

Food for Thought: The Neuroscience of Nutrition to Fuel Cognitive Performance

Introduction: Fueling Cognitive Performance	427
I. Developing Lawyer Neuro-Intelligence.....	430
A. Brain Structure	430
B. Cognition	434
C. Emotion.....	438
D. Emotions and Stress.....	439
E. Sympathetic Nervous System: Fight-or-Flight	440
F. Parasympathetic Nervous System: Rest-and-Digest	442
G. Synaptic Transmission	443
H. The Brain's Motivation and Reward System.....	445
II. Neuro-Destructive Conditions	449
A. Aging and Neurodegenerative Diseases	449
1. Aging.....	449
2. Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease	450
3. Cardiovascular Disease	451
B. Physical Conditions	451
1. Weight and Obesity.....	451
2. Blood Sugar, Insulin Resistance, and Glycation.....	454
3. Inflammation.....	457

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	4. Oxidative Stress	458
	5. Metals and Oxidation	459
	C. Emotional Conditions	460
	1. Stress	461
	2. Depression.....	463
III.	Nutrition	466
	A. Nutrition and Digestive System Basics	467
	B. The Western Diet	472
	C. Carbohydrates	474
	1. Simple Carbohydrates	474
	2. Complex Carbohydrates.....	475
	3. Fiber	476
	4. How Carbohydrates Work in the Body—Glucose and Glycogen Storage	476
	5. The Glycemic Index	478
	D. Protein.....	479
	E. Fats.....	481
	1. Unhealthy Fats	483
	2. Healthy Fats	485
	F. Vitamins and Minerals.....	487
	1. Vitamin E	487
	2. The B Team.....	488
	G. Phytochemicals and Antioxidants.....	490
IV.	Caffeine and Alcohol	491
	A. Caffeine.....	491
	B. Alcohol.....	492
V.	Optimizing the Lawyer Brain.....	494
	A. Brain Health and Popular Diets	495
	1. Paleo Diet.....	495
	2. Mediterranean Diet	496
	3. Whole Food Plant-Based Diet.....	497
	4. Diet Recommendations for the Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease	499
	5. Diet Recommendations for the Prevention or Improvement of Depression.....	500
	B. Neuro-Protective Nutrition Practices.....	501
	1. It’s Never Too Late to Start	501
	2. Reasons to Get Started	502
	3. Five Simple Ways to Start	502
	4. Eating Tips: Carbs.....	503
	5. Eating Tips: Protein	504

6. Eating Tips: Fats	505
7. Eating Tips: Vitamins and Minerals	505
8. Eating Tips: Habits.....	505
9. Foods with Superpowers.....	506
C. Exercise to Enhance Brain Health	514
Conclusion	515

INTRODUCTION: FUELING COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE

*In the face of overwhelming odds, I'm faced with only one option.
I'm going to have to science the shit out of this.*

—Mark Watney played by Matt Damon in *The Martian*¹

Almost nothing is more personal than the decision lawyers make about what to eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In a two-year study examining the health of lawyers, Sharon McDowell-Larsen, Ph.D., discovered that while ninety-two percent of the participants understood that eating habits have health impacts, half reported they consumed unhealthy diets.² Additionally, none of these lawyers were vegetarians or vegans, fifty-eight percent consumed meat on a daily basis, and sixty-four percent wanted more health and wellness support from their law firms.³ Some law firms and law schools are cultivating wellness cultures, but little work has been done in the area of improving lawyer and law student nutrition.⁴

Food choices are influenced by taste, habits, advertising, restaurant/take-out options, time, convenience, and economics.⁵ Most adults consume a core group of foods with about 100 basic items that

¹ THE MARTIAN (Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, TSG Entertainment, Scott Free Productions 2015).

² Sharon McDowell-Larsen, *Improving Performance by Promoting Attorney Health*, CTR. FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP, <http://myccl.ccl.org/leadership/pdf/landing/LawFirmHealth.pdf> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Susan Swaim Daicoff, *Expanding the Lawyer's Toolkit of Skills and Competencies: Synthesizing Leadership, Professionalism, Emotional Intelligence, Conflict Resolution, and Comprehensive Law*, 52 SANTA CLARA L. REV. 795, 813 (2012); Mary Kate Sheridan, *The Fit Firm: A Law Firm Manager's Guide to Establishing an Effective Wellness Program*, 30 LEGAL MGMT. 20 (2011). See generally Gretchen Duhaime, *Practicing on Purpose: Promoting Personal Wellness and Professional Values in Legal Education*, 28 TOURO L. REV. 1207 (2012) (discussing how law schools could implement wellness programs).

⁵ ANNE M. SMITH & ANGELA L. COLLENE, *WARDLAW'S CONTEMPORARY NUTRITION* 4–6 (10th ed. 2016).

comprise seventy-five percent of our nutrition.⁶ The top five most commonly purchased food items in America are milk, cereal, bottled water, soft drinks, and bread, and Americans consume nearly twice the carbonated drinks per year (fifty gallons) than either milk (thirty gallons) or water (twenty-five gallons).⁷

The term diet inspires fear and loathing in most people because it implies deprivation.⁸ In *The China Study*, Dr. T. Colin Campbell conducted a comprehensive study of lifestyle, health, and nutrition, and he presented the story of how food choices can alter lives.⁹ Campbell argues that major American health problems including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, can be prevented or greatly improved with the adoption of wise dietary habits.¹⁰ He states that Americans are misinformed about the relationship between nutrition and well-being, and there is a tendency to adopt fad diets in an effort to achieve good health.¹¹

As a lawyer ages, her physical and mental health tend to deteriorate.¹² Researchers use neuroimaging to examine the structural and functional integrity of the brain to identify conditions and practices that help or harm the brain.¹³ U.S. Government anti-aging lifestyle research recommends lawyers should strive to exercise daily; maintain healthy weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, and glucose levels; and adopt a nutritious diet.¹⁴ Research also indicates that the most powerful prescription for improving health, aging well, and reducing the risk of illness is consuming a healthful diet.¹⁵

⁶ *Id.* at 5.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ TASNEEM BHATIA, *WHAT DOCTORS EAT: TIPS, RECIPES, AND THE ULTIMATE EATING PLAN FOR LASTING WEIGHT LOSS AND PERFECT HEALTH* 304 (2013).

⁹ T. COLIN CAMPBELL & THOMAS M. CAMPBELL II, *THE CHINA STUDY: THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF NUTRITION EVER CONDUCTED AND THE STARTLING IMPLICATIONS FOR DIET, WEIGHT LOSS AND LONG-TERM HEALTH* 12 (2004) [hereinafter *THE CHINA STUDY*].

¹⁰ *Id.* at 7, 12–15.

¹¹ *Id.* at 19–20.

¹² Valentina A. Andreeva & Emmanuelle Kesse-Guyot, *Nutrition and Cognition in the Context of Ageing: Role of Dietary Patterns*, in *NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE* 11, 12–13 (Tabitha Best & Louise Dye eds., 2015).

¹³ Jose M. Ordovas, *Genetics of Brain and Cognition and Their Interactions with Dietary and Environmental Factors*, in *NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE* 64 (Tabitha Best & Louise Dye eds., 2015).

¹⁴ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 308 (recommending smoking cessation as well).

¹⁵ *THE CHINA STUDY*, *supra* note 9, at 3.

Changing the way a lawyer eats not only can improve overall health,¹⁶ but can also change the structure and function of the brain.¹⁷ The brain requires a disproportionately large amount of the energy resources derived from nutrition relative to the rest of the body, using twenty-five percent of the calories consumed.¹⁸ Dietary choices can impact the birth of new brain cells, synaptic connections between brain cells, neurotransmitter pathways, and membrane fluidity.¹⁹

Cognitive fitness is “the ability to use your mental energy to support your brain and body’s efforts to sustain behavior.”²⁰ The brain and body are inclined to invest in energy storage by eating, rather than expend energy exercising, in order to conserve resources.²¹ Overworked and exhausted lawyers often reach for poor sources of energy, such as fast food or processed food.²² Proper care for your brain optimizes your mental capacity in the present and builds brain resources for aging.²³

It is never too early or too late for a lawyer to change eating habits and transform the health of her brain and body.²⁴ In a 2006 study, sixty-two percent of Americans reported greater fear of losing mental function than physical capacity.²⁵ “A lawyer’s ability to analyze the law and communicate effectively is the most critical tool lawyers have.”²⁶ Lawyers of all ages can reduce their risk of age-related

¹⁶ *Id.* at 7.

