This report provides information about current trends in law firm well-being programs. Information was gathered from benefits surveys in the legal profession, surveys of well-being practice information for employers generally, media reports, and interviews and informal communications with law firms. References and sources are provided in the Appendix.

### WELL-BEING PROGRAM PREVALENCE

Most law firms have some type of well-being program.

- **99%** Law firms that offer some type of well-being program (Source: Mercer Survey Report, 2020)
- **194** Total number of ABA Well-Being Pledge signatories (as of December 2020)
- **71%** AmLaw 100 Firms that are Well-Being Pledge signatories

### WELL-BEING PROGRAM STRUCTURE

#### 1. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
- Most ABA Well-Being Pledge signatories have formed committees or working groups. They vary in composition and size.
- Many use centralized decision-making. Some encourage offices or departments to develop activities that are tailored to their needs.
- Many committees coordinate with other firm programs, especially diversity and inclusion and affinity and mentoring groups.

#### 2. STAKEHOLDERS
- Programs generally include lawyers and staff, but specific events or activities may be tailored to a specific group (e.g., associates, legal secretaries, affinity group membership).

#### 3. PROGRAM BUDGET
- Funding for well-being programs varies. Some committees appear to have set budgets while others request funding on an as-needed basis.

#### 4. INFORMATION HUB
- 46% of firms have a web-based portal dedicated to well-being (Mercer Survey Report, 2020).
- Most Well-Being Pledge signatories have intranet websites for their well-being programs (Buchanan & Beitner, in press).
5. **Committee Leadership**

- Firms’ well-being programs are led in a variety of ways, e.g., by lawyers, professional development, human resources, benefits personnel, and/or diversity staff. Some firms have hired designated well-being coordinators with various titles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Title</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Lewis</td>
<td>Director of Employee Well-Being; Chief Engagement Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland &amp; Ellis</td>
<td>Director of Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston &amp; Strawn</td>
<td>Director of Coaching and Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latham &amp; Watkins</td>
<td>Senior Manager of Global Health and Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidley Austin</td>
<td>Director of Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropes &amp; Gray</td>
<td>Manager of Well-Being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faegre Drinker</td>
<td>Professional Development &amp; Well-Being Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleary Gottlieb</td>
<td>Well Being and Talent Innovation Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Program Branding**

- Many large firms have branded their programs, including logos and cohesive graphic design. Some also focus programming on specific pillars of well-being.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crowell &amp; Moring</td>
<td>CroWell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fried Frank</td>
<td>Living Well: Mind, Body, Self (mental health, fitness and nutrition, work-life integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katten</td>
<td>Well-Being 360: Live Well, Work Well, Be Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latham &amp; Watkins</td>
<td>LiveWell Latham: Mental Health, Physical Activity, Musculoskeletal, Medical Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orrick</td>
<td>The Whole You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Lewis</td>
<td>ML Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Smith</td>
<td>Wellness Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropes &amp; Gray</td>
<td>Be Well at Ropes &amp; Gray: My Mind, My Health, My Wealth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Incentives for Participation**

- 68%-Offer cash or gift cards
- 36%-Offer lower medical premium contributions
- 22%-Offer incentives to spouses
- 39%-For health assessments
- 35%-For exercise challenges
- 31%-For biometric screenings
- 16%-For lifestyle management changes

Incentives may boost participation among employees who do not yet have internal motivation to engage in well-being programs (Aldana, 2020). About half of surveyed law firms (51%) offer an incentive for participation (Mercer Survey Report, 2020). Other firms forego incentives, saying they send the wrong message.

