

Baldy Center Multidisciplinary Symposium

Can Attorneys Disclose Clients' Suicidal Thoughts? Exploring the Ethical and Legal Issues



December 4-5, 2008

509 O'Brian Hall, North Campus, University at Buffalo Law School

A multidisciplinary group of scholars from law, public health, education, and suicide prevention comes together to examine the ethical and legal issues attorneys face when clients disclose suicidal thoughts. Spanning a range of cases and questions, the speakers illustrate the shifting and multi-layered contexts and challenges that are critically shaping how attorneys can prevent suicide for their client population. Attendees will also discuss how to create and implement a protocol in advance of facing this challenging situation. 7.0 CLE credits approved.

PROGRAM

Thursday, December 4

5:30 pm Reception

6:00 pm **Opening Presentation**

"Why it Matters: An Overview of Suicide as a Public Health Crisis and How it Impacts Attorney Practice"

Catherine Cerulli, J.D., Ph.D., Director of Research, Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic, University at Buffalo Law School; Assistant Professor, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Friday, December 5

8:30 am Coffee and welcome

9:00 am **Keynote Address**

"Can Attorneys Disclose Clients' Suicidal Thoughts? Exploring the Ethical and Legal Issues"

Teresa Collett, Professor of Law; Fellow, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis

11:00 am **Panel: "What Now: Exploring Case Examples of Client Disclosures"**

Dr. Eric Caine, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Dr. Kenneth R. Conner, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Hon. Patricia D. Marks, County Court Judge, Monroe County

Edward Nowak, Attorney, Former Public Defender, Monroe County

Hon. Sharon S. Townsend, Administrative Judge, 8th Judicial District

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm **Roundtables: Implementing a Protocol**

Facilitators: Catherine Cerulli, Kenneth R. Conner

Attorneys will learn about suicide prevention resources and how to work within their own communities to refer clients who are suicidal to receive appropriate screening, assessment and referral.

3:30 pm Closing Reception

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

A total of 7.0 CLE non-transitional credits are available for attendance at both days of the program.

Thursday evening program: 1.0 non-transitional CLE credit in the area of Professional Practice.

Friday program: 6.0 non-transitional CLE credits; 4.0 in the area of Ethics, 2.0 in the area of Professional Practice or Skills.

CLE credit is available for either part of the program or both parts.

There is no CLE registration fee. UB Law School has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York for the period of March 11, 2008 - March 10, 2011.

REGISTRATION

All attendees, including those wishing to receive CLE, please register with Anita Mazurek at amazurek@buffalo or call (716) 645-2102. Include your name, title, and institutional or organizational affiliation.

There is no cost to attend this conference, lunch and materials are provided with registration.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS & PARKING

Driving directions can be found on the UB Law Web site here: "[Directions to the UB Law School](#)"

For afternoon parking, we recommend Jacobs A or Hochstetter B lots. For parking during the day if you arrive after 8:30 am, we recommend parking at the Center for Tomorrow parking lot and taking the shuttle to O'Brian Hall.

ORGANIZERS

Catherine Cerulli and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Policy Research Associates, with support from the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

FUNDING

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