# STRESS OUT!

Well-being and Stress Management Techniques

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#### Introduction

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#### Speaker:



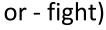
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Sea Change Fitness



#### What is stress?

A state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation

- Natural Response
- Short bursts can be positive (flight -









# Fight or Flight

- The fight or flight feeling is the built in stress response for the autonomic nervous system
- Autonomic nervous system controls your heart rate, breathing, vision changes helps your body face difficult situations
- Continued activation of this state causes wear and tear on your body
  - Stress symptoms can appear in several ways:
    - Physical
    - Psychological
    - Behavioral





# Symptoms of Stress.

Symptoms of Stress.		
On your Body	On your Mind	On your Behavior

**Anxiety** 

Headache

Muscle Pain/tension

Change in Sex Drive

**Upset Stomach** 

Sleep issues

Chest Pain

Fatigue

Overeating/Undereating

**Angry Outbursts** 

Tobacco Use

Restlessness

Drug/Alcohol Misuse

Lack of Motivation/Focus

**Memory Problems** 

Grumpiness/Anger

Sadness/Depression

Feeling Overwhelmed

**Avoiding friends** Decrease in exercise

Suppressed Immune System





Long-term health conditions:

- Rise in Blood Pressure
- Heart Problems/Stroke
- Diabetes
- Skin Conditions (Hives)
- Asthma
- Arthritis
- Insomnia







# **Stress Coping Mechanisms:**

- Gambling
- Participating compulsively in sex, shopping, internet browsing
- Bruxism (jaw clenching, gnashing teeth)
- Cracking knuckles
- Excessive throat clearing



Legal Professionals & Stress

Highly Demanding/Emotionally Draining

- Productivity
  - Pressure to perform
  - Work life balance
- Deadlines
  - Time Management
  - Workload Management
- Effective Representation
  - Traumatic Events
  - Difficult Emotional Situations
- Toll on Mental Health







#### **Chronic State**

Legal Professionals are in a chronic state of stress

Competitive environment

Being in a competitive environment long term can exacerbate stress and anxiety







# Stress Management Tips:

- Regular Exercise
- Relaxation Techniques
  - Deep breathing
  - Yoga
  - Tai chi
  - Massage
- Spend time with family/friends
- Hobbies/Passions
- Write a journal

- Healthy balanced diet
- Use less substances
- Say No
- Reflect Positively
- Practice Gratitude
- Be in the Moment
- Sleep



### **Calming Exercises**

Diaphragmatic Breathing - sitting or standing, place hand over heart/sternum and the other over your belly. Breath in through your nose for a count of four out through your mouth for a count of eight. During this time check in with your body, repeat as many times as necessary.

Ear Massage/Pulling - index finger and thumb. This should not hurt

Neck Massage - muscle stimulates vagus nerve connects gut to brain, helps us leave stress state

Face Massage - place pads of fingers next to nose along cheekbone, go out and down with the neck if preferred.









The San Diego Access & Crisis Line (1-888-724-7240)
Suicide Hotline Call or Text 988
Check Employee Benefits

Seek services if you feel depressed or you're concerned for your mental health

**SheppardMullin** 

