

Practice Competently: Calm Your Brain and Regain Your Focus

Presented to ACC-San Diego By Michelle Greer Galloway May 5, 2021

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Your Presenter

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- Special thanks to Susan Robinson, Lecturer in Law and Associate Dean for Career Services at Stanford Law School for contributions to the slides and permission to use

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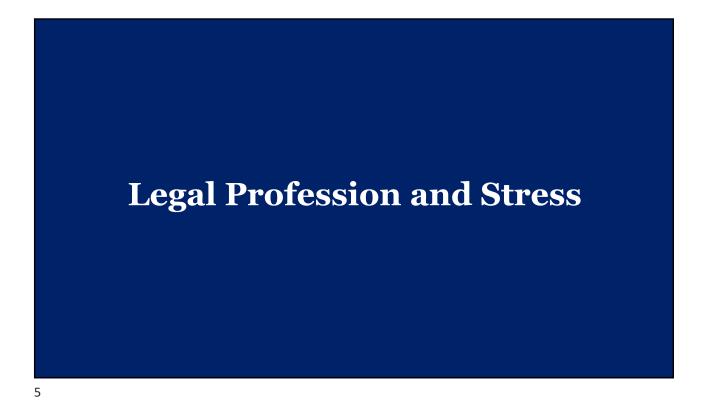
Reminder

"If you don't make time for your wellness you will be forced to make time for your illness."

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Overview

- Legal Profession and Stress
- Stress Your Brain and Body Need It
- When Stress Turns Physical
- Stress Happens How To Thrive Even In Times of Stress



Lawyers Suffer THE EVIDENCE IS IN ON LAWYER WELL-BEING We can no longer ignore our profession's well-being problem. (Source: Krill et al., 2016; Mental Health Daily report of suicide by occupation) 36% ALCOHOL DEPRESSION STRESS ANXIETY SUICIDE 21-36% qualify as problem drinkers. Higher for men; under age 30; and private practice, especially solo 28% report mild or higher depression symptoms. Highest for men and solo practitioners. 23% report mild or higher stress symptoms. Highest for women and solo practitioners. 19% report mild or higher anxiety symptoms. Highest for women and solo practitioners. Ranked #8 in a study of suicide by occupation. Rate is 1.33 times the national norm. https://lawyerwellbeing.net/lawyer-well-being-week/

Newest Study of Attorneys

- ABA and Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation study in 2016
 - "The study reports that 21 percent of licensed, employed attorneys qualify as problem drinkers, 28 percent struggle with some level of depression and 19 percent demonstrate symptoms of anxiety. The study found that younger attorneys in the first 10 years of practice exhibit the highest incidence of these problems."
 - http://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/about-us/news-and-media/press-release/aba-hazelden-release-first-study-attorney-substance-use

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Things to Watch For

- Self-awareness, Other-awareness
 - · Change this is how we usually observe through contrast with past behaviors
- Physical
 - · More difficult in remote working environments
 - Slurred speech
 - Fatigue
- Social/emotional
 - Short tempered
 - Difficulty concentrating/lack of attention
 - Tension
 - Cynicism
 - Sense of inefficacy
 - Productivity changes (but be careful as can be many sources)

Burnout

- State of exhaustion
 - Sense of reduced efficacy or accomplishment
 - Feelings of loss of identity

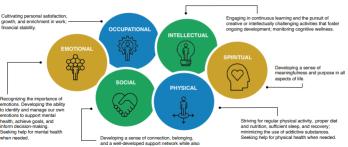
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ABA National Task Force

 The Path To Lawyer Well-being: Practical Recommendations For Positive Change, The Report Of The National Task Force On Lawyer Well-being

Defining Lawyer Well-Being
A continuous process in which lawyers strive for thriving in each dimension of their lives:



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Loneliness

- In a recent study on loneliness:
 - "In a breakdown of loneliness and social support rates by profession, legal practice was
 the loneliest kind of work, followed by engineering and science. This is perhaps not
 surprising, given the known high prevalence of depression among lawyers."
 - Shawn Achor, Gabriella Rosen Kellerman, Andrew Reece, and Alexi Robichaux, *America's Loneliest Workers*, Harvard Business Review (Mar. 19, 2018)
 - "Research shows that loneliness has the same effect as 15 cigarettes a day in terms of health care outcomes and health care costs." *Id.*

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Model Rule 1.1 Competence

 "A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation."

