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Dr. Angela White-Bazile, Esq.

*Executive Director*

Jennifer B. Gros, MS, MAC, LPC

*Clinical Director*

Jessica Duplantis, MAC, CRC, LPC

*Clinical Case Manager*

Liesl Goscienski

*Office Manager*

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ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

**1405 W. CAUSEWAY APPROACH MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA 70471**

**(985) 778-0571**

**WWW.LOUISIANAJLAP.COM**

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A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWe present the FY 2021-2022 JLAP Annual Report with great appreciation and gratitude.

The legal community saw a year with more changes. We still faced challenges from the global pandemic transitioning into a world we call “normal.” Dr. Angela White-Bazile has been strategically traveling across Louisiana to spread the word about the benefits of JLAP. As the Executive Director, Dr. Angela White-Bazile continues to impress everyone with her unique presentation style. She has brought creativity and compassion to those who felt misunderstood. Dr. Bazile has been instrumental in providing the knowledge base to the legal community by exhibiting presentations at legal organizations and law schools. Her untiring efforts toward the needs of the legal community, staff, and families demonstrates the standard of professionalism that we should manifest. Her experience speaks for itself, and she has a plethora of expertise.

Dr. Bazile’s focus as Executive Director has been expanding JLAP’s programming and advocacy across Louisiana and increasing engagement with judges, lawyers, and law students. She has exceeded expectations and continuously works closely with the Louisiana State Bar Association, local/regional bar associations, law firms, law schools, and others in the legal and medical communities to maintain a solid relationship for the much-needed work ahead. Dr. Bazile’s core values, experiences, energy, and compassion are ideal for moving JLAP forward toward legal excellence and personal wholeness.

This year, JLAP directly provided valuable clinical and educational services to over 3,000 members of the legal profession. JLAP serviced 952 open clinical files and provided CLE and other educational presentations on well-being and mental health that reached a collective audience of over 1,500 this year. The impact of JLAP’s services improves the health and careers of thousands of Bar members each year.

JLAP provides effective wellness and well-being support to the entire profession and confidentially assists bar members struggling with addictions or mental health issues. In keeping with national emerging trends regarding the need to improve lawyer well-being, wellness, and life balance in the profession, JLAP conducts scores of presentations, publishes articles, and maintains its comprehensive website to fully educate the profession about best practices for stress reduction and self-care. All members of the Bar (and the public it serves) benefit from increased lawyer well-being.

Some participants receive formal JLAP monitoring, which helps save lives and supports fitness-to-practice in recovery at a level that aids the participant and protects the public. JLAP participants have one of the highest no-relapse recovery rates of any program in the nation. JLAP’s monitoring participants benefited from a ninety-eight percent (98%) no-relapse success rate this year**.**  As such, JLAP’s five-year average no-relapse success rate is now 96%. JLAP has seen a steady increase each year.

JLAP is highly grateful for the support that it receives from all stakeholders and its volunteers in the profession. Without *your* substantial funding and statewide volunteer support, JLAP’s progress would not be possible. We look forward to next year and encourage everyone to get involved and support Louisiana’s JLAP. Together, we are all making a real difference in the wellness and well-being of judges, lawyers, law students, and the family members of anyone who is a member of the Bar.

Please get involved and support Louisiana’s JLAP!

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE, Dr. Angela White-Bazile**

A person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceI am humbled to serve as JLAP’s Executive Director. Working with Louisiana’s judges, lawyers, law students, and their family members is an honor. Because of JLAP’s high standards of ethics, integrity, and confidentiality, it is the “Safe haven of healing” for us professionals who may struggle to ask for help.

While serving as Executive Director for the second year, I have observed several reasons why professionals may be challenged with substance use disorder or mental health issues. Whether the reason is past traumas, heavy workloads, long hours, competition against colleagues, judicial mandates, or unreasonable client demands, we, as professionals, have an obligation to the public to perform a duty to the best of our ability without impairment. That is why JLAP is essential and equipped to serve the legal community.

I believe there are not enough people who know the benefits of what the JLAP can do. I am on a mission to ensure that every Judge, Lawyer, Law Student, their families, and the legal community are aware of such necessary support for this profession. Our areas of support include aging, alcohol and drugs, stress, anxiety, compassion fatigue, depression, gambling, and other mental health concerns.

