

LAWYERS Assistance

By J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell

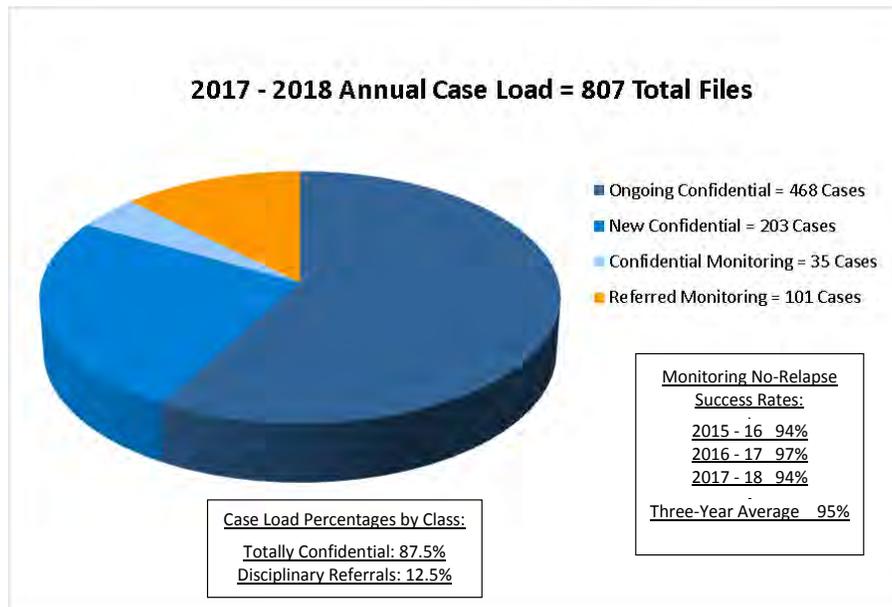
JLAP BY THE NUMBERS 2017-18

The Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP) is pleased to report it has experienced another banner year of tremendous growth in many categories, including the most precious of all — providing 100 percent confidential clinical assistance to lawyers and judges, their family members, law firm and court staff, and law schools and law students.

JLAP's total case load was 807 last year, a breakthrough in overall numbers of people assisted in a single year. JLAP also experienced a remarkable increase in the number of people who reached out for help in absolute privacy and without any disciplinary or bar admissions involvement. Last year, JLAP serviced 706 totally confidential files. At the same time, only 101 of JLAP cases involved disciplinary or bar admissions matters. As such, 87.5 percent of JLAP's work was totally confidential last year.

The assistance rendered by JLAP is now highly specialized to meet the specific needs of lawyers and judges, and JLAP continues to hone its programming based upon the 2015 JLAP Performance Audit which certified JLAP as a top-tier program in the nation.

Lawyers and judges coming to JLAP confidentially are often in serious distress and have nowhere else to turn. JLAP rou-



From JLAP 2017-18 report, 2017-18 Annual Case Load.

tinely sees cases involving issues with alcohol use, drug use, depression, anxiety, compassion fatigue and burnout.

Some people reaching out to JLAP are literally on the brink of harming clients or even harming themselves. Many are submerged in deep despair and are on the verge of incurring serious consequences, such as being arrested for DUI or receiving client and disciplinary complaints due to an unaddressed or insufficiently addressed substance use or other mental health issue.

It is a spectacular “WIN” for all of us each time one single person in our profession reaches out to JLAP confidentially and avoids harming himself/herself, the profession and the public. It is wonderful to see hundreds receiving that valuable help from JLAP each year.

The positive “ripple-effect” of recovery through JLAP is far-reaching and extremely powerful. When one legal professional receives JLAP's help and that person's fitness-to-practice is restored, it not only benefits his/her immediate family, law practice and clients but also directly benefits scores of others in the profession with whom he/she interacts. Staff members, peers, opposing counsels and the courts all benefit. When hundreds receive JLAP's help each year and are restored to good health, it literally benefits thousands of others with whom these individuals will interact going forward in their personal lives and professional careers.

On another note of progress, JLAP continues to see large increases each year in the ratio of people receiving JLAP's professional clinical assistance for “pure men-

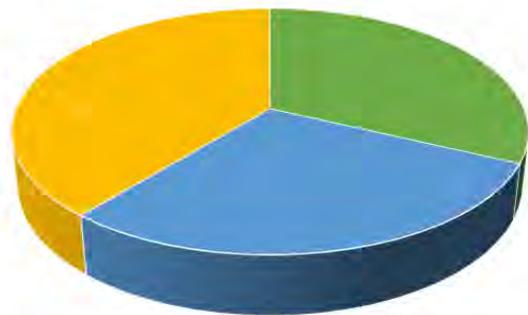
Real Trust – Real People

JLAP's life-saving services are trustworthy and CONFIDENTIAL as a matter of law. Here are real examples of actual feedback from JLAP clients:

“I have complete confidence that the service JLAP provides is 100% confidential. Simply put, JLAP is unquestionably a trustworthy program.”