¹⁷ Tabitha Best & Louise Dye, *Good News Story: Nutrition for Brain Health*, in *NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE 3* (Tabitha Best & Louise Dye eds., 2015).

¹⁸ DANIEL G. AMEN, *CHANGE YOUR BRAIN CHANGE YOUR BODY: USE YOUR BRAIN TO GET AND KEEP THE BODY YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED* 17 (2010); Valentina A. Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 28; RITA CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND* 14 (rev. ed. 2010) [hereinafter *CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND*]; GERALD M. EDELMAN, *WIDER THAN THE SKY: THE PHENOMENAL GIFT OF CONSCIOUSNESS* 15 (2004).

¹⁹ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 28; Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5.

²⁰ HEIDI HANNA, *THE SHARP SOLUTION: A BRAIN-BASED APPROACH FOR OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE* 9 (2013).

²¹ *Id.* at 7, 20–21.

²² *Id.* at 6.

²³ *Id.* at 12–13.

²⁴ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 29; *see* *THE CHINA STUDY*, *supra* note 9, at 7.

²⁵ RUTH LEYSE-WALLACE, *NUTRITION AND MENTAL HEALTH* 75 (2013). The same study found that twenty-nine percent of this population was more concerned about decreased physical than mental health. *Id.*

²⁶ Amy Vorenberg, *Podia and Pens: Dismantling the Two-Track System for Legal Research and Writing Faculty*, 31 *COLUM. J. GENDER & L.* 47, 48 (2015).

cognitive and physical impairment by adopting a nutritious diet, maintaining a healthy weight, and exercising regularly.²⁷

This Article aims to inspire nutritional choices that fuel the lawyer's most valuable tool: her brain. Part I of this Article develops the neuro-intelligence of the law student, law professor, lawyer, and judge. It describes lawyer brain structure, and discusses how the emotional and thinking brains work together to facilitate cognition; response to emotions and stress; and motivation, reward, and habit building. Part II explores neuroscience research on aging and neurodegenerative diseases such as mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. It examines the brain impact of physical conditions (weight and obesity, blood sugar and glycation, inflammation, and oxidative stress) and emotional conditions (stress and depression). Part III discusses how the brain and body use energy and the impact of nutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, water, vitamins, and minerals. Part IV addresses the influence of caffeine and alcohol on brain function. Part V critiques Paleo, Mediterranean, and Whole-Food Plant-Based Diets according to their brain health strengths and weaknesses. The Article concludes with recommendations for optimizing the lawyer brain with neuro-protective nutrition and restorative practices that may influence lawyers and motivate them to science the shit out of their approach to brain health.

I

DEVELOPING LAWYER NEURO-INTELLIGENCE

A. Brain Structure

General intelligence, characterized as intellectual quotient (IQ), is a measure of cognitive ability.²⁸ Daniel Goleman writes about the capacity to improve social connections with emotional intelligence (EQ).²⁹ Body intelligence (BQ) has three pillars: awareness, knowledge, and engagement.³⁰ A lawyer with BQ cultivates awareness of her body's condition; develops her wellness knowledge base; and

²⁷ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 12, 29.

²⁸ Nathan Brody, *Intelligence and Public Policy*, 2 PSYCHOL. PUB. POL'Y & L. 473, 473 (1996).

²⁹ See generally DANIEL GOLEMAN, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (1995); DANIEL GOLEMAN, SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE NEW SCIENCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS (2006).

³⁰ Jim Gavin & Margaret Moore, *Body Intelligence: A Guide to Self-Attunement*, IDEA FITNESS J. (Oct. 19, 2010), <http://www.ideafit.com/fitness-library/body-intelligence-a-guide-to>.

engages in an action plan of healthy practices.³¹ A critical competency for lawyers is the development of neuro-intelligence (NQ).³² A lawyer with NQ is aware of the condition of her most important asset, her brain; develops brain health literacy; and devises an action plan to enhance neuro-protective practices.³³

The lawyer brain is the size of a coconut and it weighs only three pounds, yet it requires twenty percent of the body's oxygen, twenty-five percent of its calories, and twenty-five percent of its blood flow to access these resources for fuel.³⁴ The eight bones of the cranium protect the brain, which has a consistency of chilled butter or tofu.³⁵ The lawyer brain developed into three functional areas that evolved upward from the top of the spine: the primitive brain, the emotional brain, and the thinking brain.³⁶

To visualize brain structure, the lawyer can look at her open hand, palm up.³⁷ The primitive brain, made up of the brain stem and cerebellum, sits on top of the spine and is located on the hand model where the wrist meets the forearm.³⁸ The primitive brain is responsible for survival mechanisms such as breathing, heartbeat, digestion, and sleep.³⁹ Fold the thumb across the palm of the hand to envision the emotional brain.⁴⁰ The emotional brain sits over the primitive brain and manages hunger, circadian rhythm, and emotions.⁴¹ Many major components of the emotional brain come in pairs, one each in the left and right hemispheres, and include the amygdala, hippocampus, hypothalamus, thalamus, nucleus accumbens, and ventral tegmental

³¹ *Id.*

³² Debra Austin, *Drink Like a Lawyer: The Neuroscience of Substance Use and its Impact on Cognitive Wellness*, 15 NEV. L.J. 826, 829 (2015).

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 17; CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 14; EDELMAN, *supra* note 18, at 15.

³⁵ AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 18; CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 14; ERIC H. CHUDLER, THE LITTLE BOOK OF NEUROSCIENCE HAIKUS 113 (2013).

³⁶ JUDITH HORSTMAN, THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR BRAIN 4–6 (2009) [hereinafter HORSTMAN, DAY IN THE LIFE].

³⁷ HANNA, *supra* note 20, at 26.

³⁸ *Id.* at 26; BARRY J. GIBB, THE ROUGH GUIDE TO THE BRAIN 36–37 (Duncan Clark & Ruth Tidball eds., 2007); JUDITH HORSTMAN, THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BRAVE NEW BRAIN 3 (2010) [hereinafter HORSTMAN, BRAVE NEW BRAIN].

³⁹ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 37; HORSTMAN, BRAVE NEW BRAIN, *supra* note 38, at 3.

⁴⁰ HANNA, *supra* note 20, at 26.

⁴¹ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 38; HORSTMAN, BRAVE NEW BRAIN, *supra* note 38, at 4; HORSTMAN, DAY IN THE LIFE, *supra* note 36, at 4.

area.⁴² The emotional brain is engaged when a lawyer creates a new memory or experiences an emotional response.⁴³ The thinking brain is also known as the cerebral cortex, and it is wrapped around the emotional brain.⁴⁴ Close the fist and envelope the thumb with the fingers to imagine how the thinking brain encases the emotional brain.⁴⁵ The thinking brain looks like a walnut and if all the folds were flattened, it would be the size of a baby blanket.⁴⁶ Its two hemispheres are linked by the corpus callosum, a bundle of nerves that facilitate communication between them.⁴⁷ The thinking brain is divided into four lobes: frontal (language, reasoning, and planning); occipital (vision); temporal (hearing); and parietal (movement, taste, temperature, and touch).⁴⁸ The lawyer uses the thinking brain for reasoning, executive functions, and higher-order thinking.⁴⁹ The outer covering of the thinking brain is gray matter, which is tightly packed neurons responsible for information processing, and the inner section is white matter where information is transported between parts of the brain.⁵⁰

The lawyer primitive, emotional, and thinking brains are comprised of communication nerve cells called neurons and support cells called glial cells.⁵¹ Information travels within the brain and between the brain and the body via networks of neurons, and glial cells insulate neurons and facilitate data exchange.⁵² Approximately ten percent of lawyer brain cells are neurons and ninety percent are glial cells.⁵³

Neurons are shaped like trees with information-receiving branches at the top called dendrites, a cell body with a nucleus, a trunk called an

⁴² RITA CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN BOOK* 64, 128 (Tony Phipps et al. eds., 2009) [hereinafter *CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN*]; HORSTMAN, *DAY IN THE LIFE*, *supra* note 36, at 4–5.

⁴³ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 39.

⁴⁴ MICHAEL S. SWEENEY, *BRAIN: THE COMPLETE MIND* 20, 39 (Amy Briggs ed., 2009).

⁴⁵ HANNA, *supra* note 20, at 27.

⁴⁶ CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 14; JOHN MEDINA, *BRAIN IDEAS: 12 PRINCIPLES FOR SURVIVING AND THRIVING AT WORK, HOME AND SCHOOL* 102 (Tracy Cutchlow ed., 2009).

