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## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **Depression and the Practice of Law**

**January 23, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

## WEBINAR

### *Program Summary*

Prior to the start of the pandemic, 8.5% of adults experienced depression. In 2021, that number rose to a staggering 32.8%. With the prevalence of depression among Americans, and particularly within the legal community, it is important for lawyers to be able to identify and know how to address it. This program will educate lawyers about depression to both better serve their clients and help them to practice more effectively if they themselves are depressed. The presenters will discuss the consequences of untreated depression in lawyers. They will cover the varied forms, theories and causes of depression and the basic biology and psychology of depression. They will also provide information on cognitive and medication treatment options, additional methods to combat depression and resources for seeking help.

### *Eligibility*

This program is open to attorneys in the Department of Law and Public Safety and county prosecutors' offices.

### *Faculty*

**Ramon Ortiz, Esq.** is Senior Attorney Counselor with the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program (NJLAP) in New Brunswick, NJ. He has been employed by NJLAP for the past 26 years assisting lawyers with problems related to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and other process addictions. Prior to joining the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program, he worked as a drug and alcohol counselor at Turning Point in Verona and Eva's Village in Paterson, N.J. Before entering the field of addictions treatment, he was an Associate Professor of Property Law, Clinical Professor of Law,

and Director of Clinical Programs at Seton Hall Law School. He also practiced law with the firm of Ortiz & Velez for 20 years. Mr. Ortiz holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Vermont and a J.D. from Howard Law School and Rutgers Law School – Newark.

**Nancy Stek, LCADC** is the Associate Director of the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program/ NJ Judges Assistance Program. Ms. Stek's career spans the fields of health care, education and the non-profit sector. She has been a featured speaker at national conferences and has provided specialized training for the New Jersey Department of Education, the Rutgers University Center for Alcohol Studies, the American Bar Association and the National Judicial College. She is a certified Stress Hardiness Trainer through the University of California at Irvine, a certified Life Coach and Reiki Master Practitioner. Ms. Stek holds a B.A. degree from California State University, Sonoma and an M.S. in Psychology from California Coast University. She is a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor and serves on the Board of A.S.A.P, a jail-based addiction treatment program.

### *CLE Credit*

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.0 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 2.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

### *Registration*

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

**Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.**

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.