

TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION

Public Policy ____

WHEREAS, in response to recent studies indicating that the status of the legal profession and attorney well-being have not improved over the past years, the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being was formed in August of 2016, having as its members the ABA Commission on Lawyers' Assistance Programs, the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism, the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the National Organization of Bar Counsel, the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, the National Conference of Chief Justices, and the National Conference of Bar Examiners; and

WHEREAS, the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being undertook a careful review of the status of the legal profession and as a result of their efforts, in 2017 published their findings in their comprehensive report entitled "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change"; and

WHEREAS, the Path to Lawyer Well-Being notes that lawyer well-being is an essential factor contributing to the effectiveness of organizations, enhances the ethical integrity and professionalism of lawyers, and specifically identifies lawyer well-being as an indispensable component of a lawyer's ethical duty of competence; and

WHEREAS, the Path to Lawyer Well-Being provides numerous valuable resources and recommended action steps that can be undertaken by judges, bar associations, legal employers, law schools, regulators, and legal professional liability carriers; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors fully supports the view that attorney well-being is an indispensable component of a lawyer's duty of competence and wishes to continue providing leadership with regard to attorney well-being by encouraging and supporting lawyers in attaining this standard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Bar Association recognizes and approves of the Path to Lawyer Well-Being, the comprehensive report of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, and the valuable resources and recommendations provided therein, and supports its conclusion that lawyer well-being is an indispensable component of the duty of competence and its goals of reducing toxicity in the culture of the legal profession, improving attorney well-being, encouraging and destigmatizing help-seeking behaviors, and reducing impairment and addictive behavior.