Our next conference is scheduled for September 27 to September 29, 2019 in Austin, TX. The conference is being hosted by the Texas Bar Association Lawyers Assistance Program. Austin is an exciting, dynamic city. Browse the Austin website www.austintexas.org to find out what attracts and intrigues you. Here are some quotes from the website:

What you hear about Austin is true. With vibrant entertainment and culture, inspiring cuisine and stunning outdoor settings, Austin lets you create a soundtrack all your own. Austin is home to more than 250 music venues and a vibrant arts scene. Put the Live Music Capital of the World® on your playlist.

Years ago when people talked about Austin they would quickly mention the music. But that's just the beginning of what they're saying these days. Austin is also home to a wonderful ballet, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping and beautiful outdoor spaces. You can just as easily spend your morning paddling the lake as you can strolling through a celebrated history museum.

True Austin is: dipping a paddle into the water at Lady Bird Lake, the smell of a new pair of boots from Allens, the lights on stage at Stubb’s, a cafeteria tray full of brisket, a mural photo-op around every corner, the sound of the Longhorn band, a toe in the water at Barton Springs Pool and so much more.

All this and Fellowship of ILAA is waiting for you in Austin, TX. Save the dates now: September 27 – 29, 2019.

As always, the ABA CoLAP conference precedes ILAA. CoLAP provides a forum on alcoholism, addiction, mental health and other issues affecting lawyers today. Please consider attending the CoLAP Conference Dinner on Thursday, September 25th. In order to attend CoLAP and/or the dinner, you will need to register through COLAP. The COLAP Registration Form can be obtained at the COLAP website.

Visit our website: www.ilaa.org for information about the Conference; enjoy the treasure trove of information about ILAA and listen to hours of ILAA speakers in our Audio Vault.
In Memoriam

Recently two of ILAA’s Icons joined Ray O’K, John C, Jack K, John RC, Tom G, Don G. Igor S, John H (Canada), Ed B and a host of others at the Big AA meeting in the sky.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our long-time friends, leaders and AA Characters,

Ted Cohen and John Duffy

The following are remarks prepared by our members capturing Ted’s essence and the wonderful obituary published after Duffy’s death. They will both be missed but their spirit and their zest for life will be with us until we join them at our appointed time.

Ted Cohen was a giant. His energy, dedication and caring for others in the legal community led him to join others in forming organizations and in serving individuals, saving countless lives, families, and careers. Ted was one of the original founders of The Other Bar, as well as the International Lawyers in Alcoholics Anonymous. His efforts with the American Bar Association spurred studies, programs and outreach that eventually brought the existence of Lawyer Assistance Programs to virtually every state where none had existed when he began his efforts. Of course, this was not his effort alone; but he joined with others in similar mind and heart in a life of service and dedication to recovery in himself and in others.

As for me, I met Ted shortly after I got sober and got involved in The Other Bar. He was instrumental in bringing me along and making sure I was involved, enhancing my recovery by leaps and bounds. He taught me about service and about leadership and about honesty. He taught me how to be persuasive and how to get things done. He convinced me to serve as the President of The Other Bar, and his mentoring served to lay the groundwork for all of the leadership positions I have held since.

Ted has always been dedicated to the pure ideals and program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I will be forever grateful to have met and known Ted Cohen.

Jim H, Los Angeles, CA.

Ted Cohen was a lawyer’s lawyer. He represented a broad range of wealthy clients which allowed him to handle for no fee the cases close to his passion. Lawyer’s in trouble. He liked to cite a new comer the citation to his reinstatement case. His personal story of working through the book in a coffee shop while on the way to his jail release job always let the new comer know Ted was an authentic recovered Alcoholic and proud of it. He could tell his story in a way you knew he was grateful for the good and the bad.

Ted’s father was a union organizer on the ports of L. A. His father spoke very little English. Ted had a heart that knew no boundaries of race, color, creed, religion, or class.

Ted loved good jokes and he could tell a story without being vulgar. His tale of the first suit he bought retail always got a big laugh.

Ted often had newcomers in tow as he was helping them with their program or their cases.

I met Ted in Philadelphia at my first dine around. I did not know a soul when he introduced himself with a warm handshake. By the time I left my first ILAA Ted had
introduced me to just about everyone present. Everyone knew Ted as he was not only an approachable man but he was also the former host of ILAA.

Ted was one of the three lawyers given an audience with the ABA in Chicago as they were trying to decide the format of volunteers versus professional. His presentation simply touched their hearts.

Jack K, Raymond P O’K and Ted C were the top of the lineup anytime attraction not promotion was needed.

Through his many years of service to all the efforts for suffering alcoholic Judges and Lawyer’s Ted was the epitome of gracious hosting in a number of his homes and offices in Palm Springs, Hollywood, and Las Vegas. He knew how to live well but was never bragging.