⁴⁷ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 41; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 20.

⁴⁸ HORSTMAN, *DAY IN THE LIFE*, *supra* note 36, at 6; CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 14; CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 66; GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 40.

⁴⁹ DAVID PERLMUTTER & ALBERTO VILLOLDO, *POWER UP YOUR BRAIN* 19–20 (2011).

⁵⁰ CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 14–15; GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 40, 118–22.

⁵¹ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 69.

⁵² SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 10–11.

⁵³ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 69.

axon, and information-output roots called axon terminals.⁵⁴ Information travels one direction through the neuron, entering the dendrites and flowing through the axon, then exiting the axon terminals.⁵⁵ The site where data output axon terminals meet input dendrites on the next neuron is the synapse.⁵⁶ Dendrites and synapses are eighty percent lipid.⁵⁷ Lipids are fats (solid at room temperature) and oils (liquid at room temperature).⁵⁸ Information travels within the neuron as an electrical impulse, but it crosses the synapse to reach the next neuron via chemical neurotransmitter.⁵⁹ Each neuron connects with up to 10,000 other neurons utilizing over 100 neurotransmitters, some of the most important of which include: acetylcholine (attentiveness, memory); dopamine (motivation, meaning, reward, repeat behavior); endorphins (pain reduction, pleasure); glutamate (learning, memory, excites brain activity); gamma-aminobutyric acid or GABA (calms brain activity); norepinephrine (mood, arousal, attention, perception, motivation); oxytocin (bonding); and serotonin (mood, anxiety, sleep).⁶⁰

Neurotransmitters are deployed continuously in the lawyer brain during chemical synaptic transmissions.⁶¹ Each neurotransmitter can dock only in a specialized receptor on the dendrite's surface.⁶² Neurotransmitters either excite the receptor cell to fire or inhibit its activity.⁶³ Each lawyer brain has a unique network of neurons, called the connectome, which links her brain regions.⁶⁴

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 68–69; JOSEPH LEDOUX, SYNAPTIC SELF 40–41 (2002); SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 10–11.

⁵⁵ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 33–35.

⁵⁶ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 69; LEDOUX, *supra* note 54, at 40–42.

⁵⁷ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 97.

⁵⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 11.

⁵⁹ LEDOUX, *supra* note 54, at 47.

⁶⁰ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 16, 29; HORSTMAN, DAY IN THE LIFE, *supra* note 36, at 6, 8; PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE 213, 293–94 (Eric R. Kandel & James H. Schwartz eds., 5th ed. 2013); JOHN J. RATEY, SPARK: THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW SCIENCE OF EXERCISE AND THE BRAIN 37 (2008) [hereinafter RATEY, SPARK]; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 15.

⁶¹ MARK F. BEAR ET AL., NEUROSCIENCE: EXPLORING THE BRAIN 122 (4th ed. 2016).

⁶² SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 14–15.

⁶³ *Id.* at 15.

⁶⁴ MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 66; PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 1524; SEBASTIAN SEUNG, CONNECTOME: HOW THE BRAIN'S WIRING MAKES US WHO WE ARE xiii (2012).

Three key properties of lawyer brain transformation are neuroplasticity, neurogenesis, and epigenetics. Neuroplasticity gives the brain the capacity to reshape its neural circuits with each new experience.⁶⁵ The brain adapts to new knowledge and events by rewiring the hundreds of millions of connections between neurons.⁶⁶ The brain also evolves throughout the lawyer's life with the birth of new brain cells in the hippocampus (the brain's memory processor) and the olfactory bulbs (responsible for smell) in a process called neurogenesis.⁶⁷ Neurogenesis can be stimulated by exercise, learning, and antidepressants, but suppressed by stress.⁶⁸ Exercise increases the production of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a substance that enhances neuron growth and survival in the hippocampus.⁶⁹ BDNF acts like a fertilizer for hippocampal neurons and it encourages synapse formation, the connection between neurons that is vital for learning and thinking.⁷⁰ Epigenetics is the study of how environments impact gene regulation.⁷¹ Personal experiences change the way genes are expressed, that is, turned on or off, via proteins called the epigenome.⁷² The lawyer brain can be harmed by illness and poor treatment, healed with healthy practices, and amplified by stimulating environments.⁷³

B. Cognition

Lawyers with NQ understand how the brain processes information and how learning and memory function. Lawyering involves lifelong learning. When faced with client issues, lawyers must research the

⁶⁵ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 17.

⁶⁶ NORMAN DOIDGE, *THE BRAIN THAT CHANGES ITSELF* 46–47 (2007).

⁶⁷ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 64; HORSTMAN, *BRAVE NEW BRAIN*, *supra* note 38, at 8, 10.

⁶⁸ ROBERT M. SAPOLSKY, *WHY ZEBRAS DON'T GET ULCERS* 217–18 (3d ed. 2004); SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 294.

⁶⁹ DOIDGE, *supra* note 66, at 255; RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 50–53.

⁷⁰ SANDRA AAMODT & SAM WANG, *WELCOME TO YOUR BRAIN* 89 (2008); AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 110; *see* DEEPAK CHOPRA & RUDOLPH E. TANZI, *SUPER BRAIN* 34–35 (2012); MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 22; PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 87; *PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE*, *supra* note 60, at 1202–03.

⁷¹ Margaret Joy Dauncey, *Nutrition, Genes, and Neuroscience: Implications for Development, Health, and Disease*, in *DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES* 1, 4 (Tahira Farooqui & Akhlaq A. Farooqui eds., 2015); JOHN J. RATEY & RICHARD MANNING, *GO WILD* 235 (2014) [hereinafter RATEY, *GO WILD*].

⁷² DOIDGE, *supra* note 66, at 220; HORSTMAN, *BRAVE NEW BRAIN*, *supra* note 38, at 13.

⁷³ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 193; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 13.

current state of the law and apply it to the client problem. Experienced lawyers will also use their memory in service to client problem-solving.

Cognition involves the complicated mental processes of attention, memory, learning, knowledge acquisition, intelligence, and consciousness.⁷⁴ The quality of these processes depends upon communication between neurons.⁷⁵ As the lawyer ages, the speed with which her neurons receive and transmit these signals slows, weakening learning and recall.⁷⁶ Normal aging also involves a decline in the number of synapses and a reduction in the volume of brain structures including the hippocampus, cerebellum, and prefrontal areas, which could contribute to cognitive problems.⁷⁷ Cognitive decline in the aging lawyer can range from normal memory complaints, to mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.⁷⁸

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the most common form of dementia.⁷⁹ It is a slow-moving fatal brain disorder that "starts with memory loss and ends with severe brain damage."⁸⁰ Victims of Alzheimer's disease have amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in their brain.⁸¹ Beta amyloid kills brain cells, particularly in the hippocampus, and impairs synapses.⁸² More women are stricken with Alzheimer's than men, and after age sixty-five about one in six women and one in eleven men will succumb to Alzheimer's disease.⁸³

Learning involves the acquisition of new information and memory is how that information is stored in the brain.⁸⁴ Learning comprises cognitive mechanisms, such as memorizing new regulations that govern a client activity; motor mechanisms, such as typing a letter explaining how the rules impact the client; and affective mechanisms,

⁷⁴ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 14.

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ *Id.* Mild Cognitive Impairment is discussed further in Part II.A.2, *infra*.

⁷⁹ *Alzheimer's Disease Fast Facts*, CNN, <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/23/health/alzheimers-disease-fast-facts> (last updated May 31, 2016) [hereinafter *Fast Facts*].

⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² Dmitri P. Agamanolis, *Chapter 9: Degenerative Diseases*, NEUROPATHOLOGY: AN ILLUSTRATED INTERACTIVE COURSE FOR MED. STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS, <http://neuropathology-web.org/chapter9/chapter9bAD.html> (last updated Aug. 2016).

⁸³ *Fast Facts*, *supra* note 79.