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Stress and Competence

- Decision Making
- Difficult Discussions

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Model Rule 1.3 Diligence

- Client-Lawyer Relationship
- "A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client."

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Model Rule 1.3 Comments - Procrastination

"[3] Perhaps no professional shortcoming is more widely resented than procrastination. A client's interests often can be adversely affected by the passage of time or the change of conditions; in extreme instances, as when a lawyer overlooks a statute of limitations, the client's legal position may be destroyed. Even when the client's interests are not affected in substance, however, unreasonable delay can cause a client needless anxiety and undermine confidence in the lawyer's trustworthiness. A lawyer's duty to act with reasonable promptness, however, does not preclude the lawyer from agreeing to a reasonable request for a postponement that will not prejudice the lawyer's client."

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Model Rule 1.4 Communication

- "(a) A lawyer shall:
 - (1) promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in Rule 1.0(e), is required by these Rules;
 - (2) reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;
 - (3) keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
 - (4) promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and
 - (5) consult with the client about any relevant limitation on the lawyer's conduct when the lawyer knows that the client expects assistance not permitted by the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.
- (b) A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation."

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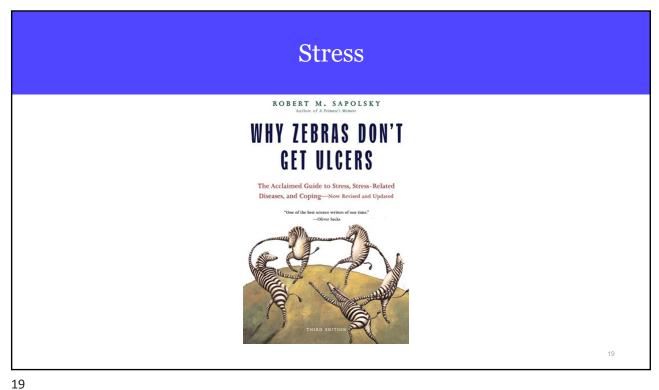
Resources For Lawyers

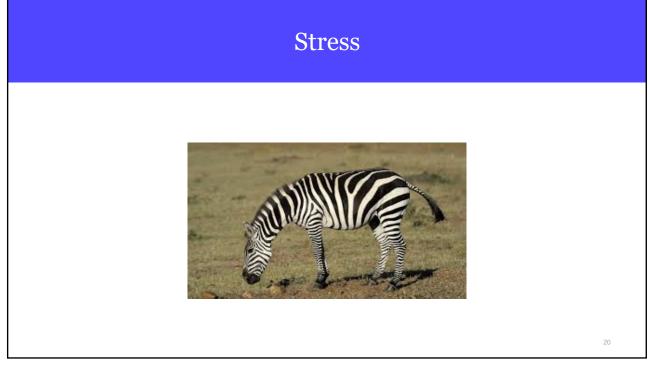
- Wellness General information
 - https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_assistance/working-group_to_advance_wellbeing_in_legal_profession/
 - "Toolkits" available for lawyers and employers at same site
- California Lawyers Association
 - · Health and Wellness Committee
 - https://calawyers.org/health-and-wellness/
- State Bar of California Lawyer Assistance Program
 - https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/Attorney-Regulation/Lawyer-Assistance-Program

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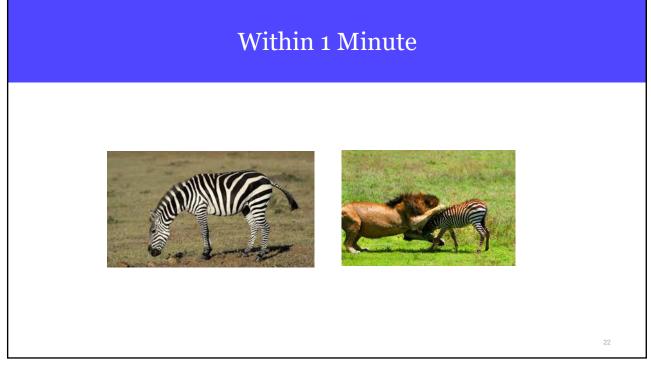
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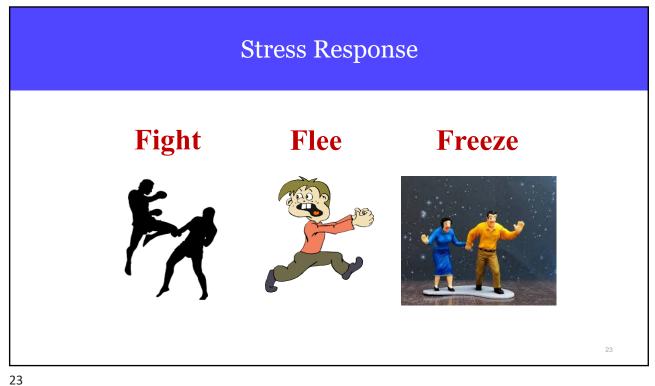
Stress – Why Your Brain and Body NEED It!

