LexVid Services, Inc., Presents:

Attorney Licensure and the Impaired Professional

Total: **62 Minutes**

Speakers:

Laurie Besden and Tracy Kepler

Description/Table of Contents

Substance use disorders and mental health challenges can affect any attorney regardless of gender, culture, ethnicity, age, or socioeconomic status. This program, taught by seasoned attorneys Tracy Kepler and Laurie Besden, instructs attorneys on how to recognize the impaired professional, provides various resources to assist in the recovery, and identifies the possible disciplinary implications of an impaired attorneys' conduct.

Ms. Besden will share her personal journey from the darkness and depths of despair, while struggling with a substance use disorder, as a license attorney, to her path of long-term recovery, where she received a full Governor's Pardon by Governor Wolf in 2020.

Agenda – **Note: All topics address ethics/professionalism/mental health**

- Mental health in the legal profession by the numbers– (5 min.)
- Why lawyers are at risk for mental health substance abuse issues (5 min.)
- Disciplinary issues involving substance abuse and mental health disorders (12 min.)
- Addressing substance abuse and mental issues in the legal community (10 min.)
- Common ethical violations related to these issues (20 min.)
- Case study (10 min.)

- **Total: 62 minutes ethics/professionalism/mental health**

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Presenters:

Laurie Besden

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). 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.

Tracy Kepler

Tracy L. Kepler is the Risk Control Consulting Director for CNA's Lawyers Insurance Program. In this role, she designs and develops content and distribution of risk control initiatives relevant to the practice of law. She collaborates with the underwriting and claims teams to develop and execute strategies for the profitable growth of the program. Tracy lectures frequently at CNA-sponsored events and at state and local bar associations and national seminars hosted by industry-leading organizations. She also writes articles focusing on law firm risk control and professional responsibility issues. Prior to joining CNA, Tracy served as the Director of the American Bar Association's Center for Professional Responsibility (CPR), providing national leadership in developing and interpreting standards and scholarly resources in legal and judicial ethics, professional regulation, professionalism, client protection, professional liability and attorney well-being. attorney misconduct.

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