

AGENDA

3:00-3:05 **Welcome and Introductions by Associate Dean Thom Main**

3:05-4:40 **Program**

3:05-3:35 **Chad Cross**

Dr. Cross will discuss the epidemiology and neurobiology of alcohol addiction focusing on Nevada and national alcohol addiction data.

3:35-4:05 **Melissa Piasecki**

In Nevada, alcohol abuse is a statewide problem. Rates of alcohol related problems among lawyers and law students are at or above the national rate for all age groups. About one third of driving fatalities involve alcohol-impaired drivers and alcohol plays an important role in crime, violence and mental illness/ suicide. Dr. Piasecki will give a brief overview of the neurobiology of addiction and highlight recent discoveries related to the interplay between alcohol and individual vulnerabilities. Some individuals are able to enjoy alcohol as a social beverage whereas others are unable to control their drinking and the problems that result. What are the brain differences that help us understand these differences? How do we identify who is at risk? She will also outline the course of brain recovery for alcohol dependent people who stop using alcohol.

4:05-4:35 **Stacey Tovino**

Professor Tovino will address the coverage of mental health, substance use disorder, and addiction benefits under three pieces of federal legislation including: (1) the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996; (2) the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008; and (3) the Affordable Care Act of 2010. In particular, Professor Tovino will examine the statutory and regulatory provisions that require equality between physical and mental health benefits in the context of lifetime and annual spending limits, financial requirements, and treatment limitations. Professor Tovino also will address the essential health benefits ("EHB") provision within the Affordable Care Act and show how it mandates many (but not all) health plans to cover mental health and substance use disorder benefits. Professor Tovino will conclude by discussing the mental health and substance use disorder benefits that are required by Nevada's benchmark plan and by identifying particular mental health benefits that are included and excluded from current Nevada Department of Insurance-approved health plans.

4:35-4:55 **Questions and Answers**

4:55-5:00 **Closing Remarks**