We can no longer prioritize success over well-being and ignore unhealthy coping strategies. If you feel down, overworked, and overwhelmed, it is time to make some personal or professional decisions.

It is exhausting pretending to be someone you are not. If you think you will disappoint your family, friends, or colleagues by admitting you need help, stop, and reflect on what is best for you. Remember what you endured while climbing the ladder of this respected and prestigious profession. We vowed to adhere to the mandates of our judiciary. As professionals, we must do our job with stability and competency, even when we feel broken, shattered, and empty. You know the importance of perseverance, self-discipline, and control. Think of the obstacles you have already overcome; you are resilient and can take your life back. JLAP provides confidential assistance rather than punitive measures to help the legal community fulfill ethical obligations while protecting the public.

I am proud of JLAP’s successes over the last year, particularly in providing more meaningful education, engagement, and personal development opportunities. We will continue these initiatives and add programming designed for the various stages of a legal career in the years ahead. Also, we look forward to collaborating more with bar associations, law firms, law schools, and other legal and medical organizations.

Thank you, fellow bar members, for your continued support and trust in JLAP’s mission. Thank you, regulatory agencies, for your professionalism and assistance in ensuring the integrity of our legal community. A special thanks to those who support and seed into JLAP; we will continue to be good stewards of what we are given. Without all of you, JLAP would not be able to survive and thrive as a confidential, safe haven of healing to help judges, lawyers, and law students overcome their struggles and become happy and healthy. JLAP hopes to provide judges, lawyers, and law students with the information and tools necessary to create confident and meaningful careers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Louisiana Supreme Court, Louisiana State Bar Association, Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Ed Blewer Foundation, and our Board of Directors for their tireless efforts on behalf of JLAP. Thank you for making JLAP a priority and believing in confidential, meaningful assistance to judges, lawyers, law students, and their families to address substance abuse, mental health issues, and other stressors that impair or may impair the ability to practice law in a competent, ethical, and professional manner.

There is much to be done, and I hope you will join me in the work ahead as we aspire to make JLAP the strongest advocate for our profession.

**JLAP BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generatedShayna L. Sonnier, President,** is a partner in the law firm of Hunter, Hunter & Sonnier, L.L.C. Her primary practice is in the areas of family law, estate planning, successions, and general litigation. Shayna received her J.D. in 2003 from Dedman School of Law School at Southern Methodist University and her BA in 2000 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Ms. Sonnier is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. She currently serves on the board of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. She just concluded serving as LSBA Treasurer, Development Committee Chair for the Louisiana Bar Foundation, and Chair of the Southwest Louisiana Community Partnership Panel. She is passionate about her faith, family, community, and work and volunteers her time as part of numerous organizations and associations. In her free time, Shayna enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and animals, playing tennis, and traveling. Her favorite quote is, “We live as though the world were as it should be, to show it what it can be.” For a complete list of President Sonnier’s extensive service to the profession, please visit: <https://hhslawfirm.com/about/>.

** Stephen I. Dwyer, Vice President and Treasurer,** graduated from Loyola University School of Law, where he was Editor in Chief of the Law Review.  He is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Texas and is a licensed title insurance agent.  Mr. Dwyer practices in the areas of business transactions, business litigation, and commercial real estate development.  He is a member of the Adjunct Faculty at Loyola University School of Law, where he teaches real estate development law and is a certified real estate lecturer.  Mr. Dwyer also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association. Mr. Dwyer served as 2021-22 president-elect

of the LSBA and as the Second District representative on the LSBA’s Board of Governors from 2011-14 and 2017-20. He served on the *Louisiana Bar Journal’s*Editorial Board. He is a member of the Committee on the Profession, the Bar Governance Committee, and the Audit Committee. He has been recognized by *New Orleans CityBusiness*“Leadership in Law,” “Who’s Who Among American Lawyers,” *Best Lawyers in America,* and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*. He is also a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society. For a complete list of Mr. Dwyer’s extensive service to the profession, please visit: [Stephen I. Dwyer – Dwyer, Cambre & Suffern (dwyercambre.com)](https://dwyercambre.com/stephen-i-dwyer/).

