



South Carolina Bar

Continuing Legal Education Division

2024 SC BAR CONVENTION

Substance Abuse/Mental Health

“Lawyer Mind/Artist Mind: A Place
Where Two Worlds Meet”

Saturday, January 20

SC Supreme Court Commission on CLE Course No. 240033

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**Lawyer Mind/Artist Mind: A Place Where Two
Worlds Meet**

R. Michael Ethridge

Only a few achieve the colossal task of holding together, without being split asunder, the clarity of their vision alongside an ability to take their place in a materialistic world...they are artists of the living. To my mind these are the supreme heroes in our...society.

--Irene Claremont De Castillejo

Lawyer Mind/Artist Mind: A Place Where Two Worlds Meet

Presented by R. Michael Ethridge, Esq.
Charleston, SC





























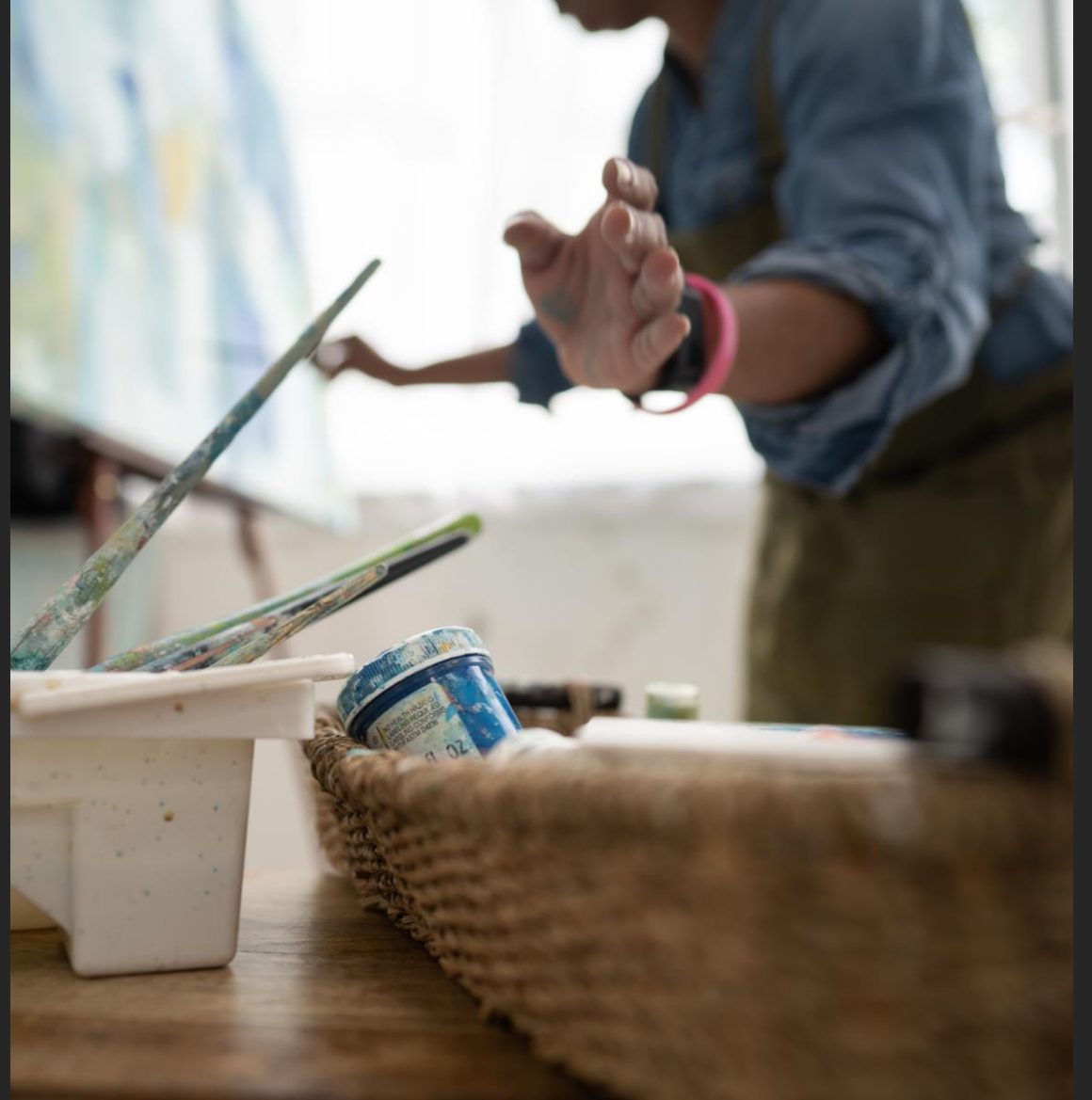




















VS



Head vs. Heart

Lawyer Brain

- Thinking with mind alone
- Syllogisms/Deductive Reasoning
- Linear causality
- Either/Or
- Goal is to resolve problem

Artist Brain

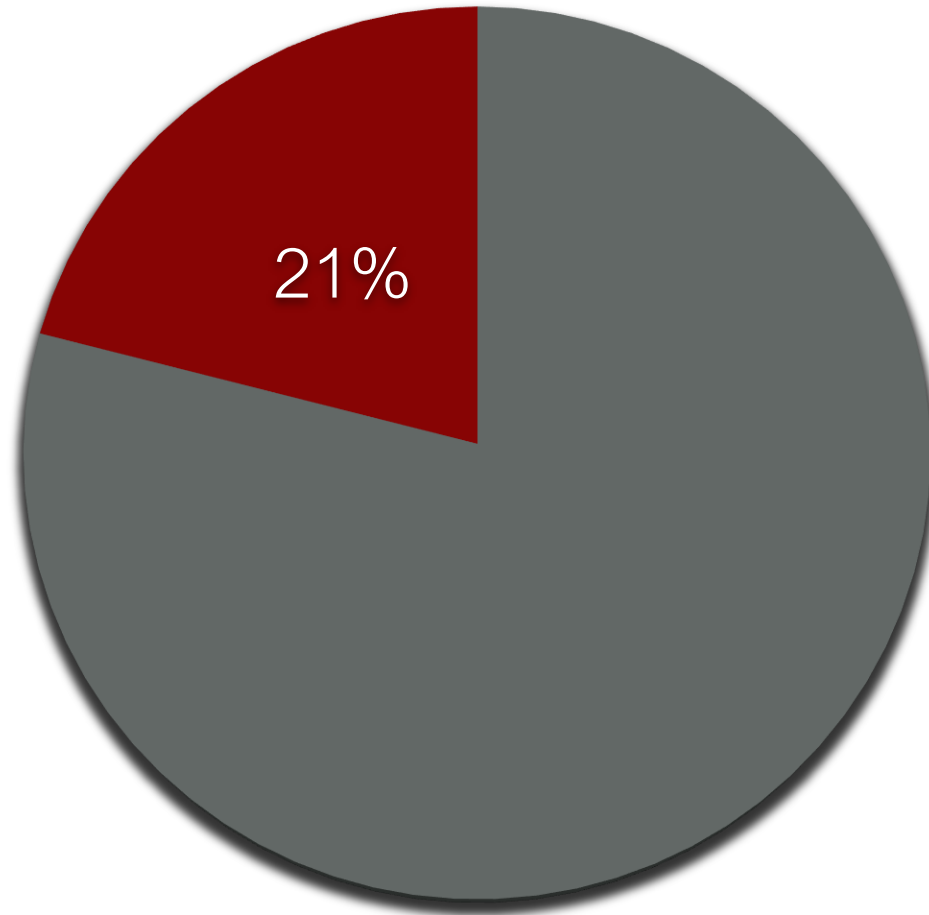
- Multi-level thinking
- Outside the box
- Tolerance of ambiguity
- Openness to inspiration
- Goal is to create



