



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 fees are \$25 per year.
- ◆ To join, go to www.isba.org/sections

[Continuing Legal Education](#)

The Section sponsored or co-sponsored one program during the year:

- ◆ **What's New in Mental Health Law 2016 – CHICAGO & LIVE WEBCAST** (Feb. 17, 2016)

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

[Newsletters](#)

Delivered electronically unless otherwise requested. During 2015-16 the Section published four newsletters. Articles include:

- ◆ Appellate update (May 2016)
- ◆ Appellate update (Mar. 2016)
- ◆ Bill to restrict guardians increases likelihood of ward abuse (May 2016)
- ◆ Competitive, integrated employment: The next step in achieving community integration for people with disabilities (Dec. 2015)
- ◆ Letter from the Chair (Dec. 2015)
- ◆ Letter from the Chair (Mar. 2016)
- ◆ The living room alternative to ER visits for mentally ill patients in crisis (Dec. 2015)
- ◆ New laws in 2016 (Apr. 2016)
- ◆ Privacy of mental health records in Illinois: The Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (Apr. 2016)
- ◆ Review of Illinois mental health legislation—2015 (Mar. 2016)
- ◆ Your client has just been found not guilty by reason of insanity—Your work is not over (May 2016)

[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: 32
2. Significant legislation:
 - a. Public Act 99-535 - Testimony by video conferencing
 - b. House Bill 6037 - Mental illness and sentencing
 - c. Senate Bill 2246 - Jury trials and commitment hearings

Other

- ◆ The [ISBA General Discussion List](#) allows members to pose questions and share information with fellow ISBA members from around the state.