



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 program(s) during the year:

- ◆ **Children and Mental Health Law** (12/13/17)
- ◆ **What's New in Mental Health Law: Mental Health Issues and Legal Professionalism** (5/16/18)

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: 115
2. Significant legislation:
 - a. House Bill 4436 - Provides when to use psychotropic medication and electro-convulsive therapy for mental health treatment
 - b. House Bill 4886 - Access to Basic Mental Health Information 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 2017-18 bar year, the Section published 4 newsletters. Articles included:

- ◆ Summary of "Innovations in Mental Health Law: Outpatient Treatment in Illinois" (Sept. 2017)
- ◆ Summary of appellate opinions (Sept. 2017)
- ◆ *McWilliams v. Dunn*: An unseemly maneuver or a necessary compromise? (Sept. 2017)
- ◆ The case for agreed outpatient in Illinois (Sept. 2017)
- ◆ Letter from the Chair (Sept. 2017)
- ◆ Editor's note (Dec. 2017)
- ◆ Alternative court aims to keep the mentally ill from repeat criminal acts (Dec. 2017)
- ◆ The Awakenings Project facilitates empowerment, advances recovery (Dec. 2017)
- ◆ Case law update (Feb. 2018)
- ◆ Children and mental health law (June 2018)
- ◆ Presentation provides insights into work of psychiatric advanced practice nurses (June 2018)
- ◆ Appellate updates (June 2018)