| Points for Prizes | Faegre Drinker awards points for participating in well-being activities to spend in its online store filled with well-being-related items—e.g., yoga mats, activity trackers, coaching sessions, standing desk, 3-month gym membership, etc. Hausfeld has done similar points-earning well-being challenges with prizes. |
| Wellness Budget | Fried Frank matches up to $750 annually for expenditures on physical wellness products and services (e.g., gym membership, Peloton bike). |
| Billable Credit | McDermott grants billable hour credit (for up to 25 hours) spent on mindfulness, and the firm Chair discusses his own meditation practice. |
| Raffles | Seyfarth and Orrick have used raffles of well-being-related gift cards (e.g., SpaFinder) and gadgets (e.g., FitBits, ear buds) to encourage participation in well-being events and challenges. |
Direct managers’ day-to-day support for organizational well-being priorities is essential for success of well-being programs (e.g., Gulseren et al., 2019; Mattke et al., 2013). A 2013 RAND study of U.S. well-being programs found that only 14% of employers held managers accountable for improving well-being, but those that did were much more successful (Mattke et al., 2013). A growing number of employers (41%) plan to measure manager support of employee well-being by 2021 (Willis Towers Watson, April 3, 2020). No law firm research is available on the prevalence of firm practices to incentivize and hold senior members accountable (through, for example, written expectations, goal-setting, feedback, bonuses, formal or informal recognition, etc.) for improving firm members’ well-being.

Most firms do not yet have a formal process for assessing firm members’ well-being interests and needs or program effectiveness. But firms are making efforts to develop such processes:

**Members’ Needs & Interests**
Ways that firms have sought to gauge firm members’ needs and interests include:
- A “wellness ambassador” in each office collects ideas for programming.
- Extensive informal conversations or regular informal focus groups.
- Seek input from groups/committees, e.g., employee resource groups, associates committee, etc.
- Surveys asking about needs and interests.
- HR partners actively seek input from groups they support.
- Monthly “happiness” surveys to gauge engagement and well-being by office.
- Pulse surveys on varying topics related to mental health, emotional state, top concerns.

**Evaluation of Outcomes**
Many firms track attendance at events and use of resources and ask about satisfaction with specific events. Generally, though, firms have not yet created formal evaluation processes to assess the quality of their programs and progress toward goals. But they are beginning to make steps in that direction. ABA Well-Being Pledge signatories:

- **Have some type of process or method to measure results**
  - 21%

- **Currently are developing a process**
  - 42%

- **Have no process**
  - 37%

(Source: Mercer Survey Report, 2020)

Outside the legal profession, 16% of employers measure stress and its leading causes in the workforce, and over half intend to do so by 2021.

Measure employee stress

- **16%**

Will measure employee stress by 2021

- **50%**

(Source: Willis Towers Watson, April 3, 2020; survey of 610 U.S. employers)
Firms’ efforts to enhance members’ well-being can include upstream or downstream strategies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary (Upstream)</th>
<th>Aimed at organizational factors that cause harm or enable well-being</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (Midstream)</td>
<td>Help members’ cope with stress, promote their health, and prevent illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary (Downstream)</td>
<td>Facilitate treatment and recovery for members who already have a mental or physical health condition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well-being strategies can take many forms—including, for example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education &amp; skills-building</th>
<th>Wellness challenges &amp; events</th>
<th>Environmental support for healthy behaviors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to resources</td>
<td>Reengineering of policies and practices</td>
<td>Resource groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Available information about the types of practices that are most common in law firms is provided below. Note, though, that commonly-used strategies are not necessarily the best strategies. Few law firms have evaluated interest levels or effectiveness of their programs for achieving desired goals. Further, most firms have concerns about low participation in well-being-related activities—especially among lawyers (e.g., Buchanan & Beitner, in press). In Mercer’s 2019 and 2020 Survey Reports, law firms identified communication and engagement as among their top three benefit program challenges.

In 2014, the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation (TJMF, an Australian non-profit) published Psychological Wellbeing: Best Practice Guidelines for the Legal Profession. The Guidelines identify 13 healthy workplace factors within legal employers’ zone of influence (e.g., fairness, effective leadership, civility, workload management, balance, etc.) and recommend how to implement them. No research is available to indicate law firms’ use of the Guidelines.