⁸⁴ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 236.

such as pride at delivering optimal client service or relief when a sticky client matter reaches resolution.⁸⁵

Learning involves a complex interaction between the emotional and thinking brain. Information enters the thinking brain through the senses.⁸⁶ The occipital lobe processes visual information, the temporal lobe processes sound, the frontal lobe processes language, and the temporal lobe processes information involving movement, touch, or taste.⁸⁷ These information traces move from the thinking brain to the emotional brain, where the thalamus focuses the brain's attention, screens and sorts the information traces, and sends them to the hippocampus.⁸⁸ The amygdala filters the information for emotional content and becomes involved in the storage of emotionally charged information.⁸⁹ The information travels back to the thinking brain, to the sensory lobe of its origin, then returns to the hippocampus in the emotional brain, forming a loop.⁹⁰ Information travels along this thinking-emotional brain circuit via neurons and neurotransmitters.⁹¹

The processing of sensory information as it enters the brain is called encoding.⁹² Memory traces are converted into long-term memory during consolidation, making information more stable in the brain.⁹³ Rehearsal or practice, such as re-reading a set of new statutes or studying for an exam, requires neurons to fire along the same pathway in the brain, which strengthens their connections and is called long-term potentiation.⁹⁴ This same process occurs in the lawyer brain for procedural memories, such as skills like snowboarding, typing, or driving;⁹⁵ fear memories, such as a phobia regarding spiders or humiliation during a law school Socratic interrogation;⁹⁶ episodic

⁸⁵ See *Your Brain: A User's Guide*, NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC, 2012, at 21.

⁸⁶ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 248.

⁸⁷ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 40; HORSTMAN, *DAY IN THE LIFE*, *supra* note 36, at 6.

⁸⁸ See CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 60; EDELMAN, *supra* note 18, at 19–21.

⁸⁹ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 160; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 242, 252.

⁹⁰ See CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 158–61.

⁹¹ See CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 159.

⁹² TRACEY TOKUHAMA-ESPINOSA, *MIND, BRAIN, AND EDUCATION SCIENCE* 261 (2011).

⁹³ MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 125–26; *PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE*, *supra* note 60, at 1447.

⁹⁴ See CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 159–60; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 213.

⁹⁵ See SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 242–43.

⁹⁶ See CARTER, *MAPPING THE MIND*, *supra* note 18, at 162.

memories, which are autobiographical events such as family vacations;⁹⁷ and semantic memories, which are learned facts, words, and concepts important to legal education and the lifelong learning required of attorneys.⁹⁸

Procedural memory motor skills are stored in the primitive brain in the cerebellum.⁹⁹ Fear memories are stored in the emotional brain in the amygdala.¹⁰⁰ These memories reside in the unconscious mind.¹⁰¹

Outlining, analyzing, synthesizing, and studying strengthen the synaptic connections in the neural networks of the lawyer brain.¹⁰² Episodic and semantic memories require effortful processing to recall.¹⁰³ The early lives of these memories are stored not in a single location, but in the memory consolidation loop circulating from the hippocampus in the emotional brain to the sensory lobes in the thinking brain.¹⁰⁴ Information travels the emotional-thinking brain circuit for years—perhaps for as few as two years to as long as a decade—gradually evolving from a fragile to a stable memory.¹⁰⁵ Scientists believe this journey takes place largely during sleep, making it one of the most important activities a lawyer can improve on to nourish her brain function.¹⁰⁶ Law students writing papers and taking exams or new lawyers accessing information learned in law school and reinforced during bar exam preparation are retrieving that information from the emotional-thinking brain loop.¹⁰⁷

Once the consolidation process is complete, the hippocampus lets go of its relationship with the sensory lobes, and memory resides in the

⁹⁷ See *id.* at 162; GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 69.

⁹⁸ See GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 69; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 243.

⁹⁹ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 240–43.

¹⁰⁰ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 162.

¹⁰¹ See SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 240–43.

¹⁰² See CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 162–64; CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 159.

¹⁰³ MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 131–32.

¹⁰⁴ *Id.* at 112–13.

¹⁰⁵ See CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 161–62, 164; CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 160–61; MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 138, 140–42.

¹⁰⁶ See CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 163, 165; CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 161; GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 68; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 246.

¹⁰⁷ See CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 160–61; CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 162–65.

thinking brain.¹⁰⁸ This neural network, unique to each lawyer because it was constructed from individual experiences, emotions, and thoughts, is called the connectome.¹⁰⁹ Experienced lawyers combine recall of stable information from their connectome with retrieval of newer information from their emotional-thinking brain circuit to counsel and represent clients.¹¹⁰

Emotional information often accompanies visual, auditory, and language information as it is encoded by the brain.¹¹¹ The qualities of emotional information can impact memory formation.¹¹²

C. Emotion

When the brain detects a positively or negatively charged stimulus, both the brain and the body experience an automatic and unconscious physiological response.¹¹³ Physical responses to emotions include facial expressions, blushing, sweaty palms, increased heart rate, and elevated blood pressure.¹¹⁴ Emotions are experienced as feelings, the conscious perceptions of automatic responses by the body.¹¹⁵

Scientists recognize four basic emotions: fear, anger, sadness, and joy;¹¹⁶ some add disgust and surprise.¹¹⁷ Emotional information is processed by the brain through two parallel routes.¹¹⁸ On the “quick and dirty route,” information moves from the thinking brain lobes to the amygdala where it is assessed for potential as a threat or opportunity and can stimulate the survival mechanisms of flight, fight, or pacification.¹¹⁹ On the slower route, information is processed by the

¹⁰⁸ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 162; *see* MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 138.

¹⁰⁹ SEUNG, *supra* note 64, at 79–80; Mark I. Sirkin, *Managing Your Brain – A User’s Guide*, 82 N.Y. ST. B. ASS’N J. 38, 39 (2010).

¹¹⁰ *See* CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 162, 165.

¹¹¹ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 158, 160; TOKUHAMA-ESPINOSA, *supra* note 92, at 143–49.

¹¹² CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 160; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 212.

¹¹³ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 96; PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 61, at 1079.

¹¹⁴ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 82; CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 124; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 208.

¹¹⁵ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 126; PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 61, at 1079.

¹¹⁶ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 208.

¹¹⁷ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 128–29.

¹¹⁸ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 83.

¹¹⁹ *Id.* at 83–84; CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 125; SUSAN GREENFIELD, THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE BRAIN 18 (2000); SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 215.

thinking brain and the hippocampus, and, absent a threat, the thinking brain overrules the amygdala and inhibits the fight-or-flight response.¹²⁰

The neuroscientist that made the amygdala famous, Joseph LeDoux, has demonstrated that more neural signals travel up from the emotional brain to the thinking brain than down from the thinking brain to the emotional brain, suggesting that the emotional brain has more influence over behavior than does the thinking brain.¹²¹

D. Emotions and Stress

Walter B. Cannon and Hans Selye were important stress researchers.¹²² Cannon described the fight-or-flight stress response,¹²³ and Selye used the term stress to label the discomfort his lab rats experienced when he frequently dropped, chased, and recaptured them.¹²⁴ Selye noticed that the general unpleasantness of extended exposure to a variety of stressors made his rats sick.¹²⁵

When law school or law practice subjects students or lawyers to a broad array of stressors, the general unpleasantness is likely to make them sick.¹²⁶ Lawyers suffer from higher levels of anxiety and depression than the rest of the population, but they don't enter law school with these disorders.¹²⁷ Lawyers rank fourth in professions with the highest number of suicides.¹²⁸ Overwork is a habit law students

¹²⁰ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 215.

¹²¹ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 98 (quoting JOSEPH LEDOUX, THE EMOTIONAL BRAIN (1996)); SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 323.

¹²² See SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 7–12 (discussing Cannon and Selye's stress research).

¹²³ *Id.* at 12.

¹²⁴ *Id.* at 9–10.

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ See *id.* at 8–10 (explaining how environmental and psychological stressors lead to stress and ultimately sickness).

¹²⁷ See NANCY LEVIT & DOUGLAS O. LINDER, THE HAPPY LAWYER 6–8 (2010); DOUGLAS LITOWITZ, THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUNG LAWYERS: BEYOND ONE L 16–26 (2006); ANDREW J. MCCLURG, 1L OF A RIDE 315–17 (2009); REBECCA NERISON, LAWYERS, ANGER, AND ANXIETY 15–39 (2010); Lawrence S. Krieger, *Institutional Denial About the Dark Side of Law School, and Fresh Empirical Guidance for Constructively Breaking the Silence*, 52 J. LEGAL EDUC. 112, 113–15 (2002); Corie Rosen, *The Method and the Message*, 12 NEV. L.J. 160, 161 n.8 (2011).

