



**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION  
YLD Liaison Entity Information and Expectations**

Please save document in Microsoft word and email to Renee Lugo at lugor@staff.abanet.org.

**Entity Information**

Entity Name: Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP)  
Staff Contact: Donna L Spilis  
Position: Staff Director  
Telephone: 312-988-5359  
Email: spilisd@staff.abanet.org  
Entity Website: www.abalegalservices.org/colap

**Term Length of Position**

2 years

**Top 3 Benefits Of Being A Liaison To Your Entity:**

- 1: CoLAP focuses on benefits to the members and lawyer/law student non-members - most other entities focus on benefits to the profession. Quality of life; work/life balance, stress, depression and addictions solutions.
- 2: Actively participating in one of ABA's newer services - 20 year old program that is continually expanding its services to meet the needs of the state and local lawyer assistance programs, operates very much like a section with strong volunteer input and expertise. Play an important role in saving lawyers' lives, careers and relationships.
- 3: Involvement with a group that is regarded as a resource on 2<sup>nd</sup> Season of Service, Judicial Assistance/training, development of Student Assistance Programs, development of guidelines for discipline, bar examiners, professional responsibility lawyers. Looking to further develop outreach to diverse populations.

**Governance**

Does the Liaison sit on your Council or Governing Group? Yes

If so, are they a voting member? No

If not, do you have a young lawyer representative on your Council or Governing Group? No

**Projects**

Please provide a brief description and the timing of projects you expect the liaison to participate in or is responsible for: Development of solutions and implementation of solutions to issues raised in the Pulse of the ABA Study, many of which are related to quality of life issues. CoLAP is very much result-oriented and service oriented; not as much public service, but lawyer assistance. Become an advocate for the work of the state and local lawyer assistance programs. Provide guidance and direction on how to assist younger lawyers and new lawyers. Need someone who is eager to become involved immediately, willing to volunteer for committee(s) of interest, someone who wants to help and make a difference with his/her colleagues.

**Committee/Board/Group Participation**

Does the liaison participate in other committees/boards/groups? Yes

If so, please include the name(s) of these committees/boards/groups: See attached.

**In-person Meetings**

Number of meetings the liaison is expected to attend: 3

If the liaison can not attend can they participate via conference call? Yes

Timing of meetings (check all that apply):

- Fall  ABA Midyear Meeting  Spring  Summer  ABA Annual Meeting
- Other National Conference for Lawyer Assistance Programs - 4 days with CLE and registration fee waived.

Is the liaison expected to provide an oral report? Yes

Do you provide the liaison funding to attend in-person meetings? No

If so, please provide funding details (check all that apply): We try to offset expenses with meals, and depending on how active, there are committees that do have some funding available - \$300 to \$600. When serving on special assignment, actual reasonable expenses covered.

- Coach Airfare  Per diem of /day  Hotel  Ground Transportation  Complimentary social event tickets  Actuals
- Other

Additional Comments: Reimbursement is based on involvement and available funding. We solicit contributions from treatment facilities who support ABA's work in the health & well-being of attorneys. Liaison should be aware that CoLAP's social functions are alcohol-free because of the recovery issues it addresses, but they are not the alcohol police (smile).

### Conference Calls

Approximately how many conference calls is the liaison expected to participate in:None

### Written Reports

Is the liaison expected to submit a written report to your entity? No

If so, how often? Other

What does the report entail (check all that apply)?

YLD Activity Updates  Your entity's young lawyer activities  a young lawyer perspective  young lawyer feedback

Other

Additional Comments: We prefer a written report, however oral input is accepted. It also depends on if this person chairs a committee or subcommittee or has an assignment requiring a report to the Commission leadership. We hope that the liaison will enthusiastically share information on CoLAP's efforts with the YLD leadership and membership.

### Leadership Path

Do you have a formal leadership path in place for liaisons (e.g. liaison→committee member→committee chair) No

If so please explain: Because the members are Presidential Appointments, the Chair and others can recommend people to the Commission or Advisory Commission. CoLAP is eager to have more young lawyers appointed to the Commission, which is the voting group. Recovery from a chemical or process addiction brings special understanding; or experience with someone else's addiction or emotional health issues, and/or compassion for human life. CoLAP needs leaders who have an understanding of ABA process/politics/organization and is a passionate volunteer. This is an entity that does for the benefit of the group and not necessarily individual advancement - however sometimes it happens.

**Please explain your entity's liaison expectations:** Not sure what this means, but CoLAP is looking for a volunteer who is eager to be involved, result-oriented and open to change - to carry information on state and local lawyer assistance programs, be open to different philosophies in the practice of law, futuristic thinking, health and well-being, balancing bottom line and respect of human resources. Most recently (again) the Lawyer Assistance Programs are trying to coordinate their efforts with practice management programs, to re-energize the positive relationship between regulation and support.