



Section on Mental Health Law

The Mission of the ISBA Mental Health Law Section:

To review proposed and existing statutes, legislation, rules and court decisions affecting persons with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders and make recommendations to the Board of Governors concerning these matters; to provide training and education to lawyers concerning the interaction between mental illness and the law and legal practice; to provide information to mental health professionals and the public concerning laws and rules affecting persons with mental illnesses; to collaborate with other professional and advocacy organizations to promote awareness of mental illnesses and mental health and to increase mental health services.

General:

- ◆ Section dues are \$30 per year.
- ◆ To join, go to www.isba.org/sections

Continuing Legal Education

The Section sponsored the following programs during the year:

- ◆ Addressing Mental Health Issues in the Illinois Legal System (04/15/19)
- ◆ Mental Health System Reform: Litigation, Policy and Programs (05/16/19)

Section members also receive discounts on section-sponsored CLE programs.

Legislation

The Section Council reviews proposed legislation that may affect their members' practice area. Highlights of the most recent legislative session include:

1. Number of bills reviewed: 64
2. Significant legislation:
 - a. SB 182 – Advance directive and electronic format
 - b. SB 1702 – Involuntary commitment
 - c. HB 2486 – Mental Health Modernization Act

ISBA Central

- ◆ Members of the ISBA section get free access to the section's community on ISBA Central. The ISBA Central community allows section members to pose questions, answer questions, and share information with fellow section members from around the state.

Newsletters

During the 2018-19 bar year, the Section published 4 newsletters. Articles included:

- ◆ Letter from the chair (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ Appellate update (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ CLE program highlighted mental health issues and legal professionalism (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ Mental illness and parenting (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ Outgoing chair presented with plaque (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ 7 health organizations file lawsuit to protect consumers with pre-existing conditions, allege the short-term, limited-duration plan final rule discriminates (Oct. 2018)
- ◆ Letter from the chair (Dec. 2018)
- ◆ Recognizing and respecting the limitations of emergency medications (Dec. 2018)
- ◆ Mentally ill inmates continue to suffer 10 years after filing class action lawsuit (Dec. 2018)
- ◆ Illinois Supreme Court issues new rule regarding use of restraints in mental health and disability cases (May 2019)
- ◆ Appellate update (May 2019)
- ◆ Legislative proposal would reduce gun violence, preserve owners' rights (May 2019)
- ◆ Pandora's box: The predicament of incarcerating mentally ill defendants in the Illinois Department of Corrections (May 2019)
- ◆ From the chair and editor (June 2019)
- ◆ False imprisonment under the mental health code (June 2019)
- ◆ In re Linda B.: Analysis and implications (June 2019)