**NATION-WIDE, EMPLOYERS REPORT A GROWING FOCUS ON HEALTHY WORKPLACE CULTURES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will make health culture a top priority by 2021</th>
<th>73%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Align health and well-being programs with their organizational culture (expected to rise to 77% by 2021)</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build health and well-being into their employee value propositions (expected to rise to 72% by 2021)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply human-centered design to well-being programs (expected to rise to 88% by 2021)</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure manager support of employee well-being (expected to rise to 41% by 2021)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Willis Towers Watson, April 3, 2020, sample: 610 U.S. employers)
Law firms have created a variety of events, activities, and offerings to support firm members’ physical and mental health (many of which are administered by their EAPs or health plans):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Fitness center benefits:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Onsite fitness center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Fitness center subsidies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Fitness center discounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Worksite group health challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Mindfulness/meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Health coaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Worksite exercise/yoga classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Stress management/resilience programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Health assessment questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>Worksite biometric screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>Tobacco cessation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Weight-reduction programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Mobile apps for activity tracking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Mercer Survey Report, 2020)

**EXAMPLES OF LAW FIRM EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, & OFFERINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Well-Being</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$750 annual fitness stipend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step challenge, virtual 5K run competition, race as part of lawyer retreats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peloton cycling group and other group virtual fitness classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soul Cycling with the firm’s Chair during first-year lawyer orientation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual firm-wide physical activity challenge; Fit Bits given to all participants to track activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treadmill desks placed in generally accessible areas of the office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Meeting Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga or meditation sessions led by external or internal experts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotional Well-Being</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and follow-up for excessive hours (&gt; 250 hrs) two months in a row</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Wellness Dollars”: $500 gift certificate and list of suggested well-being activities for associates who bill over 250 hours in a single month.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to well-being-related apps (e.g., HeadSpace, HomeThrive)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates’ lounge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet room, meditation room, regular guided meditations live or recorded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee resource groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a “Wellness Holiday” or “Meeting-Free Fridays”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology blackout over a weekend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Well-Being</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gratitude campaigns that encourage firm members to convey words of thanks electronically, on electronic boards, or via firm-produced gratitude cards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family-focused Zoom events (e.g., pumpkin carving).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the pandemic, delivering items to homes (e.g., trick-or-treat bags, fruit basket, grocery gift cards) to show concern and care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events/Delivery Channels</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A firm-sponsored well-being podcast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness “fair”/vendor hall with booths for well-being-related vendors at lawyer retreats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-being topics recommended for mentor discussions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Calendar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of “Mental Health Minutes” or “Well-Being Bursts”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter focusing on an aspect of well-being and spotlighting stories of firm members who model it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask associates to choose one well-being goal as part of career development plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ABA Pledge requires signatories to provide “enhanced and robust education to attorneys and staff on topics related to well-being, mental health, and substance use disorders,” to support self-care and help-seeking, and to engage outside well-being-related experts to advise on programming. Firms’ education efforts have encompassed a variety of topics and formats.

Examples of Common Education Topics

- Mindfulness and meditation
- Stress management and resilience
- Fostering more positivity/optimism
- Nutrition, physical health, and fitness
- Financial well-being
- Recognizing and responding to signs of mental health conditions and substance misuse
- How to handle a suicidal situation

Increasing Focus on Mental Health. Mental health and substance misuse education is on the rise:

- U.S. employers reporting that their well-being program includes emotional well-being more than doubled between 2017 and 2018—from 35% to 77% (Sequoia Consulting Group, 2019).
- Many employers (51%) provide manager coaching and training to recognize signs of anxiety and depression, and how to refer people for assistance (Fortingo, 2020; Willis Towers Watson, April 3, 2020; survey of 610 U.S. employers).
- Several Well-Being Pledge signatories have offered Mental Health First Aid certification (Buchanan & Beitner, in press).

Delivery Format. Although firms’ most common education format appears to be one-time, external speakers on off-the-shelf topics, there also are examples of alternative formats:

- “Mentoring circles” of lawyers and staff that identify and coordinate programming that most interests them
- Book/Watch Clubs or Roundtables in which people connect for group discussions of what they read or watched
- Job aids or cheat sheets on well-being topics/resources
- Panels of internal lawyers discussing practices for supporting their own well-being and/or that of their teams
- Firm members discussing their personal experiences with mental health conditions or substance misuse
- Short videos by firm members discussing well-being-related subjects
- Programming embedded into new attorney, summer associate, and professional development curricula

Frequency of Education Programs. The frequency of education events varies:

- One firm reports inviting a monthly external speaker on well-being-related topics.
- Another firm organizes three programs per month: one on stress management, one on physical fitness, and a “wild card.”

