not be disclosed except upon express authority of the affected person.

Client Stat: Referral Source	
Self	70%
Third Party	18%
Character and Fitness	8%
Supreme Court	4%

Presentations

Developments in the Law CLE

NH Bar Mid Year Meeting Exhibitor

Franklin Pierce Law Center

- Professional Responsibility
- Orientation Presenter

NHAJ Sponsor/Presenter

Superior and Family Court Brown Bag Lunch Programs

NHBA Annual Meeting Exhibitor

Practical Skills Seminar Presenter

Public Defender Training Presentation: "Ethical Obligations and the Problem of Attorney Impairment"

**Client Stat: Newly Opened Cases
2009- 2010: 31**

(5-10 per year prior to NHLAP)

**Approximate Annual Lawyer
Contacts: 1200**

Educational Programs:

Approx. 1500 Lawyers Reached

CLE: Ethical Obligations and the Problem of Attorney Impairment

NHLAP has developed a Continuing Legal Education course that outlines NH and ABA rules and cases regarding the circumstances under which an attorney may be held responsible for the professional conduct of a colleague. The course also presents a description of addiction and depression from a neurobiological perspective. This CLE was made possible through the volunteer efforts of:

Richard Uchida, Esq., Orr and Reno, Concord

Hal M. Nevitt, Member Assistance Program Director, State Bar of Arizona

Judicial Assistance Initiative

NHLAP's Executive Director, Cecie Hartigan, is a member of the ABA's Judicial Assistance Initiative (JAI). This year, the Committee completed the "Judges Helping Judges Resource and Education Handbook", to be distributed to judges, judicial committees, and court administrators across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Very often, judges are the last to get assistance, because of the very nature of the judge's role in the legal system. It is the goal of the Initiative to see that the problems faced by judges do not go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Law Students Initiative

NHLAP works with Franklin Pierce Law Center to provide support to students while in law school. An Informational Session and Life Balance sessions has been presented during the last two Fall semesters, with a talk by Chief Justice Broderick, and this past year, retired Judge Hon. Robert Morrill.

This year NHLAP partnered with Phi Alpha Delta to present two programs. One addressed how to weather economic hardships and offered tips and suggestions in dealing with potential unemployment, loan repayment, and other tools for weathering economic stress. The second was a panel discussion on business gatherings and alcohol use, and the norms and expectations of such settings.

Client Stat: Firm Size

Solo	25%
2-5 attorneys	29%
10+	11%
Government	7%
Law school	21%
Retired	7%

Cooperation with the Committee on Character and Fitness

NHLAP is working with the Committee on Character and Fitness to cooperate in cases of applicants with histories of mental health issues, treatment for drugs or alcohol, or other conditions that, if left untreated, could impact the ability to practice law. A monitoring function has been provided by NHLAP in some cases. The program will also assist to secure professional evaluations and assessments, when necessary.

Cooperation with the Attorney Discipline Office/Professional Conduct Committee

NHLAP is a confidential program and as such will not report any information regarding a program participant unless it has the express written permission of the participant. However, in appropriate cases, the Attorney Discipline Office or the Professional Conduct Committee may refer an attorney with whom it is already in contact to NHLAP for such assistance as may be indicated by the circumstances.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL)

LCL is NHLAP’s strongest and most committed resource. It is a twelve-step group for lawyers made up of men and women who are willing to help a colleague struggling with substance abuse. This year, 55% of NHLAP cases involved alcohol and/or other substance abuse, and many of these are referred to LCL for support. Membership in LCL stretches from the northern part of the state, to the seacoast, to southern New Hampshire. Each month, attorneys meet to share their experience, strength and hope as lawyers in recovery. LCL is a vibrant and caring small community within the greater legal community. Its members offer practical and compassionate support in dealing with issues of substance abuse and recovery, as those issues intersect with the practice of law. In addition, we have developed an active Alanon small community for lawyers and their families who wish to address alcoholism from the standpoint of the non-addict.