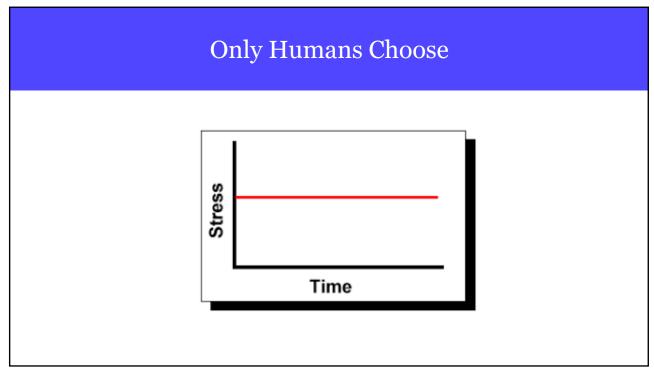












What is Stress?

Reaction to a challenge

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Stress Hormones

- Adrenaline -- increases heart rate, elevates your blood pressure
- Cortisol -- increases sugars (glucose) in the bloodstream; curbs the nonessential systems
- Norepinephrine more alert/awake; shifts blood to essential organs

Thinking About 2020 Stress

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COVID-19: Why Stress Is Different

- Existing problems did not vanish
 - COVID pandemic/health
 - Racial injustice
 - Economic toll
 - Natural disasters
 - Election
 - Lack of privacy

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Changes at Home and Work

- Roles at home changed
 - Educator
 - Caretaker
- Work and the way we worked changed
 - · Competing roles in one place
 - Video fatigue and stress
- Blended home and work lack of boundaries
 - Stress is contagious

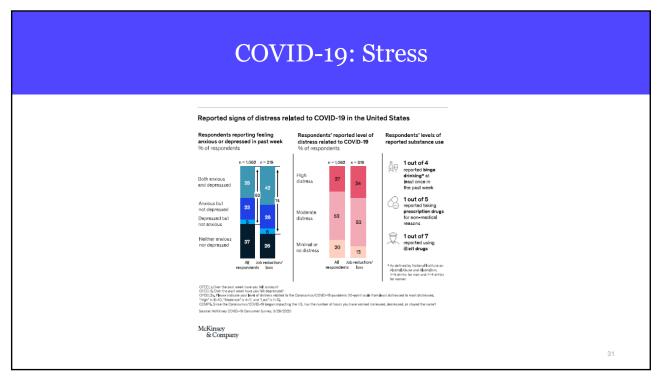
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Changes in Society

- Society
 - · Families cut-off from one another
 - Some in near- complete isolation
 - Milestones missed Birth, graduation, wedding, death
 - Racial injustice
 - Structural or systemic racism
 - Police brutality failure of equal justice under law

)



Racial Trauma

- Minority stress model holds that within a society, certain groups experience prejudice and discrimination, i.e., greater stress
 - That stress then leads to greater negative health outcomes
- COVID-19
 - Disproportionate health and learning impacts on communities of color
- Racial injustice
 - Cumulative grief
 - Renewed focus on system racism