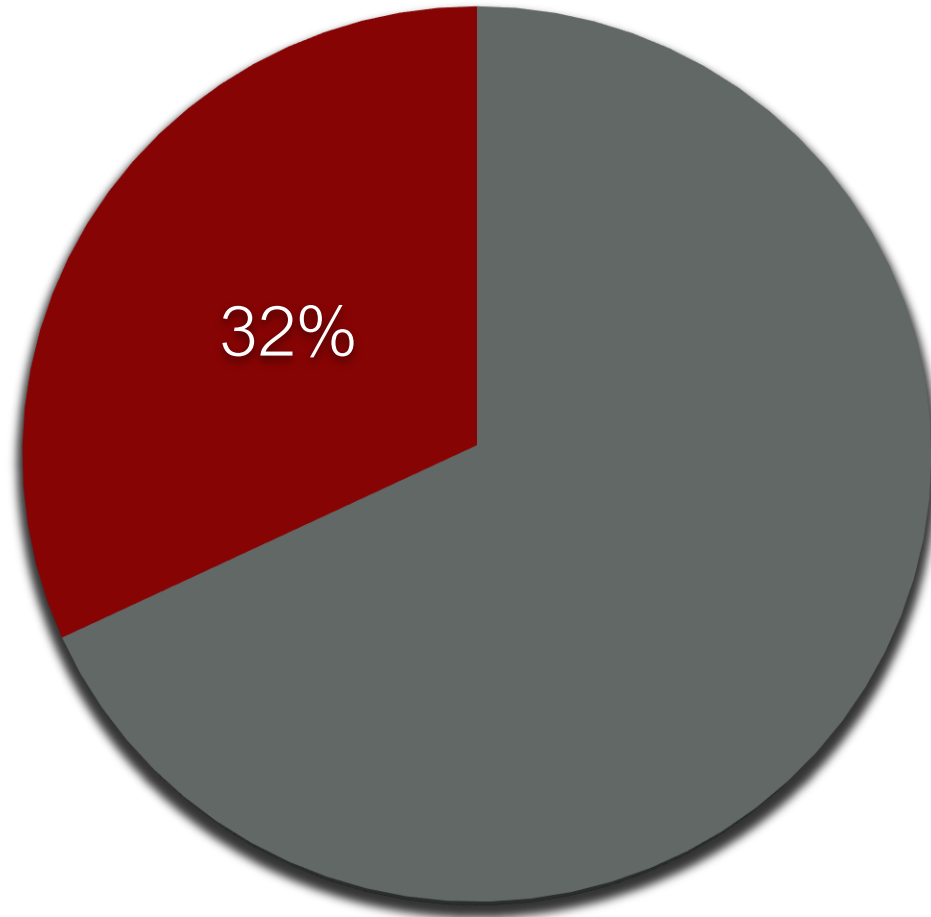
Most Miserable Job In
America

Alcohol Dependency Among Lawyers

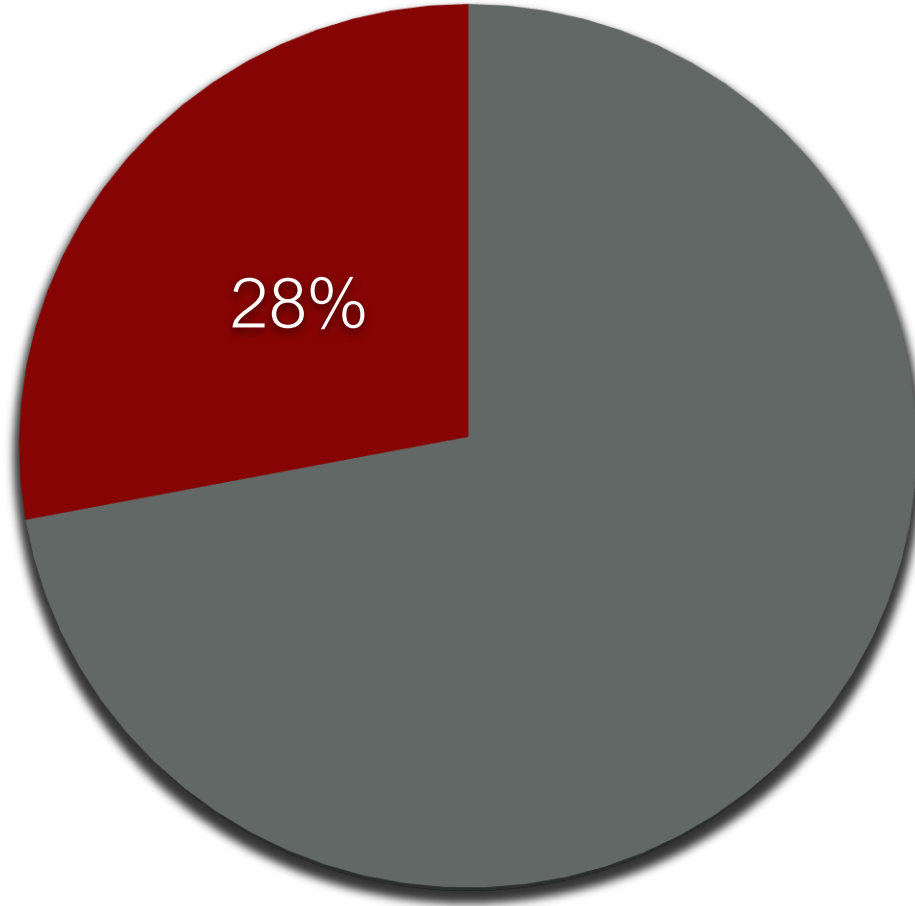
2016



Alcohol Dependency Among Lawyers
30 Years of Age or Younger
2016



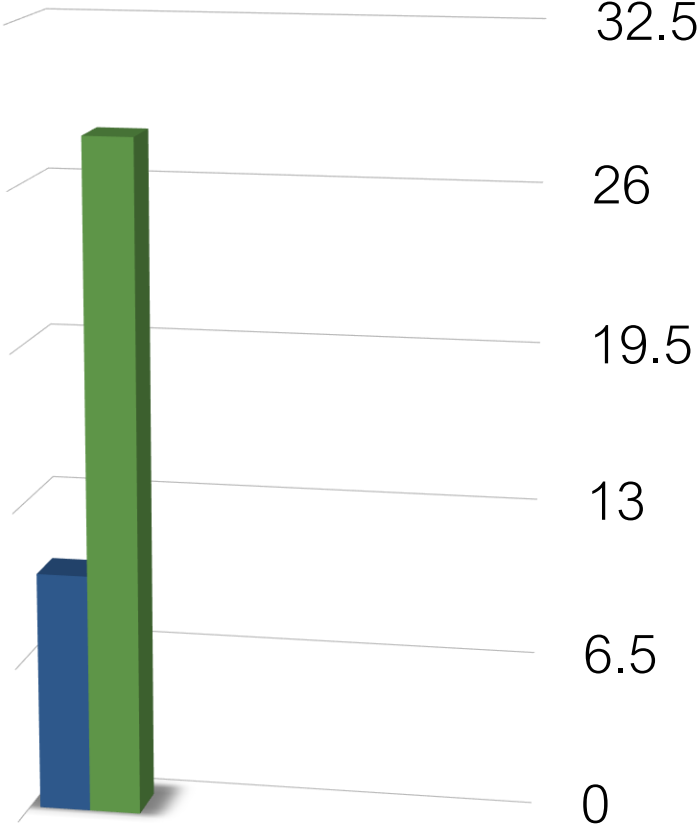
Depression Among Lawyers 2016



Depression

■ Non-Lawyers

■ Lawyers



South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule 407, SCACR

Rule 1.16: Declining or Terminating Representation

- (a) Except as stated in paragraph (c), a lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if:
 - **(2) the lawyer's physical or mental condition materially impairs the lawyer's ability to represent the client; or**

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South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule 407, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules

Preamble: A Lawyer's Responsibilities

[1] A lawyer, being a member of the legal profession, is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice.

[2] As a representative of clients, a lawyer performs various functions....

....

[4] In all professional functions a lawyer should be **competent, prompt and diligent**. . . .

[5] A lawyer's conduct should conform to the requirements of the law, both in professional service to clients and in the lawyer's business and personal affairs. . . .

[6] Therefore, all lawyers should **devote professional time and resources and use civic influence** to ensure equal access to our system of justice for all those who because of economic or social barriers cannot afford or secure adequate legal counsel....

[7] A lawyer should strive to attain the **highest level of skill**, to improve the law and the legal profession and to exemplify the legal profession's ideals of public service.

....