Given his incredible service as a lawyer’s lawyer, advocate for the accused, and 12 stepper par excellence one cannot over state in any way his contributions on behalf of suffering and recovered alcoholics. He loved lawyers but most of all drunks.

He is one of the very last of the original members of ILAA. He will always be remembered as one of the trusted servants who had a gift to bring laughter and hope to so many. Those that remember the original ILAA water walkers know Teddy has joined his incredible friends at the big meeting. That era of AA old timers is consigned to the ages. We will miss them madly.

Billy H, Louisville, KY

Ted Cohen

Our 11th Tradition sets forth the principle of attraction rather than promotion in AA’s public relations policy.

Ted Cohen was a living example to me of this principle on a personal level. Like so many of us who knew Ted through ILAA and his other lawyer assistance efforts my spirit was touched, healed and augmented when I was in his presence. I was attracted to his willingness to never say “no” to an AA request and to his unending love for another drunk and for the AA program.

Ted reached out to me and to so many other alcoholics selflessly and without judgment. He always made me feel like I was special. I pray I can pass on in some small measure his magnificent power of example.

Dave P, Buffalo, NY

Ted C – The last of the ORIGINALS!

Ted C began attending at the Third Conference in Toronto, Canada, along with about 20 other lawyers from the East Coast and Canada. My best recollection is that he is the last of those who joined together in international fellowship at that conference.

Ted started introducing our fellowship, Lawyers Helping Lawyers, immediately. On his way back to California, he stopped in Detroit and started an LHL group. Over the years he brought LHL and IlAA to Milwaukee, San Diego, Miami, Vancouver, Oregon… and the list goes on and on.

He traveled on his own dime, carrying the message. It would take pages to delineate the many men and women he introduced not only to ILAA but also to Alcoholics Anonymous. AA and ILAA were his life blood.
I had the blessing to be with during his last days and shared with him my gratitude for his friendship and wisdom (as I am sure many of you who read these lines will share with me).

Ted knew he was passing, it was soon inevitable, and I asked him if he was ready for the hereafter. He said, “Maybe.” He wasn’t sure if there was such a place. I hope that he is being pleasantly surprised!

Although I doubt the angels and saints have an addiction, but if they do, Ted will be there to carry the message. May your memories of Ted be kind, pleasant and happy ones.

I am sure the SPIRIT of ILAA is happy to have Ted in our lives. I hope his spirit is aware of our Thank You for Ted having been in our lives.

We shed a happy tear in memory of your time with us.

Eli G, Los Angeles, CA

Ted Cohen was our Prince Among Men and a stalwart pioneer amongst lawyers in recovery.

We are grateful to our members to share these eulogy moments for our brothers in fellowship.

Bill K, Newark, NJ Chair of ILAA Board of Trustees

John J. Duffy, 85, prominent Chester County criminal trial lawyer
by Bonnie L. Cook

John J. Duffy Jr., 85, of West Chester, a Chester County criminal defense lawyer known as much for his courtroom manner as his efforts to help fellow alcoholics face down their addiction and go on to recovery, died Friday, Feb. 1, of pneumonia at St. Martha’s Manor in Downingtown.

In courtrooms throughout the Philadelphia area, Mr. Duffy was known as a skilled legal tactician and a gifted storyteller who deftly humanized his clients and mesmerized juries with his charm.

“John was a giant of a defense lawyer,” said attorney William H. Lamb of Lamb McErlane in West Chester. “He and I tried many cases against each other. No one had a better touch with juries than John. He leaves a legacy that will not be matched.”

“Gregarious by birthright, Mr. Duffy had a sort of roguish Irish charm to him,” Lamb recalled. “He had that gift of gab that endeared him to juries.”

On more than one occasion, after hearing Mr. Duffy’s opening argument, Lamb thought, “How do I match that?” Lamb would try to snap the jury out of his opponent’s spell by returning “to the facts.”

Mr. Duffy built a reputation as the defense counsel in a string of high-profile murder trials and remained sought after in homicide cases for a half-century ending in 2015. His license plate read “ACQUIT.”

Born in West Philadelphia to John J. Sr. and Jane Bowers Duffy, he was a member of a large Irish American family. He completed St. Thomas More High School, and was a 1959 graduate of La Salle University and a 1962 graduate of Villanova Law School.

In 1964, he went to Mississippi to work against suppression of African American votes at the call of then-U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. As he left Mississippi, Mr. Duffy met the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Mr. Duffy defended one of a group of gamblers who in April 1980 rigged the Pennsylvania Lottery’s Daily Number to come out as 6-6-6 in a scandal known as the Triple Six Fix.

Most of the table tennis balls used in the TV drawing were injected with white paint, making them heavy. The three "6" balls without paint were lighter and floated to the top of air machines used in the drawing.