Client Stat: Geographic Distribution by County	
Merrimack	36%
Hillsborough	25%
Rockingham	21%
Grafton	7%
Sullivan	4%
Out-of-State	7%

First Presenting Issue			
Alcohol	36%	Financial	4%
Depression	25%	Marital	4%
Stress	14%	Anger	4%
Drugs	11%	Bipolar	4%

501(c)(3) Status Granted

During the past year, NHLAP applied for and was granted exempt status from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to NHLAP are now deductible, and we are qualified to receive bequests, devises, transfers and gifts.

Website: www.lapnh.org

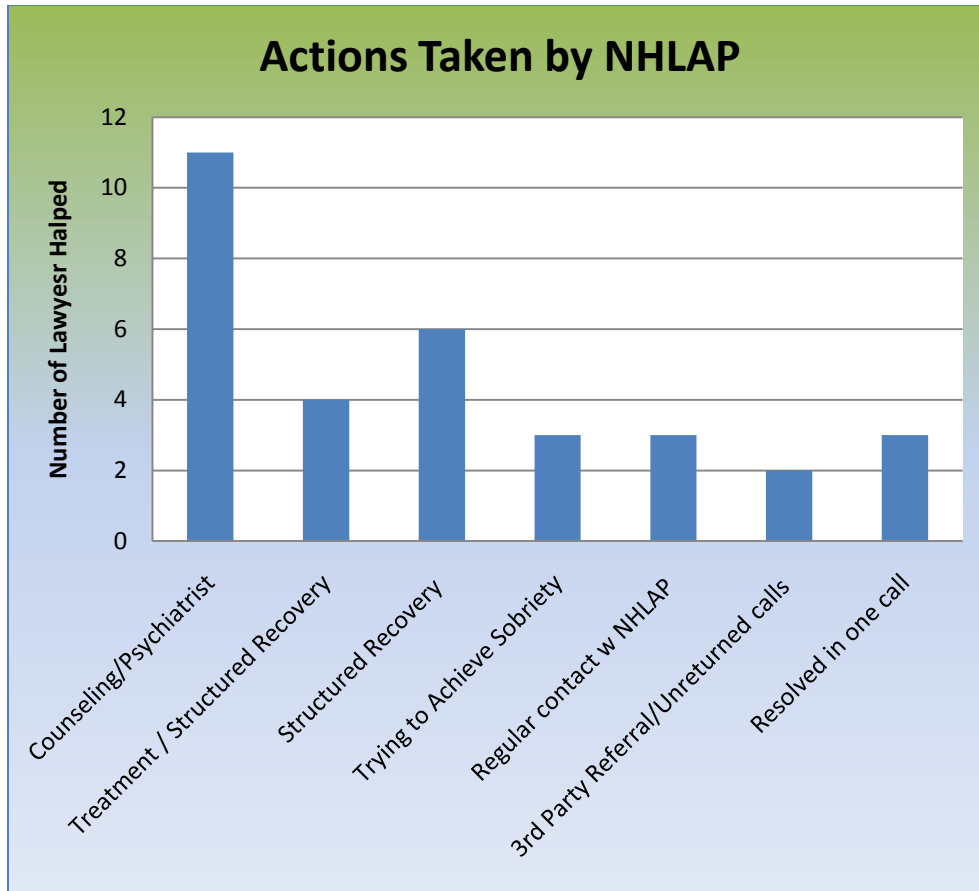
The website continues to be viewed by thousands. It is our hope that it may provide an avenue for any attorney, judge or law student seeking information or help with depression or other mental health issues, substance abuse, or other personal or professional crisis.

NHLAP Web Stats		
Aug 2009-March 2010		
Visitor Sessions	19,016	82/day
Page Views	26,997	117/day

Budget and Expenditures

Accounting and Bookkeeping	2,574.97
Computer Security and Maintenance	2,307.90
Employee/ABA Training	5,813.76
Insurance	3,872.00
Mileage/Parking	1,317.35
Office Expense (phone, internet, software, printing)	4,864.36
Rent	3,600.00
Salary and Payroll Expenses	60,114.75
Secure Data Services	1,170.00
Video Production	11,000.00
Website	689.50
TOTAL:	97,324.59

Detailed budget information provided upon request



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