



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

**From Junkie to Judge:
Overcoming Addiction and Maintaining Wellness and Recovery**

**February 15, 2024
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

The drug addiction crisis cuts across every segment of New Jersey society, without regard to class, race, gender, or profession. Lawyers are no exception; they often turn to alcohol or drugs to address the stress and anxiety of everyday work pressures and responsibilities. After battling addiction since childhood, Mary Beth O'Connor went to Berkeley law school six years into recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and concluded her legal career as a federal administrative law judge. Judge O'Connor's journey of transition from "junkie to judge" provides personal insight into the struggle of addiction and the path to recovery. In addition to her individual story of overcoming addiction and triumphing over adversity, Judge O'Connor will offer an overview of addiction in the legal profession and provide guidance and wellness resources for lawyers.

Eligibility

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

Faculty

Judge Mary Beth O'Connor battled addiction since childhood. Six years into recovery from alcohol and drug addiction, she went to Berkeley Law School. After graduation, she worked at a large firm in Silicon Valley, litigated class actions for the federal government and was then appointed as a federal administrative law judge. Her memoir: *From Junkie to Judge: One Woman's Triumph Over Trauma and Addiction* chronicles her history and recovery. Judge O'Connor has also published opinion pieces about substance use disorder and recovery in major

national publications. She is a Director, Secretary, and Founding Investor for the She Recovers Foundation and a Director for LifeRing Secular Recovery. Judge O'Connor regularly speaks on behalf of these organizations and about multiple paths to recovery at conferences and recovery houses and thorough podcasts and radio broadcasts.

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 1.2 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 1.2 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.