**A person wearing a pearl necklace

Description automatically generated with low confidenceHonorable Rachael D. Johnson, Secretary,** was elected in April 2017 to serve as Judge of Civil District Court, Division B, in Orleans Parish, and re-elected in July 2020. Judge Johnson attended Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, where she received a B.A. in Psychology.  She also has a Master in Social Work from Smith College.  Before returning to New Orleans for law school, Judge Johnson practiced clinical and adoption social work in Atlanta, GA. She is a 2005 graduate of Tulane Law School. Judge Johnson began her legal career in 2005 as a law clerk for the Honorable Nadine Ramsey at Civil District Court in Orleans Parish.  In 2006, she became an associate at the Gary, Williams, Finney law firm in Stuart, Florida, representing hundreds of plaintiffs in Vioxx litigation, personal injury, and wrongful death cases.  She then worked as an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Riviera Beach, FL. Immediately prior to being elected, she was a Senior Staff Attorney with the Law Offices of Julie E. Vaicius.

Judge Johnson is active in several professional and civic organizations.  She currently serves on the executive board of the A. P. Tureaud Chapter of the Inns of Court and the Louisiana Judicial Council – NBA. She is a past President of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, a former member of the Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Governors, and the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. She is also a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Links, Inc. For a complete list of Judge Johnson’s extensive service to the profession, please visit: <https://www.judgerachael.com/about-rachael/>.

**A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceBradley J. Tate** is a Senior Tax Manager in the New Orleans office of Hannis T. Bourgeois, LLP. He received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2005 and his JD/BCL from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2008. He also earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Alabama in 2012. He is licensed to practice in Louisiana and the United States Tax Court. Mr. Tate served as the 2017-2018 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Chair. Over the years, he served as a district representative, secretary, and chair-elect of the YLD. He has been a member of the LSBA Committee on the Profession and Bar Governance Committee. He was appointed for a term as the ABA YLD Tax Committee Chairman. He is a member of the New Orleans Estate Planning Council and the New Orleans Planned Giving Council, along with the Jefferson, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans Bar Associations. For a complete list of Mr. Tate’s extensive service to the profession, please visit: <https://www.htbcpa.com/staff/bradley-j-tate/>.

**A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceClarence A. “Hap” Martin III** is a graduate of Louisiana State University, where he earned his law degree in 1980. He was admitted to the Louisiana Bar later that same year. He is a member of the Fourth Judicial District, Louisiana State and American Bar Associations, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and the Judge Fred Fudickar, Jr. Chapter of the American Inns of Court (Sec.-Treas. 1999-2003). His practice areas include Civil Litigation, Trial Practice, Appellate Practice, Commercial Law, Contracts, Corporate Law, Creditor Bankruptcy, Employment Law, Products Liability, Personal Injury Law, Real Estate, Mediation, and Arbitration. For a complete list of Mr. Martin’s extensive service to the profession, please visit <https://shotwell-law.weebly.com/attorneys.html>.

**Dian Tooley-Knoblett** is the Jones-Walker Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola New Orleans College of Law. She received her J.D. from LSU’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1980, where she served as Executive Editor of the Louisiana Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. Before joining the Loyola faculty in 1984, she served as a law clerk to Chief Justice John A. Dixon Jr. of the Louisiana Supreme Court and was an attorney in the legal department of Shell Oil Company. She has actively participated in law reform in Louisiana by serving as a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute and as a member of over thirty law reform advisory committees that have drafted legislation, principally revisions of Louisiana’s Civil Code.  For a complete list of Professor Tooley-Knoblett’s extensive history of dedication and service to the profession, please visit <https://law.loyno.edu/academics/faculty-and-staff-directory/dian-tooley-knoblett>.

