

Contacting OLAP/JAG

Contact either OLAP or a JAG member. OLAP and JAG will work together to assess the issue and determine an appropriate course of action.

Contact OLAP's hotline any time:

800-348-4343

JAG members represent all jurisdictions and areas of Ohio. Contact any member with a concern:

Judge Debra L. Boros, Chair

Lorain County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court

Judge Anthony Capizzi

Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Judge Matthew J. Crehan

Retired From Butler County Common Pleas Court

Judge Mary DeGenaro

Seventh District Court of Appeals

Judge John J. Donnelly

Retired From Cuyahoga County Probate Court

Judge Sylvia Sieve Hendon

First District Court of Appeals

Judge Mary Katherine Huffman

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court

Judge Philip Alan B. Mayer

Richland County Probate Court

Judge Jack R. Puffenberger

Lucas County Probate Court

Judge Matthew P. Puskarich

Harrison County Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge Reginald J. Routson

Hancock County Common Pleas Court

Judge Diane S.A. Vettori

Mahoning County Court

Judge Gary L. Yost

Ashtabula Co. Common Pleas Court

The Judicial Advisory Group is a group of judges who work with the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program to help Ohio judges.

Contact the Judicial Advisory Group or the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program if a judge you know appears to be experiencing problems with alcohol or substance abuse, mental health, stress and burnout, or with meeting standards of professional conduct.

All contacts with the Judicial Advisory Group and the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program are confidential.

Ohio's six judicial associations nominate members to the Judicial Advisory Group. The Ohio Judicial Conference appoints members and provides administrative support for the group.



The Ohio Judicial Conference
The Voice of Ohio Judges

65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-387-9750 (p)
614-387-9759 (f)

www.ohiojudges.org

OHIO LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

JUDICIAL ADVISORY GROUP

A peer-based assistance group helping judges with personal and professional issues.



The Judicial Advisory Group (JAG) is a group of judges who work with the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program (OLAP) to enhance and extend its ability to provide confidential assistance to judges.

The JAG judges

- help OLAP screen referrals regarding judges to be sure they represent genuine concerns;
- help OLAP respond to judges who need help in ways that address the demands of judges' responsibilities and positions;
- help judges in areas that fall outside of OLAP's expertise.

Together, OLAP and JAG can help judges in several broad areas:

- alcohol and substance abuse;
- depression or other mental health issues;
- burnout, stress, and other debilitating conditions;
- issues of judicial temperament and diligence that on their face do not rise to disciplinary violations.

OLAP and JAG provide help. They can extend to judges offers of assistance—

- assessment and diagnosis by qualified professionals;
- participation in an OLAP recovery contract;
- referrals to appropriate treatment;
- referrals to appropriate professional help, counseling or training;
- advice and mentoring from senior colleagues.

OLAP and JAG help only judges who want help. OLAP and JAG have no enforcement authority and no reporting requirements. If a judge declines an offer of help, that is the end of the matter.

If a judge seems to need help, OLAP/JAG can assess whether he or she truly does, and what kind of help might be appropriate.

If you are a fellow judge, an attorney, a family member or someone else who works with a judge, you can contact either OLAP or a JAG member directly. If you contact someone,

- you will be asked about the reasons for your concern and about other information regarding the judge;
- you will be asked about others who might provide additional information or corroborate your observations, such as a colleague, a spouse or a friend;
- OLAP's professional staff will assess the information to make a provisional determination about what may be happening;
- OLAP and JAG together will decide what help might be appropriate and how to offer it in the best way.

Why a Judicial Advisory Group?

OLAP has proven experience and expertise working with attorneys and judges to assess substance abuse and mental health issues, and to provide referrals and other services.

Judges routinely make decisions in contested cases with high stakes. JAG members have the expertise and experience to

- ensure that a referral does not reflect a desire to discredit a judge based on judicial decisions or other official acts;
- provide assistance that responds to the constraints of judges' positions;
- assist with professional issues that fall outside OLAP's expertise.

OLAP/JAG is neither a substitute for nor a diversion from disciplinary referrals.

OLAP/JAG helps judges with issues that may have caused or could cause disciplinary issues. Any assistance provided is entirely independent of possible disciplinary proceedings.

- A referral to OLAP/JAG does not discharge the duty of a judge or an attorney to report a disciplinary violation.
- If a referrer describes actions that may amount to misconduct, OLAP/JAG may remind the referrer of the duty to report and provide contact information for attorneys who can provide legal advice in the area.
- If OLAP/JAG has information concerning a judge who is being helped that indicates the judge may have engaged in misconduct, OLAP/JAG will encourage the judge to contact an attorney and take other steps to resolve that issue on his or her own initiative.

Your contact with OLAP/JAG, as well as any contact between OLAP/JAG and the judge with whom you are concerned, will be completely confidential.

- OLAP is covered by immunity and confidentiality provisions in the Ohio Revised Code as well as professional rules.
- If OLAP/JAG members learn about possible misconduct in their OLAP/JAG capacities, they are exempt from the duty to report it.
- Anything that happens through OLAP/JAG will remain in strict confidence and will not be accessible to either the judicial disciplinary process or public records requests.
- No information about interactions between OLAP/JAG and a judge will be released to anyone in any form unless the judge in question signs a waiver.