

# LAWYERS Assistance

By J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell

## LAP STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Thanks to a generous increase in funding from the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (LAP) has increased its manpower and services to better meet the ever-increasing demand for its *confidential* services to lawyers, judges and their families. We want everyone to feel at ease when confidentially contacting LAP for assistance. A good place to start is by introducing our staff.

### Buddy Stockwell Executive Director

Buddy Stockwell grew up in the small town of New Roads located on False River in Pointe Coupee Parish. He earned a BS degree in management in 1989 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 1993 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.



J. E. (Buddy)  
Stockwell

He was an enlisted man in the U.S. Navy, serving on a Guided Missile Destroyer. He also is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain. Post-law school, Buddy opened a solo practice in Baton Rouge after a few years at other firms. He focused heavily on domestic litigation. In 2004, Buddy sold his Baton Rouge law office, home and vehicles, and he and his wife, Melissa, moved aboard a large catamaran and sailed the seas for six years.

His tenure as LAP's executive director began Jan. 1, 2010. In 2012, he was awarded the LSBA President's Award for his exemplary service. Buddy has earned 425 hours of course credits in the study of addiction, psychology and sociology and more than 9,000 hours of participation in the core functions of substance abuse counseling. He has personally been in recovery from alcoholism for more than 30 years. Always on call, he works non-stop with bar applicants, lawyers, judges and their family members

who need assistance due to impairment issues stemming from alcoholism, addiction and depression problems.

### Leah Rosa Clinical Director

Leah Rosa is a native New Orleanian with an unflagging passion for helping others. She received her BS degree in social counseling in 1998 from Our Lady of Holy Cross College and her master's of health science degree



Leah Rosa

in rehabilitation counseling in 2000 from Louisiana State University. Leah is a board-certified professional counselor, a certified rehabilitation counselor, a nationally certified counselor and a licensed professional counselor, both in Louisiana and Texas.

She began her career at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in New Orleans, providing services to clients with severe mental illness. She also has provided clinical case management and counseling to clients and their families. She has worked in educational settings, as well as serving individuals with learning, educational and mental health disabilities. She also maintained a private practice prior to accepting the LAP appointment. Her experience in treating substance use disorders includes serving as an addictions counselor in both adolescent and adult treatment settings. She has served as the program director for an intensive outpatient program for substance-dependent clients.

Leah was hired by LAP in April 2013. She will provide a wide range of expert clinical oversight to LAP's operations and help maintain and update relationships with mental health experts and treatment facilities to ensure LAP utilizes the most effective clinical resources available at any given time.

### Lori Michelli Administrative Assistant

Lori Michelli was raised in Luling, La., graduated from Cabri ni High School in New Orleans and attended Holy Cross College. In 1999, she began working as a legal secretary for Watson & Tramonte, a Houston-based commercial litigation defense firm. Her talent was quickly recognized and she was repositioned to the firm Collins & Watson to help the firm prepare for a federal trial in Dallas, Texas. Lori travelled with the litigation team and, during the trial, proved to be a particularly adroit legal secretary. She ultimately returned to New Orleans and, two months into a new position with Adams, Hoefler, Holwadel & Eldrige, Hurricane Katrina hit. The New Orleans office was not accessible so a small skeleton crew, including Lori, kept the firm going from a Lafayette rental house. Eventually, she became the executive administrative assistant for the Vice President of Drilling & Completions for Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. She organized large-scale corporate and team-building events, collaborated with both offsite and onsite team members and supervisors, and was involved in the BP oil spill cleanup.



Lori Michelli

Hired by LAP in Nov. 1, 2012, Lori brings excellent "big firm" professionalism and crisis management experience to LAP. She is a seasoned team player who performs well under pressure and is eager to meet any challenge. LAP is poised for continued growth and is ready to help. If you or someone you know is experiencing trouble, don't wait. Place a confidential call to LAP at (866)354-9334 or send an email to [lap@louisianalap.com](mailto:lap@louisianalap.com).

J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell is the executive director of the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (LAP) and can be reached at (866)354-9334 or via email at [LAP@louisianalap.com](mailto:LAP@louisianalap.com).

Louisiana Bar Journal Vol. 61, No. 2

123