Attorneys and Memory Loss

Attorneys who were once sharp as a tack and never missed a step begin to stumble through simple thoughts, can’t find the right words, and begin to mentally wander. There may be missed deadlines, personality changes, client complaints, or disciplinary actions.

Recognizing the signs of memory loss and other symptoms of cognitive impairment, and knowing what steps to take, are crucial in protecting the practice and the clients, and preserving the dignity of the affected attorney.

Of course there is always the possibility that the cause of what appears to be symptoms of mental impairment is reversible, such as hypothyroidism, vitamin deficiencies, tumor, psychiatric illness, substance abuse/dependence, etc.

As with any illness, early intervention is crucial, whatever the cause. The goal should always be to preserve the person’s dignity and reputation, and protect the public.

NJLAP offers free and completely confidential early intervention in a non-threatening and professional environment. Initial baseline screening by trained NJLAP staff is offered, with follow-up to appropriate resources and ongoing support.
Concerned about memory loss in yourself or a colleague?

Confused as to where to start to seek help?

NJLAP offers a first-step helping hand through:

- Confidential early identification of impairment
- Referral to appropriate medical professionals for diagnostic testing and treatment
- Ongoing education to the Bench/Bar through presentations and CLE events

New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

800-246-5527
www.NJLAP.org

You may never need to call Lawyers Assistance, but someone you know will.

You do not have to manage alone.