



**The Florida Registered Paralegal (FRP) Enrichment
Committee presents**

Ethical Considerations in the Practice of Law: Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Friday, June 28, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE

Course 3209

twright@floridabar.org

This presentation will focus on the dangers and effects of alcohol addiction and substance abuse in the legal environment. Specifically, it will address communicating awareness of how substance abuse, alcohol abuse, and other stressors, can adversely affect duties and professionalism towards clients, staff (paralegals & legal secretaries) and the Courts. Further, the presentation will identify specific strategies to prevent or reduce the use of alcohol as a coping mechanism for stress, physical and medical problems, mental health issues, family issues and other factors that contribute to substance and alcohol abuse. The presentation will be followed by a brief Q & A session.

Opening Statement: Wendy Toscano, Esq.

Presenters: Judge Faye Allen
Jane Dwyer Lee
Bruce Blitman



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PRESENTERS



JUDGE FAYE ALLEN: Judge Faye Allen has served on the bench since September 2005. Judge Allen received her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University and her Juris Doctorate degree from Florida State University. She is dedicated to enhancing the legal profession through volunteerism, mentoring and teaching. She has taught a number of topics including landlord tenant, ethics and professionalism and trial skills. She has served as Faculty with legal and non-legal organizations including the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, The Minority Skills Training Program at the Orange County Courthouse, and Business Law Instructor at Valencia College. In 2014, Judge Allen was honored to have been selected by the Orange County Bar

Association to receive the James G. Glazebrook Memorial Bar Service Award. This award is presented to a state or federal judge who best demonstrates service to the legal profession, is dedicated to professionalism both within and outside of the courtroom, and is a leader in promoting professionalism, civility, integrity and respect for the legal system. She has volunteered extensively with the Justice Teaching Program as the 9th Judicial Circuit Liaison, and as a classroom volunteer. She served over ten (10) years with the OCBA Law Week Program and was a co-founder of Pathways-in-Law, a legal program targeting youth participants in community or afterschool programs such as the Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ) and the Hope Community Center in Apopka, FL. Judge Allen mentors young attorneys and law students through her involvement in various bar organizations. She formerly served as a volunteer mentor in the Orange County School System AVID Program at Olympia High School. She is active in the community, having served on several Boards including the Orange County Bar Association Foundation Board. In 2015, Judge Allen moderated a community forum co-sponsored by the Orange County Bar Association Foundation Board that addressed Social Justice issues reflected in the inter-relations of race and justice. She formerly served on the Orange County Alliance Board. Judge Allen has been recognized as Jurist of the Year by the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida and as Woman of the Year in the areas of Government and Law by the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council. Judge Allen has served in criminal and civil divisions of the County Court.



JANE DWYER LEE: Jane Dwyer Lee, MSW, LCSW, is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, whose Big Bend Chapter named her Social Worker of the Year in 2008 and Social Work Educator of the Year in 2018. Currently, Jane is an Associate Teaching Professor at the Florida State University College of Social Work. She teaches Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice, Individual & Family Practice, Substance Use Disorders, Women's Issues, Interviewing & Documentation. At the 2009 Spring Convocation, students awarded her the honor of Professor of the Year. In 2013, Tallahassee Community College recognized her as an "Outstanding Community Woman" during their celebration of Women's History Month. Prior to

her teaching career, Jane worked in the field as the Supervisor of Social Services at a community mental health facility, and as an individual, couples, and group counselor at an addiction treatment center. Jane's areas of interests are working with individuals and families who are affected by substance use disorders and mental health issues and inmates who are preparing for re-entry. In 1996, Jane was convicted of DUI Manslaughter as a result of a tragic car accident that occurred while vacationing in the Florida Keys with her boyfriend, who was killed in the accident. After one year of rehabilitation in

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hospitals, Jane served a 5-year prison sentence followed by 10 years of probation. These experiences give her a unique perspective as a counselor and a professor. Jane speaks publicly about her experience, strength and hope in numerous forums, including schools where she shows students her biographical film and tells her story so that others can learn of the consequences regarding the deadly combination of drinking and driving. She has been involved in a Twelve Step Recovery Community for 24 years and as a circuit speaker has been invited to share her story in 25 states and in Canada and the UK. Jane is also a survivor of breast cancer and volunteers for the American Cancer Society.



BRUCE A. BLITMAN, ESQ.: Bruce A. Blitman has been a member of The Florida Bar since 1982 and a full-time mediator and ADR neutral for 30 years. He is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Circuit Civil and County Mediator (since 1989) and a Family Mediator (since 1990). Since 1989, Bruce has mediated thousands of disputes throughout Florida. Bruce served as the Vice Chair of the Florida Supreme Court's original Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee (then known as the Mediator Qualifications Advisory Panel) from 1994 through 2001. He is a longtime Diplomat Member and a Past President of The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, Inc. In 2017, Bruce

relocated his home and practice to Palm Beach Gardens. He currently serves on the Palm Beach County Bar Association's ADR Committee and Law Related Education Committee, and is a longtime attorney volunteer for the Justice Teaching civics education program. In July 2018, Bruce was appointed to The Florida Bar's new Standing Committee on Mental Health and Wellness of Florida Lawyers. Bruce received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

CLE Credit

General: 2.5 hours
Ethics: 1.5 hours
Substance Abuse: 1.0 hour