



## Oregon Lawyer Assistance Foundation

*Helping lawyers in need receive addiction and mental health treatment*

### **OLAF - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**WHAT IS THE OREGON LAWYER ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION?** The Oregon Lawyer Assistance Foundation (OLAF) provides grants and loans to Oregon lawyers who need financial help in order to obtain the addiction or mental health treatment they need.

**WHY ARE THESE FUNDS NEEDED?** Most Oregon lawyers needing financial assistance for mental health or addiction treatment have been significantly impacted by their disease and, as a result, they've lost much of their legal practice and are deeply in debt. In many instances the lawyer has no insurance coverage, or cannot afford the required copayment. In other instances, due to substantial state and county budget cuts, social services are not available to meet the lawyer's treatment needs.

**WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?** All OLAF money comes from private donations. Donations come from a wide range of sources. This includes sole practitioners, large firms, small and medium-sized firms, as well as contributions from family members or friends who wish to commemorate a special occasion or donate in honor or memory of a loved one.

**HOW DOES THE MONEY GET USED?** OLAF money is used for treatment and treatment-related expenses including in-patient treatment, psychiatric counseling, out-patient treatment, and follow up addiction care.

**HOW DOES SOMEONE APPLY FOR A GRANT OR LOAN?** Applications for loans or grants are brought to OLAF through the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program. OLAF requires that the applicant: 1) is a member of the Oregon State Bar, 2) accesses the OAAP for assistance, 3) meets the financial need criteria, and 4) be willing to give back to OLAF when able. The applicant's identity is protected by the OAAP.

**WHAT ARE THE DEBORAH DEALY-BROWNING, THE MICHAEL J. SWEENEY, AND THE DON MUCCIGROSSO MEMORIAL GRANTS?** When Deborah Dealy-Browning died after a long battle with alcoholism, her family members and friends donated money to help Oregon attorneys who needed financial help obtaining the addiction treatment they needed. After researching options for helping lawyers in financial need, OAAP Attorney Counselor, Michael J. Sweeney, inspired members of the legal community to create the Oregon Lawyers Assistance Foundation. The Deborah Dealy-Browning Grant honors Deborah Dealy-Browning's efforts to combat her disease and commemorates the origins of the OLAF. The Michael J. Sweeney grant and the Don Muccigrosso grant honor Michael and Don's life-long dedication to helping people into recovery. The grants are made to lawyers in recovery from alcoholism.

**WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT OLAF BEFORE?** OLAF and the OAAP are committed to protecting the identity and situations of the applicants. As a result, we are unable to feature stories about specifics. Since its inception, OLAF has issued over 60 grants and loans to lawyers in need.

**HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?** A donation can be made to honor someone, in memory of someone, anonymously, or by a person or law firm. Donations should be sent to OLAF Board member Robert Moore, 1940 SW Broadleaf Drive, Portland, OR 97219, or Barbara Fishleder, OLAF Treasurer, P.O. Box 231600, Tigard, Or 97281-1600.