“Today, I am indebted to JLAP for all of those good things that recovery brought to my life; and there are many.”

Mental Health and SUD Referrals



■ Substance Use Only 32% ■ Comorbid 29% ■ Mental Health Only 39%

From JLAP 2017-18 report, *Mental Health and SUD Referrals*.

tal health” concerns that have nothing to do with alcohol or drug use.

Last year, just more than 300 of JLAP’s open files involved “pure mental health” issues such as depression, anxiety, compassion fatigue, bipolar and ADHD. This is not surprising, considering that today’s legal professionals suffer depression rates significantly higher than rates for alcohol and drug use issues. Accordingly, 39 percent of JLAP’s total case load last year involved mental health issues that had nothing to do with alcohol or drugs.

As to those cases that did involve alcohol or drugs, there is also great news to report. JLAP’s annual no-relapse success rate in its formal recovery monitoring

program was 94 percent. In the last three years, JLAP’s no-relapse rates have been 94 percent, 97 percent and 94 percent, thus rendering a striking 95 percent success rate on average.

It is clear that JLAP’s monitoring participants, and JLAP’s clients in all other categories, have benefitted tremendously from the 2015 JLAP Performance Audit that certified JLAP’s current professional staffing composition, clinical standards and protocols as needed to render a comprehensive state-of-the-art “peer-support professionals’ program.”

There is more positive news to report on topics such as JLAP’s new law school initiatives, JLAP’s lawyer well-being and

mindfulness initiatives, and the recognition of JLAP’s programming by a leading psychiatrist in the field of diagnosing and treating licensed professionals. Visit JLAP’s website at www.louisianajlap.com and access the 2018 Summer Newsletter for more information.

In conclusion, JLAP is making a tremendous difference in the personal and professional lives of hundreds of legal professionals. This is a team effort, and JLAP can’t do it alone. JLAP is extremely grateful for the strong support it receives from all corners of the profession. The issue of improving mental health in the legal profession, and fully supporting Lawyers Assistance Programs, has become an important ABA priority nationally. In Louisiana, by working together, we are succeeding!

If you or someone you know needs JLAP’s help, don’t wait! Contact JLAP confidentially at (985)778-0571 or email JLAP confidentially at jlap@louisianajlap.com.

J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell is the executive director of the Louisiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP) and can be reached at (866)354-9334 or email jlap@louisianajlap.com.



SOLACE: Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel — All Concern Encouraged

The Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Foundation’s Community Action Committee supports the SOLACE program. Through the program, the state’s legal community is able to reach out in small, but meaningful and compassionate ways to judges, lawyers, court personnel, paralegals, legal secretaries and their families who experience a death or catastrophic illness, sickness or injury, or other catastrophic event. For assistance, contact a coordinator.

Area	Coordinator	Contact Info	Area	Coordinator	Contact Info
Alexandria Area	Richard J. Arsenault rarsenault@nbalawfirm.com	(318)487-9874 Cell (318)452-5700	Monroe Area	John C. Roa roa@hhsclaw.com	(318)387-2422
Baton Rouge Area	Ann K. Gregorie ann@brba.org	(225)214-5563	Natchitoches Area	Peyton Cunningham, Jr. peytonc1@suddenlink.net	(318)352-6314 Cell (318)332-7294
Covington/ Mandeville Area	Suzanne E. Bayle sebayle@bellsouth.net	(504)524-3781	New Orleans Area	Helena N. Henderson hhenderson@neworleansbar.org	(504)525-7453
Denham Springs Area	Mary E. Heck Barrios mary@barrioslaw.com	(225)664-9508	Opelousas/Ville Platte/ Sunset Area	John L. Olivier johnolivier@centurytel.net	(337)662-5242 (337)942-9836 (337)232-0874
Houma/Thibodaux Area	Danna Schwab dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com	(985)868-1342	River Parishes Area	Judge Jude G. Gravois judegravois@bellsouth.net	(225)265-3923 (225)265-9828 Cell (225)270-7705
Jefferson Parish Area	Pat M. Franz patfranz@bellsouth.net	(504)455-1986	Shreveport Area	Dana M. Southern dsouthern@shreveportbar.com	(318)222-3643
Lafayette Area	Josette Gossen director@lafayettebar.org	(337)237-4700			
Lake Charles Area	Melissa A. St. Mary melissa@pitrelawfirm.com	(337)942-1900			

For more information, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/solace.