

# Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction: building a network!

- The **Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction** (LAHR) is a group of attorneys, legal professionals, and other advocates committed to harm reductionist principles and using the law to help people who use drugs and support programs on the front lines of helping people who use drugs
- Steering committee includes attorneys from the Network's Harm Reduction Legal Project, Vital Strategies, Drug Policy Alliance, Northeastern's Advancing Harm Reduction Through the Law, and The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation and Kaplan & Grady.
- Members include attorneys from different states working on legal issues in harm reduction from direct legal services to movement lawyering to protecting the rights of PWUD using the ADA.

## Goals of the group:

- Develop a network of attorneys to respond to legal issues of all types facing harm reduction programs in each state, including their clients, employees, volunteers and allies.
  - Steps taken to achieve: bimonthly meetings, listservs, spreading the word of the group by word of mouth and presentations
- Recruit pro bono assistance for harm reduction programs, clients, employees, volunteers and allies in two general buckets: (1) direct legal services for individuals (i.e., warrant removal, obtaining IDs, immigration issues, etc), and (2) civil rights, zoning protections, and other legal avenues for harm reduction organizations facing challenges from local, state, or federal government.
  - Steps taken to achieve: recruiting using each other's networks and connecting folks

## Goals of the group include

- Share resources and information related to harm reduction policy and litigation, and learn from each other's expertise and legal strategies from spaces outside the usual harm reduction legal space.
  - Steps taken to achieve: members have collaborated on resources and used monthly meetings as group brainstorming session
- Develop trainings for legal professionals not already involved in harm reduction work.
- Support integration of legal services in harm reduction programs and the development of a harm reduction legal workforce.

# Changing the Narrative on Harm Reduction: A Learning and Strategy Session

- This session held by Advancing Harm Reduction Through the Law will explore how misinformation drives legal and policy threats to harm reduction, with the goal of building strategies to counter it. It will bring together legal, communications, and public health professionals, researchers, journalists, and advocates.
- Featured speaker: Maia Szalavitz, the author of *Undoing Drugs: How Harm Reduction is Changing the Future of Drugs and Addiction* and a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times.
- Details!
  - Thursday, September 18, 2025 here at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington from 12:00–4:00 PM, followed by social hour 4pm - 5pm.
  - Registration info available on conference website including for virtual option

## LAHR In Person/Virtual Convening

- The convening is free and designed to build relationships and a legal workforce better equipped to respond to legal issues facing harm reduction programs and their clients, staff, and allies.
- The convening will focus on skill building, strategic planning, and networking, as well as addressing misinformation as a driver of legal challenges to harm reduction.
- Details!
  - Friday, September 18, 2025 here at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington from 9AM-5PM
  - Registration info available on conference website including for virtual option

Contact: [adennis@networkforphl.org](mailto:adennis@networkforphl.org) for more information about the Legal Advocates for Harm Reduction and the Thursday/Friday events!



Please take this survey to evaluate conference sessions.





THANK YOU