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OREGON ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

503-226-1057
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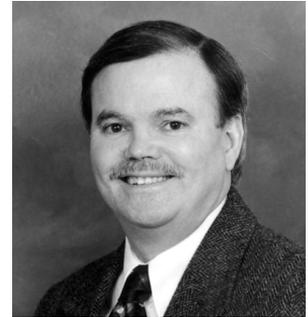
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

OAAP ATTORNEY COUNSELOR MICHAEL SWEENEY RETIRES

Michael Sweeney is the kind of guy who gets involved and makes things happen. True to form, that is exactly what he did in 1988 when he began volunteering at the OAAP. Within a year of his volunteer work, the Board of Directors of the Professional Liability Fund was persuaded that the lawyers of Oregon would be best served by a broader scope of services – a program that included education and support for the families of lawyers in recovery, assistance with career transition, support for lawyers who grew up in an alcoholic home (ACOA), and stress management. Through the guidance and leadership of Michael, Oregon became one of the first lawyer assistance programs to offer a wide range of services, including a “lawyer in transition program.” Michael joined the OAAP staff in 1989 and worked as an OAAP attorney counselor until recently when he took the position of attorney counselor advisor.

In recovery since 1984, Michael has a long list of personal and work achievements. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1970 and from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1975. He was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1976 and worked in the private practice of law in Heppner, Oregon, from 1976 to 1983. From 1983 to 1989 he served as CEO and corporate counsel for a Portland advertising company. In 1989, Michael began his work with the OAAP, where he has spent the last 18 years working with lawyers and their families in recovery, facilitating interventions, organizing support groups, and providing empathy and guidance. During this period of time, Michael became certified as an employee assistance professional (CEAP)

and an alcohol and drug counselor III (CADC III). Using his life experience, counseling education, and heart, Michael has helped hundreds of Oregon



lawyers into recovery, often saving their lives and enabling the lawyer and his or her family to heal the wreckage caused by the disease.

Michael has been a source of inspiration, assistance, energy, information, and support for anyone interested in recovery. Extensively involved in recovery legislation, constantly educating people about recovery, and always dedicating time to lawyers in need, Michael truly has made a difference in the lives of many. His work for the community of recovery has been boundless. He served as president of the board of the local Columbia River chapter of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) and as president of the board of the Oregon Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (OCADA). In 1993, Michael co-founded the Oregon Partnership, a statewide nonprofit that helps communities prevent and reduce substance abuse through treatment referrals and education. He served on the Partnership’s board from 1993 to 1997 and received the Oregon Partnership Leadership Award in 2001. According to Judy Cushing, now president and CEO of the Partnership, “the Oregon Partnership wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for Michael and his tireless advocacy for the field of

prevention and treatment. Many things moved forward because of his leadership.”

Michael also served as chair of the Governor’s Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (council member from 1996 to 2000), advising the governor and the legislature on funding priorities for programs related to alcohol and drug abuse. According to fellow councilman H. Edwin Shepherd, Michael was a “high-energy chairman who took the council to another level.” Michael also served on the Governor’s Underage Drinking Task Force, was involved in the State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) project to reduce the use of alcohol and drugs among youth, and served on a council for comprehensive legislation creating a support system for at-risk children and their families.

Internationally known for his work in the field of recovery and lawyer assistance programs, Michael has helped to establish and improve many lawyer assistance programs. He served from 2001 to 2003 on the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) and on the Commission’s assistance program evaluation subcommittee. Michael has also served on the ABA Standing Committee on Substance Abuse since 2004, provided testimony to a Congressional caucus on recovery, and helped introduce an ABA policy opposing discrimination against people seeking treatment or recovering from alcoholism or other drug diseases.

As a result of his many efforts throughout Oregon, the United States, and Canada, Michael is often affectionately referred to as the Kleenex-brand name of lawyer assistance. Mention his name, and the person you are talking to is likely to know him and his work. “Michael has a lot of friends,” says ABA past president David Brink, who served on the ABA Standing Committee on Substance Abuse with him. Brink calls him a “mover and a shaker who never saw a project he didn’t like.”

Born in Chicago, Michael is the oldest of six siblings: Pat, Kathy, Danny, Brian, and Greg. He is very involved in the lives of his six children: Kelly Burgoyne and Katie Sweeney, Shad and Seth Thomas, and Seth and Cole Morgan; and four grandchildren: Brittany, Emily, Lily, and Cadence. Michael looks forward to spending more time with his family in retirement, as well as enjoying more of his favorite hobby, golf.

OAAP attorney counselors Meloney Crawford Chadwick, Mike Long, Douglas Querin, and Shari Gregory will continue helping Oregon lawyers with alcohol and chemical dependency, stress management, time management and procrastination, career satisfaction, compulsive disorders (including gambling, sex, and Internet addictions), relationships, burnout, depression, anxiety, and other issues that affect a lawyer’s ability to function.

On Friday, June 1, 2007, the OAAP will hold its annual dinner celebrating Oregon lawyers in recovery, this year paying special tribute to Michael for his 18 years of dedication and service to the recovery community.

We congratulate Michael on a job well done.

Ira Zarov
PLF Chief Executive Officer

Barbara S. Fishleder
OAAP Executive Director



The Professional Liability Fund
and its
Board of Directors
gratefully extend to
MICHAEL J. SWEENEY
their heartfelt thanks
and appreciation

FOR his dedicated service to the Fund as OAAP Attorney Counselor from 1989 to 2007;

FOR his unceasing efforts in reaching out to Oregon attorneys and others suffering from alcoholism, chemical dependency, and other serious forms of impairment;

FOR saving the lives, homes, and careers of many hundreds of Oregon attorneys throughout his 18 years of service; and

FOR his international leadership in the field of attorney assistance.

FOR these and his many other services, we hereby affirm our deep appreciation and commendation and extend to him our best wishes for a happy retirement.

THIS 9th day of February, 2007.