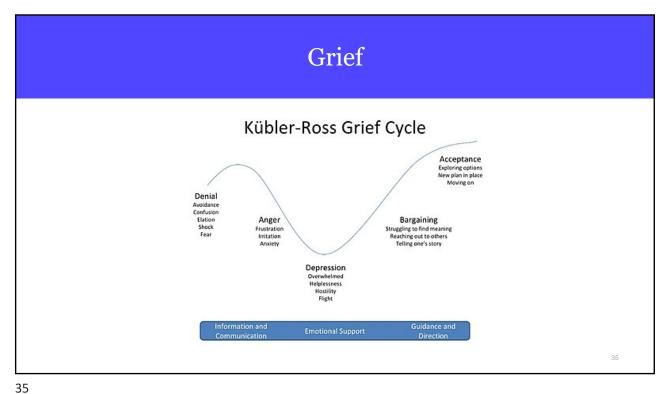
Natural Disaster Trauma

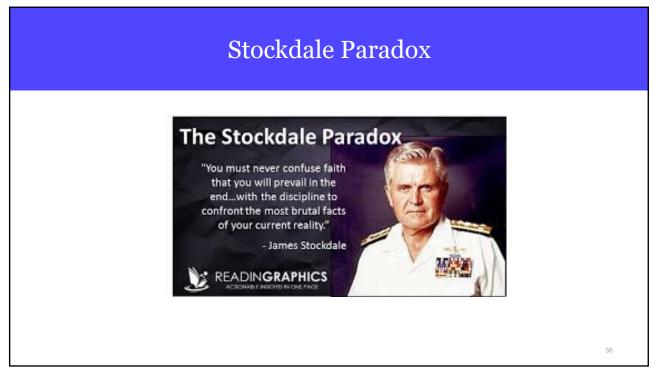
- "10-30 percent of wildfire survivors develop diagnosable mentalhealth conditions, including PTSD and depression."
- "Another 50 percent may suffer from serious subclinical effects that fade with time."
- "Substance abuse and domestic violence rise after natural disasters."
 - See Jacob Stern, A Mental-Health Crisis is Burning Across the American West, The Atlantic (July 2020) available at https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/07/mental-health-aftermath-california-wildfires/608656/ (citing National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)

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Self-actualization delite to become the most that one can be Esteem respect, rejef-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom Love and beconging friendship, inhiquacy, familty, seniel of connection Safety needs personal security, replicyment, resources, health, property Physiological needs air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction https://www.simpl/psychology.org/maslow.html

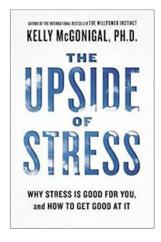












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Stress Can Enhance Performance









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Moderate Stress Can Help

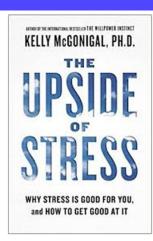
- Improve
 - Motivation
 - Alertness
 - Performance
 - Memory

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Benefits to Stress

Beyond Fight-or-Flight:

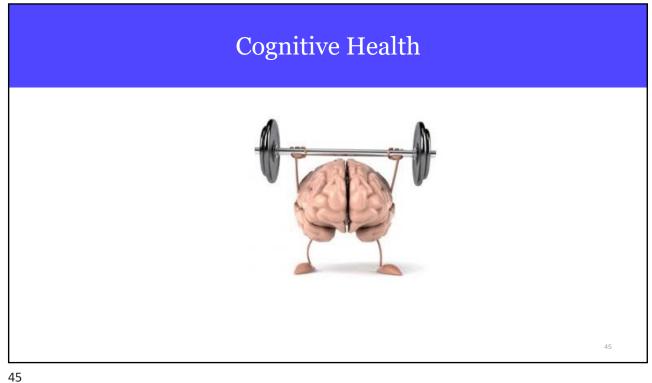
- Challenge Response
- Tend-and-Befriend Response



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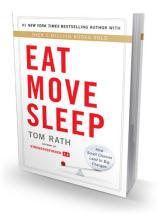
Common Advice and Programs Are Rejected Because – They Take Time





Literally: Eat Move Sleep

www.eatmovesleep.org/tools



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Eat: Nutrition Fuels Cognitive Performance

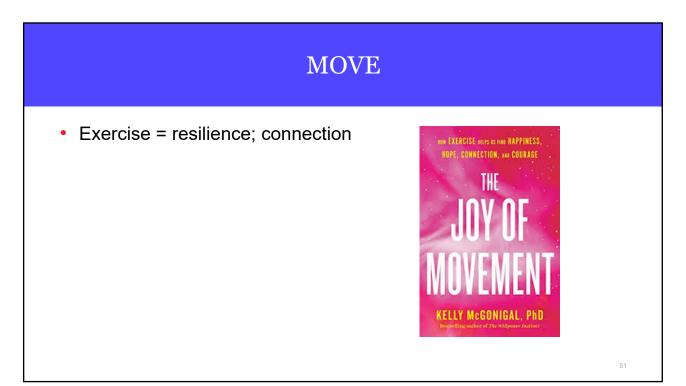
- The difference between needing a food and wanting a food
- Digesting excess sugars and fats
 - Stimulate the release of dopamine
 - · Reinforces future desire for the same food