**Honorable Jay C. Zainey** was appointed by President George W. Bush on February 19, 2002 to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He is a past President of the Louisiana State Bar Association and co-founder of SOLACE, an LSBA program that provides services to members of the legal community and their families who experience tragedies. Twenty-seven (27) states and Puerto Rico have started SOLACE Programs. The Federal Bar Association has also adopted the SOLACE Program. In 2004, Judge Zainey organized the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (H.E.L.P.) Program. In this program, attorneys provide legal consultation services and notary services. Programs are now in 37 cities throughout the country. Plans are underway to start H.E.L.P. Programs in other major cities. The Program has been instrumental in assisting many members of the homeless community to escape the bonds of homelessness, rebuild their lives, and restore their dignity. For a complete list of Judge Zainey’s extensive history of dedication and service to the profession, please visit [Zainey, Jay C. | Federal Judicial Center (fjc.gov)](https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/zainey-jay-c).

**I. JLAP MISSION STATEMENT**

The Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that serves the public, the Bar, and the profession by assisting, on a confidential basis, judges, lawyers, law students, and bar applicants whose professional impairment may stem from substance use disorders or mental health issues. JLAP also assists family members of judges and lawyers.

JLAP is, first and foremost, a confidential method of providing life-saving help. According to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XIX[[1]](#footnote-1) and Louisiana Revised Statute 37:221[[2]](#footnote-2), any information received by the JLAP staff or a member of the LSBA Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse is absolutely privileged and confidential. JLAP also serves the public and the profession by helping protect the public from the damage impaired lawyers and judges can cause.

JLAP is meeting the challenge of providing increasingly comprehensive and effective mental health assistance to the Louisiana legal profession and their family members. JLAP is a specialized *professionals’ program* that offers assistance with all types of mental health issues.

**II. JLAP OPERATIONS STATISTICS 2021-2022**

JLAP compiled relevant operating statistics throughout the year as follows:

**1) JLAP Case Load**

For fiscal year (FY) July 01, 2021 through June 30, 2022, JLAP maintained 952 open client files.

Of the 952 open client files, only 11.44% involved routine or official monitoring and reporting in disciplinary and bar admissions. As such, 88.56% of JLAP’s clinical intakes are voluntary cases.

**2) Relapse Statistics**

Of the **109** total participants **under monitoring**, only two (2) participants relapsed while under contract in FY 2021-2022. A two (2) out of 109 ratio demonstrates a 1.83% Relapse Rate for the FY 2021-2022 and thus renders a **98% relapse-free success rate under JLAP monitoring this year**.

JLAP’s exceptional no-relapse rates are established and reliable. JLAP’s recent multi-year no-relapse average is as follows:

2015-16: **94%**

2016-17: **97%**

2017-18: **94%**

2018-19: **96%**

2019- 20: **95%**

2020-21: **97%**

**2021-22: 98%**.

As such, **JLAP’s multi-year no-relapse rate average is 96%.** National experts have recognized JLAP’s monitoring program as producing astonishingly successful recovery rates that are among the highest anywhere in the field of addiction treatment.

Of the two (2) relapses in FY 2021-2022,

* both were referred for multidisciplinary inpatient professional assessments. Both declined the recommendation and were administratively discharged.

Both relapses were detected through random alcohol testing.

It is noted that there has never been a report of any client harm or harm to the public in JLAP relapse cases wherein the person cooperated with JLAP’s clinical recommendations and remained fully compliant. It is also noted that under JLAP monitoring, most relapses are detected quickly due to JLAP’s effective drug and alcohol screening protocol combined with JLAP-trained peer-support monitors, close supervision, and recovery activity requirements. Thus, the participant’s health interests and the public’s need for protection are served.

**3) Referral Sources to JLAP**

In FY 2021 – 2022, JLAP opened or reactivated 108 client files. The following charts indicate referral sources and types. Of the **108 new client files**, 55% were classified as voluntary. A file is considered “voluntary” if there is no referral from the Committee on Bar Admissions, Office of the Disciplinary Counsel, or a law firm. Examples are individuals who heard of our services through JLAP CLE presentations or found JLAP via JLAP’s website. Thirty percent (30%) of JLAP’s referrals came via the Committee on Bar Admissions (COBA) as bar applicants flagged for evaluation due to conduct. Thirteen percent (13%) of JLAP’s referrals were via the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel, and 2% were referred by a law firm.

The following chart shows the status of the individuals who reached out for JLAP’s services:

Of course, when a life and career are restored in total privacy, and before severe consequences and damages have occurred, it saves not only the person but greatly benefits their family; friends; immediate professional peers; every stakeholder and entity in the legal profession; the person’s law office, staff, and clients; and the public at large by ensuring that the public’s trust in that person and the legal profession is reliably honored.

