



# What does the WV STATE BAR do for you?

**WVJLAP** is a free and confidential assistance program for judges, lawyers, bar applicants, law students and their families struggling with any physical, mental or emotional health issues that provides:

- consultation • referrals**
- intervention**
- crisis management**
- monitoring • peer support**

**WVJLAP** can help with issues such as:

- stress • anxiety**
- burnout**
- depression**
- substance abuse**
- grief • trauma**
- co-dependency/relationship issues**
- compulsive behaviors**
- work/life balance**
- retirement and more**

WVJLAP's work also contributes to the protection of the public and maintaining the integrity of the legal profession.

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**The WV State Bar** was created by the Supreme Court of Appeals as an agency of the Court to help it fulfill its constitutional role to regulate and control the practice of law in West Virginia. A Board

of Governors, elected by members of the Bar from 16 districts around the state, oversees the Bar.

The primary purpose of the State Bar is to regulate, supervise and

control the practice of law in West Virginia for the benefit and interest of the state and its citizens and to ensure that its citizens have access to competent legal representation.

## REGULATORY ACTIVITIES of the BAR

- **LICENSURE:** regulates licensing of all persons authorized to practice law in WV
- **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE):** manages, processes, and monitors mandatory continuing legal education requirements
- **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DISCLOSURE (FRD):** monitors and tracks required information regarding lawyer's professional liability insurance or other sources of financial resources to protect against potential errors and omissions
- **INTEREST ON LAWYER TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA):** tracks required information regarding lawyer trust accounts and receives and distributes interest income
- **OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL (ODC):** supports and funds ODC with Bar license and administrative fees
- **PRO HAC VICE:** manages pro hac vice admissions, allowing non-WV licensed out-of-state lawyers to practice law in WV on a limited basis when affiliated with local lawyers
- **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** verifies eligibility requirements for and compliance related to formation of and practice of law as a Legal Corporation (LC), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), and Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC)
- **SUCCESSION PLANNING:** tracks attorney succession planning
- **UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF LAW (UPL):** manages all matters and issues related to the unlawful practice of law

## INFORMATION/ COMMUNICATIONS

- **MEMBER DIRECTORY:** provides access to lawyer information on an online membership directory
- **COMMUNICATES TO BAR MEMBERS:** distributes information via website, electronic weekly Bar Blast, social media, annual meetings, regional meetings, bar committees and the quarterly *West Virginia Lawyer* magazine
- **INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION:** provides Bar members with CLE information, and information regarding volunteer opportunities, job postings and proposed rule changes
- **INFORMATION REGARDING LICENSED ATTORNEYS:** maintains data on all licensed members of the Bar
- **INFORMATION REGARDING WEST VIRGINIA JUDICIAL SYSTEM, COURTS AND COUNTIES:** provides information concerning the judicial system and courthouse announcements
- **ODC AND JLAP:** provides information regarding process to file complaints with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC), and referrals to the West Virginia Judicial Lawyer Assistance Program (WVJLAP)

## PROGRAMS, SERVICES for PUBLIC & ACCESS to JUSTICE

- **ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMS:** sponsors access to justice programs for members of the public, such as Lawyer Referral Service, Tuesday Legal Connect, Veterans Legal Assistance, and West Virginia Free Legal Answers
- **INTEREST ON LAWYER TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA):** manages program that financially supports various access to justice and civil legal services programs
- **LAW SCHOOL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMS:** supports public interest programs and public interest and rural practice scholarships
- **MEDIATOR LISTING SERVICE:** provides a list of Bar members who are willing and qualified to serve as mediators in WV disputes
- **STUDENT MENTORING SERVICES:** provides a list of lawyers by county willing to mentor students
- **UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE/PROGRAM:** receives and investigates complaints of unlawful practice of law and provides related Advisory Opinions
- **LAWYER FUND FOR CLIENT PROTECTION:** considers claims and reimburses members of public for certain losses caused by dishonest conduct committed by WV lawyers occurring in the course of a lawyer-client fiduciary relationship
- **VOLUNTARY FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM:** assists clients and lawyers in resolving differences regarding attorney fees and costs

## LAWYER SUPPORT

- **CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING:** upon request provides members of the Bar with certificates of good standing
- **COMMITTEES:** manages and supports the Bar's multiple committees, including the Unlawful Practice of Law Committee, the IOLTA Advisory Committee, the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection Committee and over 20 practice specific committees
- **CYBERSECURITY:** provides notice regarding recent cybersecurity and fraudulent activities reported to the Bar which have the potential to impact the practice of law
- **DISTRICT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:** assists members of the Bar in mediating and resolving grievances and disputes
- **FREE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:** provides in person and webinar CLE and other training programs concerning Information Technology, DEL, cybersecurity, COVID and other topics
- **JUDICIAL LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (JLAP):** funds and supports WVJLAP with Bar license and administrative fees
- **LEGAL RESEARCH:** provides Bar members with free access to the Fastcase legal research platform
- **OTHER MEMBER BENEFITS:** ALPS, ABA Retirement Fund, Greenbrier Health Services, LawPay credit card processing and National Purchasing Partners
- **PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARDS:** provides members of the Bar with photo identification cards through the WV DMV, evidencing their licensure and membership in the State Bar
- **SUCCESSION PLANS:** assists lawyers and small firms to develop required succession plans
- **TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:** educates members about basic IT requirements, services and security
- **USE OF STATE BAR OFFICES AND FACILITIES:** to conduct in-person and virtual meetings, training, depositions and mediations
- **YOUNG LAWYER SECTION (YLS):** assists newly admitted lawyers beginning their practice of law, including with a mandatory Bridge the Gap program