¹²⁸ Rosa Flores & Rose Marie Arce, *Why Are Lawyers Killing Themselves?*, CNN (Jan. 20, 2014, 2:42 PM), <http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/19/us/lawyer-suicides/index.html>; see also Patrick Krill, *Why Lawyers Are Prone to Suicide*, CNN (Jan. 21, 2014, 10:15 AM), <http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/20/opinion/krill-lawyers-suicide/index.html> (explaining that

likely develop in law school where success is defined in terms of GPA, class rank, and service on law journals.¹²⁹ Lawyer anxiety, depression, and high suicide rates are likely linked to perpetual overwork and chronic stress.¹³⁰

The brain and body work in concert to produce the general unpleasantness of the stress response and to recover from damage caused by stress. The autonomic nervous system has two halves that are in charge of maintaining balance: the sympathetic nervous system (fight-or-flight) and the parasympathetic nervous system (rest-and-digest).¹³¹ Fight-or-flight is the body's arousal system accelerator, and rest-and-digest is its calming system brake.¹³²

E. Sympathetic Nervous System: Fight-or-Flight

The fight-or-flight system evolved to motivate a rapid response to predators.¹³³ This system is activated during acute stress, and is intended to help with short-term challenges like a court appearance or a weekend fun-run.¹³⁴ This system can be persistently activated during chronic stress caused by long-term problems such as job loss, financial difficulties, troubled relationships, and possibly law school or law practice.¹³⁵

The fight-or-flight stress response begins when the thinking brain detects a threat and this information is directed via the quick and dirty route to the "brain's panic button"—the amygdala.¹³⁶ The amygdala directs the thalamus to focus attention and the hypothalamus to release the stress hormones adrenaline and glucocorticoids (the key glucocorticoid is cortisol).¹³⁷ Stress hormones increase heart rate,

suicide "is the third leading cause of death in the profession," but "only the [tenth] leading cause of death in the general population").

¹²⁹ See LEVIT & LINDER, *supra* note 127, at 125.

¹³⁰ *Id.* at 7.

¹³¹ DALE PURVES ET AL., *PRINCIPLES OF COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE* 326 (2d ed. 2012); Andrea C. Gore, *Neuroendocrine Systems*, in *FUNDAMENTAL NEUROSCIENCE* 730 (Larry Squires et al. eds., 4th ed. 2013).

¹³² See LINDA GRAHAM, *BOUNCING BACK: REWIRING YOUR BRAIN FOR MAXIMUM RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING* 200–01 (2013) (describing the amygdala's role in the fight-or-flight response).

¹³³ Gore, *supra* note 131, at 803.

¹³⁴ See PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 59 (explaining the effects of acute stress).

¹³⁵ See *id.*

¹³⁶ RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 62.

¹³⁷ CARTER ET AL., *THE HUMAN BRAIN*, *supra* note 42, at 232 (stating that the pituitary gland and the hypothalamus in the emotional brain tell the adrenal gland sitting atop the

elevate blood pressure, mobilize energy, slow digestion, and suppress the immune system.¹³⁸ Symptoms of chronic stress response include dizziness, breathlessness, sweating, chills, muscle tension, panic attacks, heart palpitations, stomach discomfort, and chest pain.¹³⁹ The stress response is designed to deal with short-term challenges, but chronic stress causes the long-term release of stress hormones, which results in a compromised immune system; decreased muscle mass and bone density; and increased appetite, body fat, irritability, anger, anxiety, and depression.¹⁴⁰

Lawyers and law students can spend months or years in fight-or-flight overdrive, many believing their performance is enhanced by stress hormones.¹⁴¹ Chronic stress response harms the lawyer brain because the amygdala's reaction to stress hormones is to produce additional stress hormones.¹⁴² The brain's memory processor, the hippocampus, has ample glucocorticoid receptors, thus it is highly susceptible to stress.¹⁴³ Stress hormones damage and kill neurons in the hippocampus and weaken the remaining synaptic connections.¹⁴⁴ The remaining brain cells don't work as well as they did prior to exposure to stress.¹⁴⁵ When stress hormones damage the hippocampus, it responds by producing additional stress hormones, creating a cycle of self-destruction.¹⁴⁶

kidneys to release adrenaline and glucocorticoids); MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 174; PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 60; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 40; Gore, *supra* note 131, at 799, 804; Steven E. Hyman & Jonathan D. Cohen, *Disorders of Mood and Anxiety*, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 1402, 1409.

¹³⁸ PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 60; Gore, *supra* note 131, at 804; *see* SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 13.

¹³⁹ *See* CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 232.

¹⁴⁰ *See* SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 13–14; SHAWN M. TALBOTT, THE CORTISOL CONNECTION 22 (Alexandra Mummery, 2nd ed. 2007); *see also* MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 175–76.

¹⁴¹ *See* GAYATRI DEVI, A CALM BRAIN: HOW TO RELAX INTO A STRESS-FREE, HIGH-POWERED LIFE 6 (2012).

¹⁴² *See* RICK HANSON WITH RICHARD MENDIUS, BUDDHA'S BRAIN: THE PRACTICAL NEUROSCIENCE OF HAPPINESS, LOVE, & WISDOM 52–53 (2009); *see also* RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 62, 66–67.

¹⁴³ MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 177; Gore, *supra* note 131, at 804.

¹⁴⁴ *See* AAMODT & WANG, *supra* note 70, at 86; AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 248; MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 179; DAVID A. SOUSA, HOW BRAIN SCIENCE CAN MAKE YOU A BETTER LAWYER 25 (2009); Gore, *supra* note 131, at 804.

¹⁴⁵ SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 215.

¹⁴⁶ *Id.* at 387.

Brain scans indicate that hippocampi shrink in people who experience stress, low self-esteem, repeated jet lag, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).¹⁴⁷ Neuroscientists have proven that cognitive performance is diminished during the fight-or-flight stress response.¹⁴⁸ The impact of stress on cognition includes impaired concentration, memory, problem-solving, and language and math processing.¹⁴⁹ Motivation, creativity, and curiosity are dampened.¹⁵⁰

Law school and law practice are replete with sources of stress that activate the stress response: intense workload, competitive environment, technology overload, and the demand of 24/7 availability.¹⁵¹ The panic button amygdala drives a negativity bias, and the mind can trigger a stress response by simply imagining a threatening situation, such as being called on in class, worrying about the number of hours billed, or a client outcome.¹⁵² Thinking brain capacity is diminished during the stress response making it very difficult to suppress apprehension.¹⁵³ The legal profession presents many stressors, and emotional reactions to problems can spark the stress response more often than the presence of an actual threat.¹⁵⁴ The damage caused by chronic stress response can be healed, thanks to neuroplasticity, when lawyers learn to enhance their rest-and-digest system.¹⁵⁵

F. Parasympathetic Nervous System: Rest-and-Digest

The other half of the autonomic nervous system is the parasympathetic nervous rest-and-digest system.¹⁵⁶ While the fight-or-flight stress response activates arousal, defense, and escape, the rest-and-digest system promotes nourishment, procreation, and a return to

¹⁴⁷ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 4; SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 221.

¹⁴⁸ HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 52–60; RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 67–71; *see* DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 83–86.

¹⁴⁹ MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 178–79.

¹⁵⁰ *See* PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 61.

¹⁵¹ *See* DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 22–33.

¹⁵² RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 62–63.

¹⁵³ *See* HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 50–53.

¹⁵⁴ HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 50; RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 83.

¹⁵⁵ HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 52–60; *see* RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 67–71; *see* DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 83–86.

¹⁵⁶ HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 58–59; Gore, *supra* note 131, at 734.

balance following stress response activation.¹⁵⁷ The rest-and-digest system promotes digestion and nutrient absorption, slows heart rate, lowers blood pressure, limits heat loss, curbs the release of stress hormones, and supports rest.¹⁵⁸ It conserves energy, produces feelings of calm and contentment, and restores equilibrium after stress response activation.¹⁵⁹ To enhance the rest-and-digest system and foster stress resilience, lawyers and law students can engage in restorative practices and consume a healthy diet.¹⁶⁰

G. Synaptic Transmission

The neuron is the key unit of communication in the brain. It uses an electrochemical process of transmitting information between areas of the brain and between the brain and the body.¹⁶¹ During synaptic transmission, an electrical impulse travels through the neuron and triggers the release of a chemical neurotransmitter to carry the signal from the axon terminals of the pre-synaptic neuron to the dendrites of the post-synaptic neuron.¹⁶² Synaptic transmission has four stages: (1) synthesis and storage of the neurotransmitter in the pre-synaptic neuron; (2) neurotransmitter release; (3) interaction of the neurotransmitter with the receptors on the post-synaptic neuron; and (4) removal of the neurotransmitter from the synaptic cleft.¹⁶³

In order to complete the communication between neurons, neurotransmitters must bind to the receptors on the dendrites of the post-synaptic neuron.¹⁶⁴ Receptors can recognize the specific shape of

¹⁵⁷ David G. Amaral & Peter L. Strick, *The Organization of the Central Nervous System*, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 337, 353; John P. Horn & Larry W. Swanson, *The Autonomic Motor System and the Hypothalamus*, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 1066.