Tailored Approach. Latham collaborates closely with a small set of experts to craft custom programs tailored to the firm’s needs rather than purchasing off-the-shelf training. An example is its collaboration with Mayo Clinic’s Dr. Amit Sood to adapt his stress management and resiliency training program to Latham’s U.S.-based firm members. The firm says it has collected data that reflects a decrease in stress and an increase in resilience and other well-being-related measures.

Collaboration Partners. To help develop or deliver resources and programming, the majority of Well-Being Pledge signatories have collaborated with their EAPs and local Lawyer Assistance Programs. Some also have worked with other entities that focus on mental health and substance use issues—e.g., NAMI, American Counseling Association, Mental Health America, National Council of Behavioral Health, Hazelden-Betty Ford Foundation, Alcohol Change, and Mayo Clinic (Buchanan & Beitner, in press).
It's well-established that work-life conflict is a significant contributor to poor physical and mental health and burnout (e.g., Hopkins & Gardner, 2012; Nordenmark et al., 2020). To alleviate this barrier to well-being, employers typically offer work-life benefits and programs—and they increasingly offer family-focused benefits. For example, U.S. employers reporting that their well-being programs encompass family/parental well-being nearly tripled between 2017 and 2018 (from 13% to 33%; Sequoia Consulting Group, 2019).

**LAW FIRMS OFFER A VARIETY OF WORK-LIFE BENEFITS:**

- Teleworking: 81%
- Emergency backup childcare: 74%
- Financial counseling: 51%
- Child care referral services: 43%
- Concierge services: 28%
- Onsite/near-site childcare: 17%
- Subsidized childcare: 13%
- No childcare services: 21%

(Source: Mercer Survey Report, 2020)
ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Due to a workforce shortage of behavioral health care providers in the U.S. and around the world, there are not enough providers to meet a growing need. The result is difficulty finding high-quality care covered by insurance and long wait-times. Employers are approaching this challenge in a variety of ways (Burjek, 2019; Dampier, 2018; Mercer, May 23, 2019).

Employer Efforts To Enhance Mental/Behavioral Health Offerings

1. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
   - 60% Have identified mental/behavioral health as their top clinical priority
   - 74% Plan to redesign their EAPs in the next few years
   - 12% Have conducted a network analysis to close gaps in quality and timely access to care
   - 16% Plan to revise their benefits plans
   - 32% Plan to evaluate their network strategy
   - 43% Are enhancing navigation
   - 37% Plan to adopt vendor point solutions

(Source: Burjek, 2019; Fortingo, 2020; Willis Towers Watson, April 3, 2020; sample: 610 U.S. employers)

2. ONSITE THERAPISTS/HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Due to problems created by the shortage of behavioral health providers, some law firms have recently replaced or supplemented their EAPs’ behavioral health services:

- 98% Offer an EAP
- Avg. number of covered behavioral health visits: 5
- 25% Have enhanced EAP services or changed EAP provider
- 34% Implemented teletherapy
- 10% Added a third-party vendor

(Source: Mercer 2020 Survey Report)

Some firms offer onsite services:

- 9% of law firms offer onsite counseling/behavioral health services (Mercer Survey Report, 2020).

EXAMPLES OF ONSITE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hogan Lovells</td>
<td>Has onsite psychologists in Washington, Baltimore, New York, Louisville, and Denver offices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akin Gump</td>
<td>Has a licensed social worker available once a week in its Washington office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latham</td>
<td>Several days a week, on-site confidential counseling is available in largest offices. Nurse practitioner also is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Knight</td>
<td>A psychologist and coach provides in-person counseling in the Dallas office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fried Frank</td>
<td>On-site counselors are available on a bi-weekly schedule in two largest offices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most law firms offer some type of tele-health or digital mental health services:

- **88%** offer some type of telemedicine
- **83%** offer a 24-hour nurse advice line
- **29%** offer online/video therapy

(Source: Mercer Survey Report, 2020)