The gamblers won $1.2 million by buying up tickets in advance. “The defendants attracted attention by holding up the line at convenience stores,” Mr. Duffy told son Shannon. Caught and charged, the gamblers avoided jail time in 1981 by agreeing to testify against the accused mastermind of the scam, TV announcer Nick Perry.

Mr. Duffy’s life took a downward turn in 1974 when he began associating with his clients. He was charged with assault at a bar, causing a disturbance in West Chester, and conspiring with some clients in the handling of a stolen car.

He was convicted of conspiracy in connection with the latter crime in Common Pleas Court, had his law license suspended for several years, and served prison time. While there, he redirected his life.

He completed the 30-day treatment program at the Caron Foundation in Berks County. Afterward, he joined Caron’s board and made 1,000 referrals to the facility over the years.

On the day his license was reinstated, he dashed up the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum, Rocky Balboa-style. Soon, he joined the law firm of Carroll, Creamer, Carroll & Duffy. Later, he joined with attorney Joseph R. Green Jr. in Duffy & Green. Green said that although Mr. Duffy was known for his flair, “the things that were most important to him were quiet and not done for aggrandizement. They were to help people.”

He cofounded the Pennsylvania chapter of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and was a member and trustee of International Lawyers in Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 2009, he received the Osceola Wesley Award from Chester County Drug Court for his public-service work. When Chester County District Attorney John W. Carroll presented the award, there was a standing ovation.
An idea was born in the early 1970's, i.e., “lawyers helping lawyers” with the real or suspected issue with alcoholism - specifically an introduction to AA.

The problem: how to overcome the stubbornness (refusal) to accept the help of A.A. in overcoming the addiction and obsession - most fearful of the loss of anonymity - one could run into a client, judge, neighbor, etc., IT could further affect my practice, reputation or whatever - the fear of exposure was paramount.

A Judge (nonalcoholic) an alcoholic (non-lawyer) carried the message of A.A. to an alcoholic disbarred lawyer who in turn carried the message to others. In California (originally 7 members) spreading to New York (leaping to Canada (Toronto) and on-and-on.

The thought - idea - was that a lawyer (active or not) could best “talk” to the problem lawyer who hopefully would listen and be willing to attend an A.A. meeting. In actuality the lawyers’ meeting became the anchor (vestibule) to the A.A. movement and commitment to sobriety.

By the late 1970's the movement had cells spanning the world, at one time there were 1000 plus registered members who subscribed to the following motto: “we will share our experience, strength and hope” with others of our profession.

The concept was adopted by doctors in A.A., nurses in A.A., clergy in A.A., and so on.

The American Bar Association “piggy backing” on ILAA and created COLAP and has become a welcomed partner in the education, treatment and rehabilitation of lawyers “in trouble.”

The logo of our association is a bridge, i.e., “a bridge over troubled waters” The “bridge” has succeeded beyond our expectations. Lawyers meetings can be said to exist in every hamlet, town and city where two (or more) lawyers with a like deposition meet and share. The fear of exposure has largely been abandoned - lawyers attending regular A.A. meetings is the new normal; the original goal (introduction to AA) has been met.

Our member lawyers have been and continue to be, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

Eli G

A Bit of History

The following article is a reproduction of the article written by one of the first attendees at ILAA, Igor S. The article was published in the Grapevine and helped to spread the word of ILAA’s existence to recovering lawyers around the world.

International Lawyers in AA

They are regular AAs, but they search for opportunities to serve through their profession

IN A PLUSH, sophisticated office in downtown New York, six attorneys gathered one evening in mid-April. Their subject was not some colossal corporate merger or antitrust litigation; it was individual sobriety. They shared their experience, strength, and hope to reinforce and deepen their sobriety. Out of this meeting, another group of International Lawyers in Alcoholics Anonymous (ILAA) would, they hoped, carry the message to other alcoholic lawyers that they were not alone.
ILAA was founded in September 1975 at a meeting in Niagara Falls, Ont., at which twenty lawyers were present: sixteen from Canada and four from the United States. This was the first opportunity for members of the legal profession to share their AA experience.

The second annual convention was in Buffalo in September 1976, and again there were about twenty. The convention started on Friday evening with a real down-to-earth sharing session. We talked about a lot of things—ourselves, our drinking, and what we were looking for in such a group. Insofar as our drinking stories were concerned, there was a lot of good, solid, relevant identification. We were not alone. All kinds of difficulties experienced in the practice of law, as a result of booze, were shared.

On Saturday morning, we focused on problems encountered in our practices when AA principles or policies were involved. When and under what circumstances should we divulge our affiliation with AA? What can or should we do if we see another lawyer or colleague in difficulty as a result of booze?

