

WEBINAR

Breaking Barriers: Empowering Recovery Through Legal Aid of WV

June 4, 2024

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET

Details

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Brendan Wood, JD Attorney

Brendan Wood grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia, and graduated from West Virginia University College of Law in 2019. Upon graduation, he launched West Virginia's first Recovery Medical Legal Partnership at Legal Aid of West Virginia, providing legal services to both small city and rural clients in recovery by embedding legal services into outpatient healthcare facilities and recovery residences, focusing on removing socioeconomic legal barriers to recovery and improving connection to community and family. The project has since expanded statewide, and he has shared this model with legal services organizations in other rural states. In April of 2023, he received the Young Lawyer of the Year award from the West Virginia State Bar.

People in recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs) often face a number of civil legal barriers as well as discrimination based on SUD. With proper information and education, such barriers might be eliminated and prevent challenges to a person's recovery. This presentation will focus on how Legal Aid of WV can provide crucial guidance and support in navigating legal hurdles and ultimately empower individuals in their recovery journey. It will also provide information on the rights of those in recovery to equip participants with the knowledge and resources necessary to advocate for both legal and social justice.

Objectives

1. Provide an understanding of the civil legal barriers faced by people in recovery for substance use disorders (SUDs), including driver's license reinstatements, criminal record expungements, and family law matters (including domestic violence), as well as discrimination based on SUD.
2. Explore the ways in which Legal Aid of WV can provide support and resources to address these challenges.
3. Equip participants with practical strategies and resources for effectively advocating for the rights and dignities of individuals in recovery within the legal system, fostering empowerment and social justice.

CEs are pending for counseling, social work, addiction/prevention, and psychology/school psychology.

Expert Presenter