

# ROBERT E. ROSE JUDICIAL SYMPOSIUM ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

May 13: Washoe County Courthouse, Reno

May 14: Regional Justice Center, Las Vegas

BY MELINDA CATREN, NEVADA LAWYER STAFF

By attending, participants can earn three ethics credits and arm themselves with the tools that can help them save themselves, their associates and even their practices when threatened by a problem involving substance abuse or addiction.

If you want to stop drinking...  
you will FIND A WAY.

If not...you will  
FIND AN EXCUSE.

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**All Communications Confidential.**

Every year the State Bar of Nevada sees a percentage of its members self-destruct; formerly good lawyers make careless mistakes during good cases, take money from clients or simply fail to do the work they have

been hired to do. In many of these cases, it is neither incompetence nor an abdication of ethics to blame, but substance abuse. A large number of the bar's lawyer discipline cases involve substance abuse. The good news? With an understanding of alcohol and drug abuse issues, a willingness to help and some assistance from the invaluable help network operating within Nevada's legal community, you can prevent alcohol or substance abuse from destroying your or your colleagues' practices, relationships and lives.

In 1994, Coe Swobe of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) gathered support from the State Bar of Nevada, the Nevada Supreme Court and the ABA in order to make sure that our state's judges and lawyers were educated about the serious problem substance abuse presents to the legal profession. That year, they began a "Judicial Symposium on Alcohol and Drug Abuse." This free symposium has now become a regular feature on the bar's CLE roster, taking place approximately every three years in both Reno

and Las Vegas. "Our primary goal is to get help for lawyers before they wreck their lives and the lives of those around them," says Swobe. "We try to get the alcoholic and drug addict to admit they have a problem. Denial is very strong." Equally as strong is LCL's success rate. Nevada contains a huge network of very successful attorneys and judges (and even justices) who have fought addiction and substance abuse demons and who credit the LCL in large part for their success.<sup>1</sup> Several of those people are now doing their best to give back and help others facing the same problems.

The next Robert E. Rose Judicial Symposium<sup>2</sup> on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will take place on May 13 at the Washoe County Courthouse in Reno and May 14 at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. Both events will be co-chaired by Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre and State Bar of Nevada president Kathleen England. Las Vegas speakers will include LCL coordinator Coe Swobe, LCL co-founders Ben Graham and Supreme Court Justice Michael Cherry, LCL's



Not every lawyer can pass *this* bar.

Mitch Cobeaga and Brian Fisher, Clark County Public Defender Kristine Kuzemka and director of the Center for Addiction Medicine Michael S. Levy. In Reno, Swobe will be joined by former state bar president Robert L. Crowell, UNR professor of psychiatry Dr. Mark Hall Broadhead and former chair of the Character & Fitness Committee Keith Lee. Seminar attendance is still free. By attending, participants can earn three ethics credits and arm themselves with the tools that can help them save themselves, their associates and even their practices when threatened by a problem involving substance abuse or addiction.

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This year the symposium is pleased to welcome, to both its northern and southern presentations, guest speaker Meloney Crawford Chadwick. Chadwick is a former legal practitioner who now works with the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program (OAAP). She is a nationally certified alcohol and drug counselor, served as president of the board of directors of the Oregon Addiction Counselors Certification Board from 2006 to 2008 and has written many articles on addiction, recovery and motivational issues. In her work with the OAAP, she counsels attorneys, law students and their families on issues like stress management, career transition, relationship issues, substance abuse, anxiety and depression. Chadwick herself has been in recovery since 1988 and has turned her own victory into a life-long career of helping others successfully overcome alcohol and drug abuse and addiction.

For more information on the 2010 Robert E. Rose Judicial Symposium on Alcohol and Drugs, and to register, go to the state bar website at [www.nvbar.org/cle/livecle.htm](http://www.nvbar.org/cle/livecle.htm) or see the CLE Calendar on page 38. More personal help is always available through Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers; representatives can be reached toll-free at (866) 828-0022 or you may call Swobe directly at (775) 322-2154. All calls will be kept confidential. ■

1 For more on LCL, see sidebar.

2 The symposium is named for former Justice Robert E. Rose because of his stalwart support of the efforts of LCL before, during and after his time as chief justice.

# LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS



Nevada's Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) was formed in 1986 by then-Nevada attorneys Ben Graham, Michael Cherry and Coe Swobe. The organization is dedicated to helping members of the State Bar of Nevada recover from alcohol and drug addiction, compulsive gambling, stress and depression. LCL is a voluntary organization made up of attorneys who have fought similar battles and are now dedicated to helping members of the legal community succeed against these debilitating problems. Members meet regularly in Las Vegas, Reno and Carson City.

LCL offers its services with complete confidentiality and does not police or discipline attorneys; those seeking help may call, safe in the knowledge that their careers and reputations, or the careers and reputations of colleagues they are concerned about, will not be put at risk by so doing. In fact, the goal of LCL is to prevent ruined careers and reputations by providing help before the damage is done.

Confidential help from a fellow lawyer is just a phone call away and is absolutely free of charge. Just call the LCL Hotline toll-free at (866) 828-0022 for advice, referral assistance or individual telephone counseling.

**If you are a lawyer or judge interested in volunteering with the LCL program, call LCL Coordinator Coe Swobe at (775) 322-2154.**