

TEXAS LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711

Lawyers' Hotline: 800-343-8527

Judges' Hotline: 800- 219-6474

Local: 512-427-1453

www.texasbar.com/tlap

March 22, 2011

Dear Judge:

I am writing to you concerning the work of the Judicial Initiative Subcommittee of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program.

As part of our outreach efforts, the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program has developed a Judicial Initiative Subcommittee that works to target outreach to judges who may be challenged by alcohol and drug abuse, depression, stress, burnout and similar issues. In the past two years we have: developed a short but effective presentation that has been made to over 100 judges in small groups in eighteen counties around the state; conducted an informal survey of judges' top stressors and solutions; published stories of judges' recovery from drugs/alcohol and depression in *The Texas Bar Journal*; sent emails to all Texas judges informing them of our services; and developed and distributed a Judicial Desk Reference that lists signs and symptoms and methods to reach out for help. We have also continued to talk to judges one on one, in person and via the Judges' Assistance Hotline and the National Hotline for Judges. We are pleased with our successes but know we can do more.

With that in mind, members of the TLAP Judicial Initiative Subcommittee would like the opportunity to visit with you in the coming months to discuss, brainstorm, and collaborate on ways that we could help you in your supervisory and administrative duties and, of course, help judges in your district. Perhaps a TLAP volunteer judge could make a short presentation at your next conference or meeting? In any event, we seek your suggestions for our judicial outreach initiatives.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these issues. A member of the TLAP Judicial Initiative Subcommittee will be following up with you soon.

Sincerely,

J. Woodfin Jones
Chief Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals
Austin, Texas

SBOT 2010-2011 TLAP Judicial Initiative Subcommittee:

Judge David Brabham Longview, **Judge Janice Ellington**, Corpus Christi, **Cathy Herrington** Houston, **Judge Joel Bennett** Austin, **Terry Gardner** Ft Worth, **Judge Alex Gonzalez** El Paso, **Chief Justice J. Woodfin Jones** Austin, **Chief Justice Bob Seerden (retired)** Corpus Christi; **Judge Sherry Statman** Austin

TLAP Staff: Ann D. Foster, JD, LPC-Intern; Cameron Vann, JD; Bree Buchanan, JD