¹⁵⁸ WILLIAM J. BROAD, THE SCIENCE OF YOGA: THE RISKS AND REWARDS 90 (2012); DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 53; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 41; Gore, *supra* note 131, at 734, 736.

¹⁵⁹ CHUDLER, *supra* note 35, at 35; HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 59; Amaral, Strick, Horn & Swanson, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 353, 1066.

¹⁶⁰ AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 167; GRAHAM, *supra* note 132, at 208; HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 110; NERISON, *supra* note 127, 154–55; *see also* DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 37.

¹⁶¹ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 41.

¹⁶² LEDOUX, *supra* note 54, at 45; MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 55.

¹⁶³ James H. Schwartz & Jonathan A. Javitch, *Neurotransmitters*, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 289.

¹⁶⁴ DAVID J. LINDEN, THE COMPASS OF PLEASURE 1617 (2011).

neurotransmitters, or that of drugs that mimic neurotransmitters.¹⁶⁵ Neurotransmitters or drugs with the best chemical fit, called agonists, attach to the receptors and activate them.¹⁶⁶ Those that fit into and bind to receptors, but do not activate them, are called receptor antagonists.¹⁶⁷ Antagonists block the receptor and prevent its activation.¹⁶⁸ Receptors respond to an absence of agonists (activating neurotransmitters) by increasing their numbers, and the receptor growth process is known as up-regulation.¹⁶⁹ When receptors are persistently activated by the presence of too much neurotransmitter, the neuron reduces the number of receptors in a process called down-regulation.¹⁷⁰

An example of down-regulation occurs when consumption of a poor diet causes chronic elevation of blood glucose and the body responds with an increase in insulin production.¹⁷¹ When the endocrine system learns to expect high insulin levels, it reduces the number of insulin receptors, and the down-regulation causes insulin resistance.¹⁷²

When networks of neurons fire repeatedly during long-term potentiation, they are strengthened.¹⁷³ Canadian psychologist Donald Hebb described long-term potentiation as the process in which brain “cells that fire together wire together.”¹⁷⁴ The brain continuously evolves and rewires itself with every experience, thought, and feeling.¹⁷⁵ Long-term potentiation is the basis of neuroplasticity.¹⁷⁶ Lawyer choices and practices, whether healthy or unhealthy, become ingrained with repetition.

¹⁶⁵ JERROLD S. MEYER & LINDA F. QUENZER, *PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: DRUGS, THE BRAIN, AND BEHAVIOR* 2728 (2d ed. 2013).

¹⁶⁶ *Id.* at 28.

¹⁶⁷ *Id.*

¹⁶⁸ *Id.*

¹⁶⁹ *Id.*

¹⁷⁰ *Id.*

¹⁷¹ RATEY, GO WILD, *supra* note 71, at 235–36.

¹⁷² *Id.* at 236.

¹⁷³ CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 160; LINDEN, *supra* note 164, at 55; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 248.

¹⁷⁴ LEDOUX, *supra* note 54, at 79.

¹⁷⁵ RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 36.

¹⁷⁶ Joseph R. Manns & Elizabeth A. Buffalo, *Learning and Memory: Brain Systems*, in *FUNDAMENTAL NEUROSCIENCE*, *supra* note 131, at 1029–30.

H. The Brain's Motivation and Reward System

Cognition involves a complex interaction between the emotional and thinking brain.¹⁷⁷ The learning system that involves knowledge acquisition and memory formation requires the brain to encode, consolidate, and retrieve information.¹⁷⁸ Newer memories are retrieved from the emotional-thinking brain loop made up of the hippocampus and sensory lobes,¹⁷⁹ and fully consolidated memories are recalled from the knowledge network connectome in the thinking brain.¹⁸⁰

Motivation and reward also involve a complicated interface between the emotional brain and the thinking brain.¹⁸¹ Reward seeking has six stages: incentive (or stimulus), desire, motivation, action, reward, and learning.¹⁸² An incentive creates a feeling of desire; for example, when the smell of fresh baked bread (an external stimulus) or falling glucose levels (an internal stimulus) produce the desire to eat.¹⁸³ Desire is longing for a reward you believe will produce pleasure or satisfaction.¹⁸⁴ Motivation is the ambition to obtain a reward, and learning is the process that occurs when action leads to the acquisition of the reward.¹⁸⁵ Pleasure is the feeling that is experienced when acquisition of a reward results in satisfaction or enjoyment.¹⁸⁶

Dopamine is the neurotransmitter that has long been associated with reward seeking.¹⁸⁷ The evolutionary purpose of the dopamine system is to stimulate eating and procreation to ensure survival.¹⁸⁸ Researchers have learned about the dopamine system from studying rodents willing

¹⁷⁷ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 154–57; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 240–43.

¹⁷⁸ SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 239–40, 246.

¹⁷⁹ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 159.

¹⁸⁰ See MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 140–43; Daniel L. Schacter & Anthony D. Wagner, *Learning and Memory*, in PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, *supra* note 60, at 1441, 1448; see also SEUNG, *supra* note 64, at 79.

¹⁸¹ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 128.

¹⁸² *Id.*

¹⁸³ *Id.*

¹⁸⁴ *Id.*; PURVES ET AL., *supra* note 131, at 472.

¹⁸⁵ MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 250.

¹⁸⁶ See *id.*

¹⁸⁷ See DOIDGE, *supra* note 66, at 106. Dr. Arvid Carlsson of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden discovered dopamine as a neurotransmitter in 1957. He received the 2000 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his discovery. Vikram K. Yeragani et al., *Arvid Carlsson, and the Story of Dopamine*, 52 INDIAN J. PSYCH. 87, 87–88 (2010), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2824994/>.

¹⁸⁸ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 176.

to ignore food, breeding opportunities, and the needs of their offspring to self-stimulate their dopamine system using either electrodes or psychoactive drugs.¹⁸⁹ Extensive parallel discoveries have been made in brain research conducted on rodents and humans; therefore, findings on the rodent dopamine system help to illuminate lawyer willingness to self-medicate with, or become addicted to, substances that activate the dopamine system.¹⁹⁰

When falling glucose levels in a hungry and overworked lawyer create the desire to eat, that desire is registered in the specialized neurons in the emotional brain's ventral tegmental area (VTA) that produce dopamine.¹⁹¹ The VTA neurons have long axons that release dopamine in the thinking brain prefrontal cortex, responsible for planning, judgment, and reasoning.¹⁹² The VTA also releases dopamine in the emotional brain in nucleus accumbens (NAC, which is related to reward and pleasure); the amygdala (emotion); the dorsal striatum (habit learning); and hippocampus (memory processor).¹⁹³ The NAC reacts by releasing an opioid-like peptide neurotransmitter in the VTA, forming a circuit.¹⁹⁴ The dopamine system increases arousal, effort, and activity, and directs motivation toward acquiring an incentive—in this case a meal for the lawyer.¹⁹⁵

If a lawyer is in the habit of eating a large salad while working through dinner, the restaurant near the office that prepares the salad has acquired strong motivational properties: incentive salience.¹⁹⁶ The same is true if the lawyer has a cheeseburger, large french fries, and a huge soda to power through the project. Activation of the dopamine system will inspire the lawyer to call for takeout from somewhere.¹⁹⁷ The food sources in the lawyer's environment have acquired incentive salience, causing the lawyer to notice and be attracted to them.¹⁹⁸ When

¹⁸⁹ LINDEN, *supra* note 164, at 20; Peter B. Shizgal & Steven E. Hyman, *Homeostasis, Motivation, and Addictive States*, in *PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE*, *supra* note 60, at 1095, 1104.

¹⁹⁰ LEDOUX, *supra* note 54, at 220; LINDEN, *supra* note 164, at 16; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 248.

¹⁹¹ WILLIAM A MCKIM & STEPHANIE D. HANCOCK, *DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR: AN INTRODUCTION TO BEHAVIORAL PHARMACOLOGY* 115–19 (7th ed. 2013).

¹⁹² GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 176–77; LINDEN, *supra* note 164, at 16–18.

¹⁹³ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 176–77; HORSTMAN, *DAY IN THE LIFE*, *supra* note 36, at 77; LINDEN, *supra* note 164, at 16–18; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 177.