### EXAMPLES OF TELE-HEALTH AND DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Platforms</th>
<th>Cooley and Pillsbury offer access to mental health services outside their EAP through online platforms (e.g., Modern Health). Other firms say they are investigating services like Ginger and TalkSpace.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom-Made Counseling Network</td>
<td>Latham created a customized EAP and designed and launched a global counseling and coaching program called Care Connect. It provides 24/7 telephone access to master’s level clinicians who can provide comprehensive evaluations, provide in-the-moment counseling, and facilitate connection with other resources. The service also is available to summer associates, even when they’re back at school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER APPROACHES TO MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trained “Listeners”</th>
<th>O’Melveny hired I M Human, which provides non-therapist “listeners” to facilitate small group discussions. I M Human provides data about common topics raised by employees, which has informed firm programming.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-House Coaching</td>
<td>About 30 firms offer full-time coaches as part of talent development and inclusion strategies. Examples include Cooley, Foley, McDermott, Wilson Sonsini, and Winston &amp; Strawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Coaching Platform</td>
<td>Seyfarth provides coaching via LifeXT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boutique EAP</td>
<td>Multiple firms have recently changed EAPs. An example is O’Melveny, which recently switched to a small, “boutique,” law-focused EAP that provides “above-and-beyond service,” including onsite counseling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### VAULT 2021 BEST LAW FIRMS FOR WELLNESS

1. O’Melveny  
2. Orrick  
3. McDermott  
4. Akin Gump  
5. Ropes & Gray  
6. Fried Frank  
7. Neal Gerber  
8. Clifford Chance  
9. Wilkie Farr  
10. Eversheds  
11. Latham  
12. Paul Hastings  
13. White & Case  
14. Morgan Lewis  
15. Cooley

(Source: Vault.com)
DE-EMPHASIZING ALCOHOL

Under the ABA Well-Being Pledge, firms commit to “[d]isrupt the status quo of drinking-based events” by challenging “the expectation that all events include alcohol,” seeking creative alternatives, and ensuring “there are always appealing nonalcoholic alternatives when alcohol is served.” Pledge signatories’ efforts to respond to this commitment have tended to fall into three categories, identified in the table below (Buchanan & Beitner, in press).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diversify Social Events</th>
<th>Provide Attractive Non-Alcoholic Options</th>
<th>Initiate Policies &amp; Practices to Reduce Alcohol Consumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Breakfast and lunch meetings</td>
<td>• Specialty mocktails</td>
<td>• Reduce hours of alcohol service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Change “happy hours” to “social hours”</td>
<td>• Signature mocktails named after the firm or a managing partner</td>
<td>• Cash bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cooking classes</td>
<td>• Smoothie or juice bars</td>
<td>• Limited number of drink tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trivia nights</td>
<td>• Gourmet coffee options</td>
<td>• No hard liquor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bowling</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ban hard liquor and cash bars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Book clubs</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ban or budget constraints on firm-sponsored after-parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Axe-throwing</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ban wine tastings and brewery tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Partner with charities (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, food bank)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Assign firm event-planner to the Well-Being Committee to ensure events align with wellness priorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food-focused events—e.g., taco stands, ice cream socials</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Survey to assess whether firm members feel pressure to drink at events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WELL-BEING-RELATED POLICIES

ABA Well-Being Pledge signatories are required to “[d]evelop proactive policies and protocols to support assessment and treatment of substance use and mental health problems, including a defined back-to-work policy following treatment.”

Lawyer Impairment Policy

The ABA has created a Well-Being Policy Template that provides guidance to legal employers on managing suspected lawyer impairment, including return-to-work guidance. Numerous Pledge signatories have used the ABA template to update their policies, often to supplement existing leave and disability policies. Some signatories have a “ramp up” program to allow firm members returning from treatment to slowly build back up to standard billable requirements. One large firm reported offering a “return to work mentor” (Buchanan & Beitner, in press).

Alcohol Use Policy Template

Changing firms’ drinking norms, while challenging, may be the most important determinant for the long-term success of firms’ alcohol use disorder prevention programs. As a first step, firms should implement policies that explicitly addresses responsible alcohol use, including expectations and recommendations for drinking alcohol at work-related events that align with well-being and professionalism goals. An Alcohol Use Policy Template is freely available to get firms started on crafting their own policies.
APPENDIX

REFERENCES & SOURCES


Reed Smith announces launch of Mental Health Task Force (2020, January 15). Available at https://perma.cc/P8DJ-X3YX


