From Junkie to Judge: Overcoming Addiction and Resources for Attorneys

Total: **60 Minutes**

Speakers:
Mary Beth O'Conner

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It's no secret that substance abuse is especially prevalent among attorneys. For those dealing with substance abuse personally, with a colleague or loved one, know that recovery is always possible. In this program, Judge Mary Beth O'Conner will share her personal story of addiction and recovery, and will give viewers tips, strategies and resources for battling addiction in their own lives.

All topics below concern substance abuse issues and their interplay with legal ethics rules:

- **Ethics -** Example of how substance abuse and recovery can affect an attorney's life and career (10 min.)
- **Ethics** – Overview of substance abuse disorder (10 min.)
- **Ethics** – Model Rules of Professional Conduct and SUD (30 min.)
- **Ethics** – Guidance, tips, and resources (10 min.)

Total: 60 minutes

Speaker

Mary Beth O'Conner has been sober from methamphetamine and other substances since 1994. She also is in recovery from abuse and trauma. The details of her story can be found in her award-winning memoir, From Junkie to Judge: One Woman's Triumph Over Trauma and Addiction.

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Mary Beth is a Director for LifeRing Secular Recovery. She also is a Director and Secretary for She Recovers Foundation. She develops relationships with organizations supportive of the multiple pathways approach, such as working on joint projects with Women for Sobriety.

Mary Beth regularly speaks about her personal story, on behalf of LifeRing and She Recovers, about multiple paths to recovery, and shares her expertise on other substance use and recovery topics. She's appeared on podcasts, radio, and television. She has presented keynotes and workshops at a variety of
conferences and events. She also trains attorneys, judges, peer support specialists, and others on substance use and related topics.

Mary Beth writes opinion pieces and has been published in The Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and Recovery Today, among others. She's also had numerous memoir writings published.

Professionally, 6 years into her recovery, Mary Beth attended Berkeley Law. She worked at a large firm in Silicon Valley, then litigated class actions for the federal government. In 2014 Mary Beth was appointed an Administrative Law Judge. She retired early in 2020 and now devotes her time to her writing and recovery advocacy.

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