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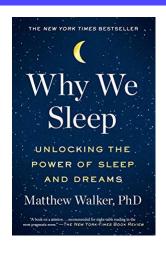








Sleep Research



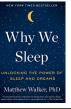


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Sleep

- Sleep deprivation may reduce logical reasoning, executive function, attention and mood
- In study of 35,000 leaders, researchers found that "the more senior a person's role is, the more sleep they get."
 - Researches concluded that senior executives were more disciplined about getting sleep
 - See Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter, Senior Executives Get More Sleep Than Everyone Else, Harvard Business Review (Feb. 28, 2018)



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Sleep Deprivation

- Who gets least sleep
 - 45-54 year-olds
- Sleep deprivation annual cost to US \$411 Billion
 - www.cdc.gov/sleep/data_statistics.html

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Sleep Deficit

- 95% of adults use an electronic device that emits light in the hour before bed
- 50% check email overnight
- 60% adults 18-64 keep phones next to them when they sleep
- 50% claim they don't sleep well because they are always connected
 - See Adam Alter, Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked, at 69 (2017) (citing Arianna Huffington's work from the 2016 World Economic Forum and book The Sleep Revolution)

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Pro Tips

- Write it down!
- Calendar it!
- Share it with someone!

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Emotional Regulation



- Labeling
 - Disrupt the amy
- Reframing



- Label
- Normalize
- Reposition
- Reframe

See David Rock, Your Brain at Work, Scene 7 (2009)

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Reminder



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Reposition

- · Will I remember this/are about this in:
 - 1 week
 - 1 month
 - 1 year
 - How much energy are you willing to expend?

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Parable of the Two Arrows

- "Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional."
- "Your worst enemy cannot harm you as much as your own unguarded thoughts."
 - Buddha

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Mindfulness/Meditation

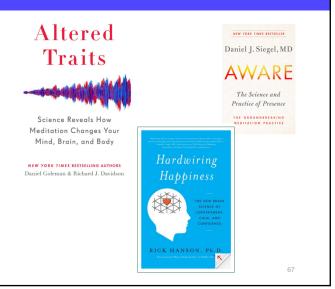
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Breath

- You Need it!
- In recent study of SKY Breath meditation (focused on calm and resilience; learned over several days) in veterans with trauma
 - Most beneficial
 - Normalize anxiety levels in one week
 - Continued mental health benefits for a full year
 - See Emma Seppala, Christina Bradley and Michael R. Goldstein, Research: Why Breathing Is So Effective At Reducing Stress, Harvard Business Review (Sept. 29, 2020)

Mindfulness Increases Neuroplasticity

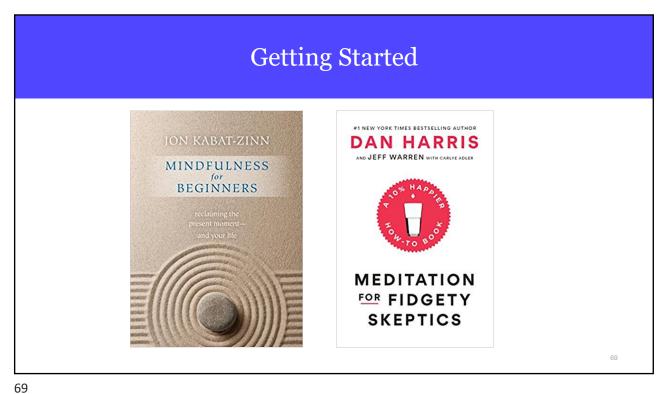
- "Neurons that fire together, wire together." Hanson
- Negativity bias: "Our brains are like Velcro for the negative and Teflon for the good." Hanson
- Hope! Our brains continue to change and we can create new neural pathways
- What we do and practice gets stronger

