

IN SIGHT for Oregon Lawyers and Judges

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

OLAF HELPS DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

You probably already know that Oregon's vital social services have been significantly cut. What may surprise you is that many practicing lawyers in Oregon have been directly affected by these cuts. There are attorneys in our community who need mental health or addiction treatment but can't obtain the care they need due to lack of insurance and lack of funding for community services. The Oregon Lawyer Assistance Foundation (OLAF) helps to fill the treatment gap that has been created by these difficult economic times and the resulting significant social service cuts.

OLAF provides treatment grants and loans to lawyers who access the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program (OAAP) and who are unable to pay for the mental health or addiction treatment they need. The OAAP provides support, helps get lawyers to resources, and provides short-term counseling, but funding for treatment is outside the scope of services offered by the OAAP. That's the need that OLAF fills. With an OLAF grant or loan, a lawyer who is suffering can access treatment that has been recommended by the OAAP but that the lawyer otherwise cannot afford. OLAF loans and grants assist lawyers who suffer from bipolar disorder, depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome, anxiety disorder, addiction, alcoholism, and other mental health and addiction-related diseases.

Your financial contribution will help an Oregon lawyer who is trying to get his or her life back on track and who would otherwise be unable to obtain the treatment necessary to do that. Your support and financial contribution will help a cou-

rageous lawyer to access treatment – and thus help to change a desperate situation into a positive contribution to the legal profession and the community.

Most Oregon lawyers know at least one professional colleague who has suffered from some form of mental health or addiction disorder. Many lawyers who access the OAAP are unable to pay for the treatment they need. Lawyers receiving OLAF funds are asked to contribute back to OLAF once they return to health and a productive career. Some lawyers who have received OLAF loans have already begun to do this.

OLAF money comes entirely from private donations – most often from other Oregon lawyers who want to contribute to the profession by helping other lawyers. Since most mental health and addiction disorders are highly treatable with access to proper resources, contributing to OLAF helps to save lives, families, and careers.

We hope that you and your firm will join this inspired effort to help fellow lawyers. When we help another lawyer, we help the profession and the community we serve.

For more information about OLAF, go to www.aaap.org and click on OLAF at the top-right corner of the navigation bar, or contact me at 503-499-4486 or at robert.moore@bullivant.com. OLAF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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