to PROMOTE PREVENTION and TREATMENT ...

Prevention is the sum of our efforts to ensure healthy, safe, and productive lives by promoting choices and lifestyles that discourage drug abuse. Successful prevention helps reduce tragic fatalities, violence, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, rape, teen pregnancy, child abuse, and other social ills. Studies show that treatment also significantly reduces not only substance use, but crime.

Prevention efforts strengthen communities, schools, families, and individuals. Drug users are less likely to infiltrate strong communities. Schools with firm policies against smoking and drinking and drugs are safer and offer healthier learning environments. Family members who serve as healthy role models usually inoculate their children and their friends against substance use. Individuals who act as mentors help foster healthy individual development.

Fact: For every dollar spent on drug-use prevention, communities can save $4 to $5 in costs for drug abuse treatment and counseling.

Fact: A national study found that five years after treatment for substance abuse, criminal activity declined—drug sales by 30 percent; violent and disorderly offenses by 23 percent; breaking and entering by 38 percent, and motor vehicle thefts by 56 percent.

Fact: A 24-hour information network for free information on specific drug, and related to treatment programs, self-help groups and online centers.

Fact: Use your skills as a convener to organize and support broad-based community coalitions as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.

And to TAKE ACTION!

In Your Practice

Provide pre-bono services to indigent families with substance abuse problems. In many communities, lawyers are linking with local organizations, such as Healthy Start, to address the legal needs of families using the program as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.

Place a pyramid on the assessment and treatment of substance abuse problems of persons charged with driving while intoxicated, criminal offenses, domestic violence or child abuse and neglect, and their families.

Organize workshops for your practice to educate colleagues about prevention. Hire health and prevention professionals to speak.

Educate your clients about the legal consequences of substance abuse.

Display substance abuse prevention information in your waiting area.

With Your Bar Association

Convene developing Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs to train lawyers on the role they can play in substance abuse prevention.

Educate youth and parents about the legal consequences of alcohol and illicit drug use and abuse.

Add information on substance abuse to your Bar Association Web site and link to www.drugfree.org and other prevention sites.

Help develop new approaches to juvenile justice that foster linkages between the community, court, healthcare and juvenile justice systems. Encourage interdisciplinary team approaches in well-integrated community settings. Ensure that youth on parole/probation receive preventive education.

Implement programs in the justice system that divert nonviolent offenders with drug abuse and alcohol problems into treatment rather than into prison. Ensure that there are readily available links to community-based treatment should continuing care be needed upon release.

In Your Community

Convene a comprehensive community anti-drug coalition by drawing participants not only from the legal, law enforcement and prevention communities, but also from the education, medical, faith, media, and business communities.

Adapt a school. Partner with other lawyers, law firms, the Bar Association, local medical societies, and local businesses. Work with administrators, teachers and students to identify needs, make decisions and develop effective prevention programs. Provide opportunities for young people to develop "life skills"—skills that will help them to be successful and make choices that do not involve illegal behaviors.

Use your skills as a convener to organize and support broad-based community coalitions as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.

As an Individual

Visit Web sites such as NACADD’s (www.nacoa.org) to substance your knowledge of illicit drug and alcohol abuse.

Be a role model. Young people and others are in awe of what you do as well as what you say.

Be a mentor. Resilient young people are more likely to resist drugs. Encourage involvement in healthy, creative activities that do not involve alcohol or illicit drugs.

Support community, workplace and school efforts to establish alcohol- and drug-free environments.

In Your Family

Communicate your commitment to a drug-free lifestyle by involving your children in your efforts. Provide helpful information on prevention.

Teach your children to use the principles of empathy, respect, and judgment that you have learned in your efforts to help your children make wise and healthy decisions. This will help your children avoid drugs and other illegal activities.

Provide pro bono services to indigent families with substance abuse problems. In many communities, lawyers are linking with local organizations, such as Healthy Start, to address the legal needs of families using the program as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.


The views expressed herein have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, and accordingly, should not be continued or represented as the policy of the American Bar Association. Nothing contained in this brochure is to be considered as the rendering of legal advice for specific cases.

Prevention efforts strengthen communities, schools, families, and individuals. Drug dealers are less likely to infiltrate strong communities. Schools with firm policies against smoking and drinking and drugs are safer and offer healthier learning environments. Family members who serve as healthy role models usually inoculate their children and their friends against substance use. Individuals who act as mentors help foster healthy individual development.

Fact: For every dollar spent on drug-use prevention, communities can save $4 to $5 in costs for drug abuse treatment and counseling.