¹⁹⁴ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 115.

¹⁹⁵ *Id.* at 115, 119; PURVES ET AL., *supra* note 131, at 471.

¹⁹⁶ MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 250.

¹⁹⁷ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 116.

¹⁹⁸ *Id.* at 119.

the lawyer consumes the meal, the VTA releases more dopamine in the NAC, and the source of the meal is registered in the thinking (cortex) and emotional (hippocampus) memory loop.¹⁹⁹ Future late nights at the office will prompt dopamine activation and thus another take out call to the restaurant.²⁰⁰ If the lawyer walks by the restaurant on the way to a meeting, but is not hungry at the time, the dopamine system will be activated due solely to the restaurant's incentive salience.²⁰¹

There is a difference in the reward system between wanting and liking various foods. Natural reinforcers cause the release of dopamine in the NAC.²⁰² Rewards that improve fitness, including food and water, are primary or unconditioned reinforcers.²⁰³ The dopamine system exists to make the lawyer repeat behavior—to want to acquire certain foods, rather than to produce pleasure.²⁰⁴ People who suffer from Parkinson's disease have a dopamine deficiency, yet they do not report experiencing less pleasure than others when eating sweet foods.²⁰⁵ Increasing dopamine in the NAC of Parkinson's patients does not increase pleasure.²⁰⁶ A study on experienced cocaine users, where participants had their dopamine depleted, resulted in less craving (wanting) for cocaine, but no reduction in cocaine-induced euphoria (pleasure).²⁰⁷

Researchers have identified tiny hedonic hotspots in the NAC and ventral pallidum where activation enhances pleasure and where hotspot damage causes displeasure.²⁰⁸ The pleasure reactions in these hotspots are not dependent on dopamine.²⁰⁹ Liking reactions or euphoria are amplified when hedonic hotspots are stimulated by opioids, endocannabinoids, or GABA.²¹⁰ In rodents, delivery of opioids and endocannabinoids to the hotspots increases facial responses that

¹⁹⁹ *Id.* at 116–17.

²⁰⁰ *Id.* at 117.

²⁰¹ *Id.*

²⁰² *Id.* at 119.

²⁰³ PURVES ET AL., *supra* note 131, at 470. Money is considered a secondary reinforcer because it has no intrinsic value but can be utilized to acquire other rewards. *Id.*

²⁰⁴ *Id.*

²⁰⁵ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 118.

²⁰⁶ *Id.*

²⁰⁷ MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 251.

²⁰⁸ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 118.

²⁰⁹ *Id.*

²¹⁰ *Id.*; PURVES ET AL., *supra* note 131, at 472.

indicate pleasure derived from sweet foods.²¹¹ Because the lawyer brain produces naturally occurring opioids and endocannabinoids, those substances are likely responsible for the pleasure experienced in the lawyer brain hotspots, while dopamine appears responsible for the motivation necessary to acquire rewards and to trigger repeat behaviors.²¹²

The broadest definition of the word drug is “any substance that alters the physiology of the body,” which includes food.²¹³ Lawyers suffer from high rates of anxiety and depression, and while some may use antidepressants, others may self-medicate with food.²¹⁴ In one study, ninety-seven percent of women and sixty-eight percent of men detailed experiencing food cravings.²¹⁵ Overindulging with food can be a type of substance misuse.²¹⁶

Over 100 studies found that during the digestion of excess sugar and fats, humans generate endogenous opioids.²¹⁷ Meat, cheese, chocolate, and sucrose from sugar cane or sugar beets all stimulate the release of dopamine and endogenous opioids in the lawyer brain, making them foods at risk of becoming addictive.²¹⁸ Research on animals has shown that intense sweetness from either sugar or artificial sweeteners outperforms cocaine as a desirable reward.²¹⁹ Every dose of a problem food delivers a dopamine hit to the brain and reinforces a future desire for more.²²⁰ Foods with addictive potential include sweets, artificial sweeteners, carbohydrates, fats, sweet/fat combinations, and caffeine.²²¹

Making good food decisions is challenging. It takes as much brain processing power to make inconsequential decisions as it does to make

²¹¹ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 118–19; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 251.

²¹² MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 119; Kyle S. Smith et al., *Ventral Pallidum Roles in Reward and Motivation*, 196 BEHAV. BRAIN RES. 155, 158 (2009).

²¹³ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 1.

²¹⁴ See LEVIT & LINDER, *supra* note 127, at 6; MCCLURG, *supra* note 127, at 315–17; Krieger, *supra* note 127, at 113–15; and Rosen, *supra* note 127, at 161.

²¹⁵ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 164.

²¹⁶ *Id.* at 14.

²¹⁷ *Id.*

²¹⁸ NEAL D. BARNARD, POWER FOODS FOR THE BRAIN 49, 181–83 (1st ed. 2013).

²¹⁹ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 14.

²²⁰ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 189.

²²¹ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 14.

important decisions.²²² Processing a lot of data and making many small decisions causes brain cells to utilize glucose for energy and can produce decision-fatigue.²²³ “Without an adequate intake of all the required essential nutrients, the brain simply cannot function normally.”²²⁴

II

NEURO-DESTRUCTIVE CONDITIONS

A. Aging and Neurodegenerative Diseases

1. Aging

Aging is a universal feature of being human. The growing population of Americans age sixty-five or older was 14.4% in 2013, representing one in every seven, and is projected to rise to 21.7% by 2040.²²⁵ “Aging may be defined as a progressive postmaturational decline in physiological functions, accompanied by an increased susceptibility to disease and mortality risk.”²²⁶ In 2006, sixty-two percent of 1000 Americans surveyed reported greater fear of losing mental capacity than a degradation of physical function.²²⁷ Cognition integrates complex mental processes such as consciousness, attention, knowledge acquisition, memory, and intelligence.²²⁸ These processes depend on synaptic transmission between neurons.²²⁹ Normal aging causes a decrease in the speed of synaptic signaling, which results in declines in learning, recall, and multitasking skills.²³⁰ Cognitive deficits are likely caused by age-related reduction in the volume of brain structures (hippocampus, prefrontal areas, basal forebrain,

²²² Susie East & Ben Tinker, *How to Think Straight in the Age of Information Overload*, CNN (Oct. 9, 2015, 8:18 AM), <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/09/health/information-overload-daniel-levitin/index.html>.

²²³ *Id.*

²²⁴ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 216 (quoting Scottish Neuroendocrinologist David Horrobin, MD).

²²⁵ *Aging Statistics*, ADMIN. FOR CMTY. LIVING, U.S. DEP’T HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS., http://www.aoa.acl.gov/Aging_Statistics/index.aspx (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

²²⁶ Kanti Bhooshan Pandey & Syed Ibrahim Rizvi, *Role of Diet and Exercise in Intervention of Age-Induced Impairments*, in *DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES* 1, 4 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015).

²²⁷ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 75.

²²⁸ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 14.

²²⁹ *Id.*

²³⁰ *Id.*

cerebellum, and caudate nucleus of the basal ganglia), decrease in the number of synapses, and compromised integrity of white matter.²³¹

2. *Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease*

With aging comes the prospect of “losing one’s mind” to impaired cognition ranging from mild cognitive impairment to dementia and finally Alzheimer’s disease.²³² A lawyer with mild cognitive impairment experiences a small amount of cognitive loss, such as slight decline in recall that does not interfere with daily activities.²³³ This lawyer has an increased risk of dementia.²³⁴ Dementia involves a marked and irreversible cognitive decline severe enough to mar daily life, which includes impairment in executive function, attention, concentration, and memory.²³⁵ Executive functions include thoughtful processing, initiating body movement, and the automated processing of information.²³⁶ Decision making is an executive function that requires creating and adapting rules for behavior and applying the appropriate rule for the environment.²³⁷ Executive function relies on a distributed network of brain regions in the thinking brain (parietal cortex, anterior cingulate cortex, basal ganglia) and the emotional brain (thalamus, hippocampus, amygdala, VTA).²³⁸ Episodic (autobiographical) memory decline is associated with hippocampi deterioration, mainly in the left hemisphere.²³⁹ Approximately 1.5% of sixty-five year olds and nearly twenty-five percent of eighty-five year olds in Western Europe, with similar rates in the United States, experience dementia.²⁴⁰

The most common cause of dementia, for nearly seventy percent of elderly patients, is Alzheimer’s disease.²⁴¹ Alzheimer’s has two key features in the brain: increased extracellular amyloid plaque deposits and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles.²⁴² These brain insults,

²³¹ *Id.*; Edwin D. Lephart, *Polyphenols and Cognitive Function*, in NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE 145 (2015); LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 88.