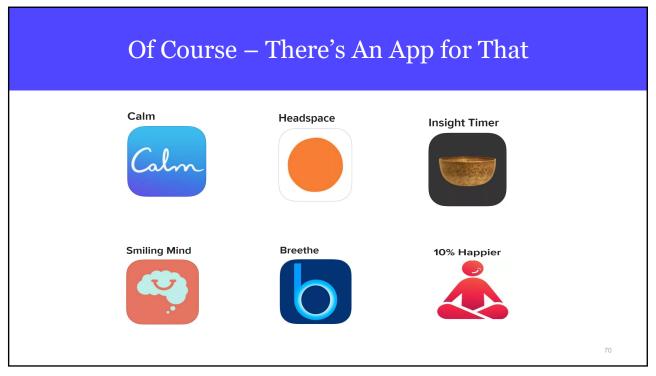


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Mindfulness Changes Brain

- Studies showing greater gray matter brain density after 8-week mindfulness course
 - See Holzel, Carmody, Vangel, Congleton, Yerramsetti, Gard, and Lazar, Mindfulness practice leads to increases in regional brain gray matter density, Psychiatry Res. Jan 30, 2011; 191(1): 36–43 (2011)







Coffice Stress Relief

Zenfy Zen Garden

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MANDALA COLORING BOOK

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Panic Peet

Desk Yoga

- Eye rolls
- Shoulder rolls
- Open chest stretch
- Neck stretch
- Chair twist
 - See Linda Steinberg, 6 Yoga Exercises You Won't Be Embarrassed to Do at Your Desk, HBR (Dec. 15, 2015)

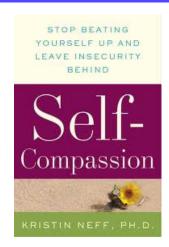
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Other Techniques that Help the Brain Manage Stress

Self Compassion

- Look at own shortcomings with kindness
 - Without judgment
 - Without disparagement
- Speak to yourself in times of difficulty or stress as you would speak to your best friend or child
 - · Acknowledge the difficulty
 - · With language that is kind and gentle
 - With encouragement



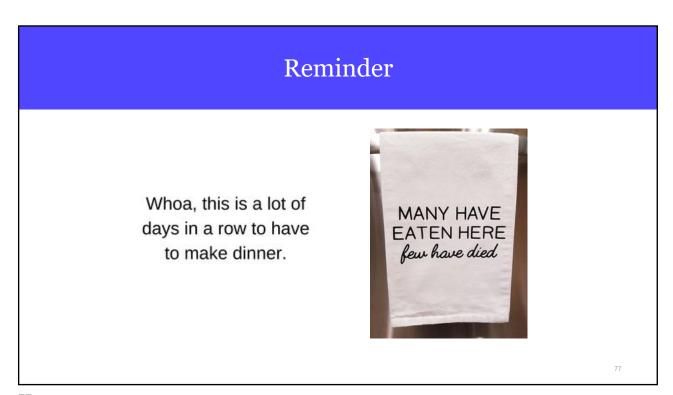
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New Hobbies?

Do you have a hobby that you enjoy? Put it in the chat room

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Reminder

Back in my day...
there was so much
toilet paper, people
used to literally string
it up in the trees of
their enemies

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Playlist

- In research by Mindlab, listening to "Weightless," by Marconi Union
 - 65% reduction in overall anxiety
 - 35% reduction in resting heart rate
- Playlist top 10 songs for relaxation
 - https://open.spotify.com/playlist/31lxxIDyC3qYrtH6TpGFwx

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Social Connection

- Small acts of kindness
- Volunteering social connection

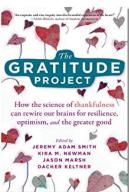


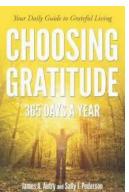
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Gratitude

- Gratitude
 - See research summarized in F. Gino, Be Grateful More Often, HBR Blog Network (Nov. 26, 2013)





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Playlist

- In research by Mindlab, listening to "Weightless," by Marconi Union
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 - 35% reduction in resting heart rate
- Playlist top 10 songs for relaxation
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Final Thoughts

Assess the Positive and Write It Down

- Who did I help today?
- What impact did I have on others today?
- What did I make progress on today?
- What am I grateful for?

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Questions?

Conclusion

• These materials are intended as an introduction to the subject matter covered in the presentation. The presentation and the materials contained herein do not attempt to provide legal advice for any particular situation. Each particular situation must be analyzed individually in light of all of the surrounding facts and circumstances. Because of the complexity of the legal issues that will always arise in connection with the subject matter hereof, it is critical that counsel be involved. These materials are provided for educational and discussion purposes only and are not to be copied, used or distributed outside of this seminar without the express written consent of Michelle Galloway. Copyright Cooley LLP, Michelle Greer Galloway 2021.

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