As such, when just one person receives successful confidential help from JLAP, scores of other persons and entities benefit indirectly from JLAP’s assistance to that single person. With this realm of services, JLAP’s mission is fulfilled at the very highest level.

**4) JLAP Recommendations**

When a person seeks JLAP’s assistance or is referred to JLAP, the first step is to determine the appropriate level of evaluation or assessment needed to objectively and reliably rule out or diagnose mental health or substance use issues. Via clinical intake, JLAP’s professional Clinical Staff determines the clinically indicated level of JLAP-facilitated evaluation or assessment, all within the clinical standards applicable to licensed professionals.

The following chart indicates clinical referrals and responses for new cases in the FY 2021- 2022:

**A) Low-Level Evaluations**

The majority of JLAP’s participants begin with a low-level evaluation. Last year, 36 participants were initially referred for low-level evaluations. The following demonstrates the outcome recommendations from those evaluations:

* No recommendations – 23 (64%)
* Not scheduled – 4 (11%)
* Referred to inpatient eval – 4 (11%)
* Intensive outpatient program – 0 (0%)
* Scheduled – 2 (5%)
* Monitoring – 2 (5%)
* Therapy – 1 (4%)

**B) Low-Level Evaluations Converted to Inpatient Assessments**

Of the 36 participants referred for low-level evaluations, four (4) received a referral for an additional inpatient assessment because of the low-level evaluation. The following demonstrates the outcome recommendations of the inpatient assessments:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Referred for inpatient treatment – 1 | * Intensive Outpatient Program – 0 |
| * Not yet scheduled for assessments – 1 * Scheduled – 1 | * No recommendations – 0 * Monitoring – 1 |
|  |  |

**C) Multidisciplinary Inpatient Professional Assessments**

Sixteen (16) participants were referred directly to an inpatient assessment by JLAP clinical staff.

The following demonstrates the outcomes of those referrals: Total: 16

* Participated in the eval – 6
* Did not participate – 7
* Unknown – 3

Of the 16 who attended the evaluation: two (2) underwent inpatient treatment, one (1) attended an Intensive Outpatient Program, and three (3) were referred for JLAP monitoring, having already completed treatment.

**D) Conversion Rates**

The internal status of cases at JLAP can and does change depending on what circumstances and events concurrently develop externally and independently from participation in JLAP. For example, a voluntary participant may reach out confidentially to JLAP, receive JLAP’s support in total privacy, and successfully address their mental health issues through JLAP. But, at any moment, wholly unrelated to their confidential relationship with JLAP, some third parties may have an independent interest in said participant’s substance use disorder or mental health issues.

This interest may occur if someone files a complaint with the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel against the participant, if the participant is referred to JLAP as a bar applicant, or if the participant’s employer or colleague discovers a legal malpractice issue that emanated from a prior impairment that pre-dated the participant’s involvement in assessment, treatment, and recovery in JLAP.

At that point, the JLAP participant, ***and only the participant***, decides if it is in his or her best interest to waive confidentiality for JLAP to report that they sought JLAP-approved assistance and are JLAP-compliant. JLAP compliance is not a defense to unethical conduct, but it can sometimes serve as a powerful mitigating factor to disciplinary consequences.

The following are conversions in JLAP case classification in FY 2021-2022:

* Voluntary to ODC: 5
* Voluntary to COBA 2
* COBA to ODC: 1
* ODC to Voluntary: 1
* COBA to Voluntary: 1
* Voluntary to COBA to ODC: 0

**E) Mental Health Statistics**

The following is a breakdown of the 108 new cases related to mental health. The “unknown” category reflects individuals who have not yet attended their formal evaluation/assessment or who attended the evaluation/assessment and revoked their release, precluding JLAP from obtaining the results. “None” indicates the person completed the evaluation/assessment and received a finding of “no recommendations,” thus clearing them from any interventions requiring further JLAP involvement.

Of those individuals identified in the above graphic as having a substance use disorder (SUD), mental health issue, or comorbid disorder, only 20 cases, which are 18%, were identified with a straight substance use disorder.

