

From: [Arthur C. Spalding](#)
To: [ADMcomment](#)
Subject: Mental health
Date: Saturday, January 26, 2019 2:24:44 PM
Attachments: [imageec5551.PNG](#)
[imageaa61f8.PNG](#)
[image8df2d2.PNG](#)

As a practicing attorney, I have significantly responsibilities to my clients that can be impacted by my actions and more particularly by my inactions. Substance abuse is a leading cause of attorney inaction. I have served as a member of a hearing panel for the Attorney Grievance Board for a couple of decades and have been involved in a number of matters that have come to our attention. The panel on which I serve is currently involved in a matter involving a respondent who suffers from mental illness which has caused inattention to client matters. It is unfortunate that someone needs to be disciplined because of mental illness because the removal of a right to practice law even for 90 days can destroy the opportunity to practice law in the future. There is no easy solution but removing the review of an applicant's mental health background, or their substance abuse background will not improve the public's right to be protected. Those with mental illness and substance abuse history should have an opportunity to practice law, but the public is entitled to have greater scrutiny of those persons both before and after receiving a license to practice law. Unfortunately, I am unaware of any program to monitor an attorney once licensed. Be creative and figure out a way to deal with this problem.

[Arthur C. Spalding](#)
Attorney & Counselor



rhoades
mckee
attorneys

Tel: 616.233.5111
Fax: 616.233.5269
Email: acs@grlaw.com

55 Campau Avenue NW, Suite 300

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

rhoadesmckee.com



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message and any attachment contain attorney privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by return email and delete this message and any attachment from your system.