LexVid Services, Inc., Presents:

Don’t Give Up 5 Minutes Before the Miracle

Course Description, Table of Contents, Timed Agenda

Total: **60 Minutes**

Speakers:

Laurie Besden

Description

Substance abuse and mental health issues affect lawyers in the U.S. at a much greater rate than the general public. In this program, Laurie Besden, Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of PA, highlights the issue by giving own personal account of the drug addiction that caused her to be temporarily disbarred, had her imprisoned, and nearly destroyed her life. Through Ms. Besden's harrowing and inspiring story, viewers will gain insight on how to identify these issues in themselves and others. and will understand what resources are available to help with recovery. Topics include:

All sections below address ethics - substance abuse/mental health in the legal profession.

I. **Ethics** – Mental health issues and substance abuse in the legal profession (10 min.)
II. **Ethics** – Assitance programs for lawyers (10 min.)
III. **Ethics** – Example: Attorney Laurie Besden’s personal struggle with substance abuse and how it impacted her both personally and professionally

Total: 60 minutes

Laurie J. Besden, Esquire

Laurie Besden is the Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“LCL”). Since 2011, she has served as LCL’s Deputy Executive Director overseeing LCL’s Helpline operations and serving as the primary contact for intervention requests, expanding LCL’s law school outreach, and increasing LCL’s presence within the organized Bench and Bar. As the newly appointed Executive Director, Ms. Besden is now responsible for LCL’s administrative and financial operations as well as Judges Concerned for Judges (judges’ assistance program).

©LexVid, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Ms. Besden is a licensed attorney in Pennsylvania (1999) and New Jersey (1999). She practiced law from 1999 through 2001 and 2009-2011 in several capacities including:

- Attorney-at-law (general civil and criminal practice), East Norriton, PA
- Law Clerk (Pennsylvania Superior Court), Philadelphia, PA
- Law Clerk (Philadelphia Municipal Court), Philadelphia, PA

She received her B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD (1995) and her J.D. from The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University (1999).

Ms. Besden was the 2015 recipient of the Montgomery Bar Association's Henry Stuckert Miller Award for her dedication to public service in the legal profession.

©LexVid, Inc. All Rights Reserved