This reflects the profession’s increasing understanding and awareness that JLAP is a comprehensive mental health services provider NOT LIMITED to assisting with only alcohol and drug issues.

On the contrary, and in the below graphic, more and more people are reaching out to JLAP for help with pure mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and other mental health needs.

**III. JLAP SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

1. **JLAP’s Response to COVID-19**

COVID-19 violated every corner, plan, and system of the world. The pandemic mandated a worldwide pause that did not discriminate based on race, age, gender, socioeconomic status, profession, or geographic location. Many are concerned with their physical and economic health as they cope with the unknown changes in how they work, socialize, and live. The pandemic forced everyone to spend time with their families, significant others, and more importantly, themselves. Self-reflection was essential. Unquestionably, living in a world of uncertainty and unknown caused increased substance use disorder and mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, stress, suicidal ideations, and compassion fatigue.

During this time, many faced COVID-19, social isolation, the loss of many lives, and increased racial and social unrest. Throughout it all, JLAP remained resilient and responsive to the needs of judges, lawyers, law students, and the entire legal community struggling with impairment issues. JLAP continued to adapt its program to serve people through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We welcomed the virtual format while assisting those who were only comfortable with face-to-face interaction. Flexibility, skill, and innovation were key to implementing change as we embraced transition. JLAP continued to enhance the integrity of judges, lawyers, law students, and the legal community while protecting the public.

**2) Efforts to Maintain and Secure New Funding**

Although some Lawyer Assistance Programs are fully funded through annual dues or included in state bar association budgets, JLAP receives funds from a mixture of stakeholders, including:

* Louisiana State Bar Association – historically has been $300,000 per year with $75,000 distributed quarterly.
* MCLE Continuing Legal Education programs designated by the Louisiana Supreme Court for JLAP – $14,301
* Louisiana Supreme Court Judiciary Funds – monthly distributions totaled $61,877.
* Tobacco Settlement – $60,000 from Louisiana Outside Counsel Health & Ethics Foundation
* Louisiana State Bar Association Voluntary Donations – received $14,521
* Monitoring Fees – received $34,137.50

**3) Ed Blewer Assistance Foundation**

The Ed Blewer Assistance Foundation (EBAF) is a source of last resort for Louisiana judges, lawyers, and Bar applicants battling dependency and finding themselves entirely without the financial support to fund their recovery assessment and treatment needs. EBAF was independently established to support participants experiencing financial hardship and provide funding for JLAP-approved evaluations, assessments, and treatment. Impaired judges, lawyers, law students, and bar applicants without insurance or who are otherwise resource-limited can apply to the EBAF and may receive financial help for JLAP-approved services. EBAF provides financial assistance in the form of loans to Louisiana lawyers, judges, and Bar applicants who: (a) suffer or have suffered from chemical dependence or addiction, (b) have been pre-screened and recommended to the Foundation by EBAF-approved sources, (c) are in need of assessment or treatment, and (d) are **rigorously committed to their recovery.** We encourage all participants who may be financially challenged to seek aid from the Ed Blewer Assistance Foundation.

**4) Treatment Center and Evaluator Resources**

JLAP works with professional treatment programs nationwide and individual therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists. The treatment must offer a specialized program for legal professionals, with licensed staff providing treatment to professional populations. The presence of other lawyers and professionals is imperative in the treatment milieu. Treatment should be abstinence-based and 12-step program-based for the **entire** population.

JLAP maintains regular inspections of treatment facilities by personally visiting JLAP-approved centers to verify current suitability for referrals. At present, JLAP has a list of 12 different treatment facilities available. COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, allowing the Executive Director and Clinical Staff to resume treatment center re-checks in 2021.

**5)** **JLAP Volunteers and Formal Monitor Training**

JLAP’s volunteer monitors around the state serve as a local resource to support JLAP participants throughout the monitoring process. Monitors meet in person and, as needed, virtually monthly with their assigned JLAP participant(s) and submit self-check-in reports to JLAP’s Clinical Staff. All JLAP monitors are members of the LSBA’s Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and are bound by confidentiality.