Fact: A national study found that five years after treatment for substance abuse, criminal activity declined—drug sales by 30 percent; violent and disorderly offenses by 23 percent; breaking and entering by 38 percent, and motor vehicle thefts by 56 percent.

Fact: A 24-hour information network for free information on specific drug, and related to treatment programs, self-help groups and online centers.

Fact: Use your skills as a convener to organize and support broad-based community coalitions as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.

As an Individual

Visit Web sites such as NACADD’s (www.nacoa.org) to substance your knowledge of illicit drug and alcohol abuse.

Be a role model. Young people and others are in awe of what you do as well as what you say.

Be a mentor. Resilient young people are more likely to resist drugs. Encourage involvement in healthy, creative activities that do not involve alcohol or illicit drugs.

Support community, workplace and school efforts to establish alcohol- and drug-free environments.

In Your Family

Communicate your commitment to a drug-free lifestyle by involving your children in your efforts. Provide helpful information on prevention.

Teach your children to use the principles of empathy, respect, and judgment that you have learned in your efforts to help your children make wise and healthy decisions. This will help your children avoid drugs and other illegal activities.

Provide pro bono services to indigent families with substance abuse problems. In many communities, lawyers are linking with local organizations, such as Healthy Start, to address the legal needs of families using the program as vehicles for implementing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy that includes participation of professionals from the prevention and treatment, medicine, education, and law enforcement arenas.

Dear Members of the Bar:

The abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol casts a shadow over virtually every aspect of American life – it lowers barometers, crime, mental illness, the absorption of tobacco, alcohol, or the spread of diseases.

There are good reasons why we should intervene. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the total annual cost of illicit drug use to society in 1995 was estimated at $122 billion for costs associated with health care, drug use prevention and treatment programs, drug-related crime, and lost productivity resulting from reduced worker productivity or death.

And, we are very often conforming with perhaps the most compelling reasons of all: the美术的 and tragic results evident in physical and emotional damage from drug and crime, and the legal system.

Arrests can be a unique opportunity to ameliorate these problems, prior to serious and sometimes fatal consequences. When there may be a family member, friend, or other professional available to recognize and respond to a need for help.

ABA members can make a difference in stemming the abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol by using their knowledge of the legal system and influence in the community to develop solutions. Lawyers can bring specialized training and expertise to the law by stopping together motivated, anti-drug, alcohol-abuse programs. Such programs can be objectively provided leadership, help build consensus and develop and implement solutions.

Today’s professionals are busy. We have full calendars, family and work responsibilities, and personal challenges of our own. You, because attorneys are concerned for the general well-being of clients and communities and want to do what is right – not just what the letter of the law requires – we are confident that most ABA members will find a way to foster substance abuse prevention efforts.

This brochure was created to spark discussion and promote action to help us use. Whether your practice brings you into contact with troubled individuals or high-risk communities, the problems associated with illicit drug and alcohol abuse affect all. Because we share an interest in protecting children and making neighborhoods safe and drug-free, we hope that addressing substance abuse will become a vital part of your professional pursuits.

Sincerely,

Barry B. McGeary
District Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Martin Barnett
President, American Bar Association

SUBSTANCE ABUSE IS …

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) describes substance abuse as compulsive use of drugs even in the face of negative consequences.

Substance abuse is not discriminatory. Its reality defies all stereotypes and crosses all gender, age, racial, ethnic, income and geographic boundaries.

With significant consequences:

Economic

Illicit drug and alcohol problems exact a high price from society and individuals in diminished quality of life, squandered opportunity and reduced productivity. And, they cost money, especially burdening the legal, healthcare and social service systems.

Fact:
The estimated economic cost to society for alcohol and illicit drug abuse in the United States was $184 billion in 1999. (projected for 1992, the latest year for which sufficient data are available)


Fact:
Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are implicated in the incarceration of 82 percent-1.4 million of the 1.7 million men and women federal fees today.


Fact:
One in every 144 American adults is behind bars for a crime in which drugs or alcohol is involved.


Fact:
One of every 144 American adults is behind bars for a crime in which drugs or alcohol is involved.


Violence and Crime

The facts show an undeniable nexus between illicit drugs and alcohol, violence and crime – diverting law enforcement personnel, clogging the courts, and causing economic loss and mental anguish for victims.

Fact:
Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are implicated in the incarceration of 82 percent-1.4 million of the 1.7 million men and women federal fees today.


Fact:
Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are implicated in the incarceration of 82 percent-1.4 million of the 1.7 million men and women federal fees today.


Fact:
Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are implicated in the incarceration of 82 percent-1.4 million of the 1.7 million men and women federal fees today.


Fact:
Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are implicated in the incarceration of 82 percent-1.4 million of the 1.7 million men and women federal fees today.