Or perhaps it is a client who is in difficulty. One central thread was the many opportunities for service that lawyers have in carrying the message of AA. The conclusion was that with caution, sensitivity, and a keen eye on AA principles, we could do much to carry the message, without risking our professional reputations or practices.

From the outset, ILAA was heavily indebted to International Doctors in AA for advice and inspiration. We learned from the IDAA members that IDAA is not a special-purpose group—that these doctors belong to regular AA groups in their home communities and get together annually in IDAA for supplementary sharing, identification, fellowship, and support.

Like IDAA, the lawyer groups can serve as a vestibule of AA for lawyers who have developed a drinking problem. Initially, they would find it easier to go to a group where there were other lawyers. Later, it would be natural for them to enter the mainstream of AA. Another advantage is that ILAA provides an opportunity for discussing certain matters of common interest to AA members in the legal profession, an opportunity not really available in one's home group.

We in AA are not the only ones concerned with the problems of the drinking lawyer. Around the nation, various state and local bar associations have turned their attention toward the problem of alcohol and drug abuse in the profession. These include: bar association committees designed to educate association members on the problem; in some states, grievance procedures mandating treatment; and in some states, active groups of lawyers finding self-help and hope as recovering alcoholics.

The official efforts show that there is concern on the public level. On the private, personal level, ILAA seeks to be there to provide the helping hand of AA when an attorney hits bottom. ILAA emphatically does not seek to form a separatist or elitist group. Instead, it serves as a sharing community, demonstrating to the frightened, guilt-laden lawyer that he is not alone. It is a bridge to regular AA, rather than a closet for self-proclaimed professionals. ILAA is still a fledgling organization. Through correspondence and a periodic newsletter, it shares information on the alcoholism field of concern to lawyers. A third convention will be held in Toronto in September.
Those who wish to be added to the mailing list may write to: Secretary, ILAA, Room 202, 111 Pearl Street, Hartford, Conn. 06103.
-- I. S.
Hartford, Connecticut

Today we communicate mostly by email: If you have any questions about ILAA please contact Lisa R. at ilaaregistration@live.com or contact us through our website: www.ilaa.org.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

On March 13, 2017, we sent Anne McDonald of Kansas LAP the requested seed money of $5,000.00 for the planning and facilitation of the 2017 ILAA Conference in Kansas bringing the current balance at that time to $4,353.31.

On June 14, 2017, we paid check #107 in the amount of $500.00 to Clockwork Logic for website hosting, bringing our balance to $3,853.31 where it remained until April 4, 2017.

On April 4, 2018, I received and deposited $10,717.36 from Anne McDonald of Kansas LAP ($5,000 was a return of the seed money for 2017 ILAA and of the $5,717.36, Anne stated that “the majority of the deposits from 10/18-10/24 were scholarship donations, amounting to $3,704.00). On April 4, 2018, the balance of the ILAA account was $14,570.67 of which $3,704.00 was earmarked for scholarships.

On October 1, 2018, I deposited $672.00 that was collected at the ILAA dinner in South Carolina, bringing the account balance to $15,242.67.

On November 26, 2018, I satisfied the outstanding (it was emailed to our beloved Mike Cohen) $500.00 invoice to Clockwork Logic for website hosting, bringing our balance to $14,742.67. On November 27, 2018, I sent AA General Service Board a donation in the amount of $1,000, that was approved during the ILAA business meeting in South Carolina, bringing our total balance to $13,742.67.

I sent the balance owed to the Francis Marion Hotel in South Carolina to cover the ILAA Conference (as we did not send seed money in advance) in the amount of $2,361.00, bringing our total balance to $11,381.67.

On January 15, 2019, I satisfied the Clockwork Logic invoice in the amount of $500.00 for website hosting, bringing our total and current balance to $10,881.67.

Of the $10,881.67, - $4,376.00 is earmarked for scholarships.

As of March 18, 2019, we are in good financial standing.
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JOIN US IN AUSTIN, TX
SEPTEMBER 27 – 29, 2019

Make ILAA a part of your annual plans. It’s a commitment that will bring you years of joy, memories and wonderful lifetime friends throughout the US and Canada. For information about our 2019 conference please visit our website: www.ilaa.org

Fellowship was the key

A group of lawyers attending the 1975 International in Denver, CO had so much fun and fellowship that they decided to put on a weekend for themselves. The meeting in Niagara Falls, CN in 1976 was the first ILAA. We have met every year since. Keep the tradition alive. Plan on joining us this year in Austin, TX.

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
One for the road:

What’s the difference between a heavy drinker and an alcoholic?

When a heavy drinker gets arrested for a DUI he says “ugh, I shouldn’t have had that last shot.”

When an alcoholic gets arrested for a DUI he says “ugh, I should have taken a different street home.”