JLAP monitors provide vital peer support and personal interaction with the participants, which helps to increase the program’s reliability while also increasing support for the participants. JLAP is highly grateful for the JLAP monitor volunteers who provide their support.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, JLAP’s staff could not provide in-depth JLAP Monitor Training Seminars to educate and update monitors regarding recent changes at JLAP. In the past, training was provided on the following topics:

1) requirements for participants entering JLAP monitoring;

2) referral sources of participants being monitored;

3) self-help, ODC, and COBA referral processes;

4) understanding substance use disorder diagnoses under the new DSM 5;

5) determining and reporting non-compliance;

6) recent developments in law and jurisprudence; and

7) drug screening policies, protocols, and challenges.

As COVID-19 continues to decline, JLAP’s staff intends to continue to provide education and support training seminars annually to support the JLAP volunteer monitors and answer any questions or issues that arise when monitoring a JLAP participant.

**6) JLAP in the Law Schools**

JLAP seeks to ensure that every law student is aware of JLAP’s confidential help and support in addressing substance use disorder, mental health issues, and other general life issues that are or may be impairing. Early intervention is critical to preventing issues from becoming severe. JLAP continues to focus on increasing knowledge of its services and presence at Louisiana’s four law schools, LSU Law School, Southern University Law School, Loyola University Law School, and Tulane Law School, at no cost to the schools or their students.

JLAP hopes that increasing support services will enhance students’ willingness to adopt new and unprecedented self-care practices. JLAP will continue to be present and provide confidential, specialized, professional clinical support to the law students and faculties of all four of our distinguished Louisiana law schools.

**7) JLAP CLE Presentations: JLAP Directly Interacts with Thousands Each Year**

JLAP is incredibly grateful to state and local bar associations, courts, inns of court, law sections, regulatory agencies, disciplinary agencies, legal organizations, and law schools who invited JLAP to participate in CLE programs and presentations, locally and nationally.

Each year, JLAP directly improves the lives of thousands in our profession by providing in-person and virtual educational programs on wellness, well-being, professionalism, and ethics. The most effective mode of communication between JLAP and the members of the profession occurs when JLAP interacts personally with live audiences and via personal follow-up conversations.

JLAP’s Executive Director and Clinical Team participated in the following programs:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EVENT** | **DATE(S)** | **LOCATION** |
| Site Inspections of  2 Louisiana evaluation/treatment centers | July 2021 | In Person |
| Love First  Revolutionizing Family:  Creating a Long Term Family Recovery Management Team | July 2021 | Virtual |
| 1L Professionalism Orientation  Southern University Law Center and Tulane University School of Law | August 2021 | Virtual |
| ABA’s Hybrid Annual Virtual CLE Meeting | August 2021 | Virtual |
| LSBA Pursuit of Balance | December 2021 | Virtual |
| 21st JDC Drug Court  Amite, LA | December 2021 | In Person |
| LSBA “A Grand CLE Experience”  Point Clear, Alabama | December 2021 | In Person |
| Lafayette Bar Association | December 2021 | In Person |
| Terrebonne Bar Association | December 2021 | In Person |
| National Bar Association’s Judicial Council Mid-Winter Meeting  Punta Cana, Dominican Republic | January 2022 | In Person |
| Texas Treatment Center inspection | January 2022 | In Person |
| 2022 Institute for Well-Being in Law Conference | January 2022 | Virtual |
| JLAP’s Board Meeting at the LSBA Board of Governors Mid-Year Meeting  Baton Rouge, LA | January 2022 | In Person |
| Office of Workers’ Compensation | March 2022 | Virtual |
| 2022 Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association Conference Baton Rouge, LA | March 2022 | In Person |
| 1L Character and Fitness Panels  Southern University Law Center and LSU Law Center | March 2022 | In Person |
| Caddo Parish’s Public Defender’s Office Shreveport, LA | March 2022 | In Person |
| 1L Character and Fitness Panel  Tulane University School of Law | March 2022 | In Person |
| LSBA’s Ethics School  New Orleans, LA | April 2022 | In Person |
| LSBA’s Staff Team Building Meeting  New Orleans, LA | April 2022 | In Person |
| 2022-2023 LSBA Board of Governors Orientation  Point Clear, Alabama | April 2022 | In Person |
| FSPHP Annual Education Conference  New Orleans, LA | April 2022 | In Person |
| Liskow & Lewis  Mental Health Awareness Month program | May 2022 | Virtual |
| Love First “Incarcerated and Victimized Women’s Empowerment” event in Holden, LA | May 2022 | In Person |
| LSBA’s “Bridging the Gap” program  New Orleans, LA | May 2022 | In Person |
| Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society’s Mental Health and Wellness Event | May 2022 | In Person |
| “Professional’s Weekend”  Lakeview Health Treatment Center Jacksonville, Florida | May 2022 | In Person |
| 22nd Judicial District American Inns of Court monthly meeting | May 2022 | In Person |
| 22nd JDC Bar Association’s Meeting | June 2022 | In Person |
| Four Corners CLEs  West Monroe, Shreveport, and Lake Charles, LA | June 2022 | In Person |
| 2022 Joint LJC/LSBA Summer School Meeting | June 2022 | In Person |
| Love First Intervention Training  Wayzata, MN | June 2022 | In Person |

