

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Supreme Court and State Bar of Arizona Wellness Program Earns National Award

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court and the State Bar of Arizona recently received a national award from the National Association of Bar Executives for a program co-developed in 2019 called “Are We OK?” The free three-part series was offered nationally through the State Bar of Arizona in October, November, and December of 2019. The series had a large national audience and the program was well received by bar associations, lawyer assistance programs, lawyers, and court personnel from all over Arizona and the country when originally aired.

The series received a 2020 LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Award for outstanding bar public service and law-related education. Arizonans are among those nationally who report an increase in depression during the COVID-19 pandemic, making the programs for recognizing and coping with stress, depression, and addiction timely and relevant throughout 2020. The programs were designed to offer lawyers guidance on ways to plan for positive change and well-being.

"Our collaboration with the Arizona Supreme Court was vital in our efforts to destigmatize these challenges and create a culture in the legal system where lawyers and judges can feel safe in admitting they need help, get it and then share their accounts to help others," said Roberta Tepper, Director of the State Bar of Arizona's Lawyer Assistance Programs.

Jeff Schrade, Director of the Education Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts stated, "The Arizona Supreme Court is proud to continue its ongoing and award-winning collaboration with the State Bar of Arizona, providing a national model of partnership between the bench and the bar to address issues of mutual concern to both."

Lawyers and nonlawyers are encouraged to seek help and support in coping with stress and the challenges of personal and work issues. Local and state bar associations offer lawyer assistance programs. Lawyers and nonlawyers can receive information through the Court's website at <https://azcourtcare.org/process-info/behavioral-health> and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://tinyurl.com/v5mbs7m>.

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