**8) Camp JLAP**

Camp JLAP was canceled in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19. The next Camp JLAP is scheduled for July 21 – 22, 2023 at the Solomon Episcopal Center in Loranger, LA.

**9) JLAP Articles**

JLAP publishes an article in every issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. Topics cover a wide range of subjects, and JLAP strives to provide information about current developments in mental health and addiction issues relevant to the legal profession.

You can access a complete library of JLAP’s *Bar Journal* articles on JLAP’s website here: [http://louisianajlap.com/resources/lsba-journal-articles/.](http://louisianajlap.com/resources/lsba-journal-articles/)

June/July 2021 February/March 2022

“Introducing JLAP’s New Executive Director” “The Battle Within”

August/September 2021 April/May 2022

“Addressing Stress? Don’t’ Go It Alone” “The Truth About JLAP”

October/November 2021 June/July 2022

“Is It Safe To Unmask?” “Off-Balance?”

December 2021/January 2022

“Suicide Robs Success”

**10) 2021 ABA CoLAP**

The JLAP Clinical Staff attended the 2021 ABA National Conference of Lawyers Assistance Programs (CoLAP) Virtual Annual Seminar, September 21-23, 2021. The conference topic was “Writing the LAP Story: Reset, Recover, and Renew.”

**11) Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP)**

To stay abreast of cutting-edge clinical and medical information for professional peer-support programs, and pursuant to the recommendations of the 2015 JLAP Audit, the JLAP clinical staff attended the 2022 Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP) Annual Education Conference and Business Meeting in person on April 26 – 28, 2022. The topic was “Embracing Inclusivity and Confronting Stigma with Professionals Health Programs’ Best Practices.”

**IV. SUMMARY**

When you call JLAP and speak to a professional staff member, you are not simply talking to a counselor or drug screening service. Instead, you are accessing the real-time knowledge and support of individuals who can assist you and connect you to top experts and volunteers who support JLAP directly, focusing exclusively on the specific clinical needs of licensed professionals.

JLAP’s accomplishments emanate from steadfast dedication, but none of it could be possible without the legal profession’s solid support and vigorous endorsements. JLAP is highly grateful for the following:

1) strong governance and funding from the LSBA;

2) program utilization and funding from the Louisiana Supreme Court;

3) program utilization from the Louisiana Disciplinary Board;

4) program utilization from the Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA);

5) program utilization from the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel;

6) program utilization from the LASC Committee on Bar Admissions;

7) program utilization from the Judiciary Commission;

8) program utilization from Loyola, LSU, Southern, and Tulane Law Schools; and,

9) program utilization from the professional liability insurance carrier Gilsbar.

JLAP looks forward to next year and continues its quest to provide the most comprehensive and effective programming possible. JLAP will continue to promote new well-being and wellness education to the entire profession to improve the lives of all members of the Bar while concurrently providing top-tier assistance to those who have developed a mental health or substance use issue and need JLAP’s confidential, non-disciplinary assistance.

Whenever an individual in need reaches out for help, JLAP will always be there!

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Angela White-Bazile, Esq.

1. <https://www.lasc.org/Supreme_Court_Rules?p=RuleXIX> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=93609> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)