²³² *See* Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 4.

²³³ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 14.

²³⁴ *Id.*

²³⁵ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 14–15.

²³⁶ PURVES ET AL., *supra* note 131, at 429.

²³⁷ *Id.* at 431.

²³⁸ *Id.* at 429, 434–35.

²³⁹ *Id.* at 15.

²⁴⁰ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 4.

²⁴¹ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 15.

²⁴² *Id.*

associated with increased inflammation and oxidative stress, cause neurodegeneration.²⁴³ Cognitive decline can be experienced for over a decade prior to the Alzheimer's diagnosis, highlighting the long and slow progression of Alzheimer's disease.²⁴⁴ Imaging studies show a loss of neurons (brain cells) in the basal forebrain and hippocampus of Alzheimer's patients.²⁴⁵

3. Cardiovascular Disease

Cardiovascular disease includes heart disease and strokes and is caused by inadequate blood supply to the heart and brain.²⁴⁶ When blood flow to the heart is disrupted, the result is often a heart attack, and twenty-five percent of people do not survive their first heart attack.²⁴⁷ If blood flow to the brain is interrupted for a sufficient period of time, a stroke occurs and part of the brain dies.²⁴⁸ It is normal for blood clots to form and break down in blood vessels, but the combination of normal clotting and plaque buildup in the arteries can cause obstructions in the coronary arteries, limiting blood supply to the heart, or blockages in the carotid arteries, diminishing blood supply to the brain.²⁴⁹ The amount of harmful LDL cholesterol present in the blood, which has been altered by free radicals into oxidized LDL, is directly related to the plaque buildup in cardiovascular disease.²⁵⁰

B. Physical Conditions

1. Weight and Obesity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that more than one-third of the adults in the United States are obese.²⁵¹ Obesity

²⁴³ *Id.*

²⁴⁴ *Id.*

²⁴⁵ Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 144–45.

²⁴⁶ SMITH AND COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 189.

²⁴⁷ *Id.*

²⁴⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 189.

²⁴⁹ *Id.* at 190.

²⁵⁰ *Id.*

²⁵¹ Adult Obesity Facts, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017). Seventeen percent of the youth population is also obese. CYNTHIA OGDEN ET AL., JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PREVALENCE OF CHILDHOOD AND ADULT OBESITY IN THE UNITED STATES, 2011-2012 (Feb. 26, 2014), <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1832542>).

increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.²⁵² Obesity is determined by Body Mass Index (BMI), and the ranges include: a normal BMI from 18.5 to < 25; overweight is a BMI of 25 to < 30; and the obese range is a BMI of 30 and higher.²⁵³ BMI can be calculated by inputting height and weight into an online BMI calculator.²⁵⁴

Overconsumption of food can be compared to addiction to substances of abuse, but research on the human diet is complex because it is unethical to severely limit humans to specific diets in the same way scientists can place limits on the diets of research animals.²⁵⁵ Processed foods are developed to be hyperpalatable to overstimulate the brain's reward system. They are not comparable to the foods humans evolved to eat.²⁵⁶ The desire to overconsume food is influenced by the dopamine system, which inspires repeat behavior.²⁵⁷ Hyperpalatable food triggers the release of endogenous opioid and endocannabinoids, which creates the sensation of pleasure.²⁵⁸

To ensure survival, humans evolved to favor foods that are high in fat and sugar. Highly processed foods contain such great quantities of fat and sugar, they create the potential for abuse similar to the misuse of drugs like alcohol or cocaine.²⁵⁹ Addictions are “unusually strong and maladaptive desires to ingest a substance or engage in a behavior despite negative consequences.”²⁶⁰ The same genetic and personality traits commonly found in human addiction to substances are also linked to binge eating disorders and obesity.²⁶¹ Research findings using rats exposed to large amounts of fat and sugar can be applied to humans because of the similarities in their omnivorous diets, brain reward

²⁵² *The State of Obesity 2015*, TRUST FOR AM. HEALTH (Sept. 2015), <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/stateofobesity2015/>.

²⁵³ *Defining Adult Overweight and Obesity*, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1832542> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

²⁵⁴ *Adult BMI Calculator*, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/adult_bmi/english_bmi_calculator/bmi_calculator.html (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

²⁵⁵ Heather M. Francis & Richard J. Stevenson, *The Effect of Western Diet on Cognition in Humans*, in *DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES* 114–15 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015).

²⁵⁶ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 115.

²⁵⁷ *Id.* at 114.

²⁵⁸ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 115.

²⁵⁹ ASHLEY N. GEARHARDT ET AL., *THE ADDICTION POTENTIAL OF HYPERPALATABLE FOODS*, 4(3) *CURRENT DRUG ABUSE REV.*, at 140–42 (2011).

²⁶⁰ GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 141.

²⁶¹ *Id.* at 140.

systems, and drug addiction characteristics (motivation, tolerance, continued use despite negative consequences, and withdrawal).²⁶² Recent animal research indicates that exposure to a high-fat diet during pregnancy alters dopamine and opioid gene expression and causes a preference for hyperpalatable food in offspring.²⁶³

In the twenty-first century, the nutrition paradox describes the societal condition where obesity coexists with malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies.²⁶⁴ This is likely due to the impact of the industrial revolution on the food industry and the processing of plant substances into highly concentrated additives, which are quickly absorbed into the blood stream—very rewarding, and thus addictive.²⁶⁵

Corn is a food that has been consumed by humans for centuries, but refining it into high fructose corn syrup creates a sweet, concentrated simple carbohydrate not found in nature.²⁶⁶ Fructose and alcohol share very similar addictive properties, and alcohol is the fermented byproduct of fructose.²⁶⁷ Excessive consumption of both alcohol and high fructose corn syrup can cause a down-regulation of the dopamine system triggering cravings, increased intake, and withdrawal symptoms when use is suspended.²⁶⁸ Consumption of high levels of fructose promotes insulin resistance and reduces leptin signaling creating sensations of hunger despite energy needs, therefore promoting overconsumption.²⁶⁹

Hyperpalatable foods often contain high fructose corn syrup in combination with other additives such as fat, salt, flavor enhancers, and other sweeteners, all of which serve to intensify the rewarding property of these highly-processed foods.²⁷⁰ Overconsumption of hyperpalatable foods causes high calorie intake combined with low nutrient value, increased portion sizes, elevated tolerance to overconsumption, and disruption of the dopamine system.²⁷¹ In addition to altering the motivation and reward system in the brain,

²⁶² GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 140–41.

²⁶³ *Id.* at 143–44.

²⁶⁴ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 7.

²⁶⁵ GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 141.

²⁶⁶ *Id.*

²⁶⁷ GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 141 (noting that alcohol is also known as ethanol).

²⁶⁸ *Id.*

²⁶⁹ *Id.* at 141–42.

²⁷⁰ *Id.* at 142.

²⁷¹ *Id.*

overeating and weight gain cause damage to the hippocampus in rodent studies.²⁷² Like drug users, overeaters eventually experience increased cravings for hyperpalatable foods (wanting) without the pleasurable reward (liking), thus addiction to food is extremely similar to addiction to drugs of abuse.²⁷³ Individuals who are concerned about food addiction can download the Yale Food Addiction Scale and Scoring Sheet and assess their risk.²⁷⁴ Applying an addiction perspective to weight and obesity problems should assist lawyers in understanding why weight loss is so difficult and inform public policy on healthy diet practices, the impact of inexpensive hyperpalatable foods on underprivileged populations, and the goal of limiting food additives, just as drugs of abuse have been curbed in Western society.²⁷⁵

2. Blood Sugar, Insulin Resistance, and Glycation

All carbohydrates are broken down into glucose, which is the substance that is tested for blood sugar.²⁷⁶ Glucose is the energy source for the body's brain cells, and insulin unlocks the cells so the glucose can enter.²⁷⁷ The ideal meal allows blood sugar and insulin to rise and recede gradually.²⁷⁸ Consumption of simple sugars causes a spike in blood sugar and a flood of insulin.²⁷⁹ Excess insulin causes a body to use glucose for energy all the time, rather than burning fat, which makes weight control very challenging.²⁸⁰ Routinely eating simple sugars creates a demand for more insulin to normalize blood sugar, and eventually that body becomes insulin resistant, which gives way to diabetes.²⁸¹

Type 2 diabetes is often associated with cognitive impairment, and a study of fifty to ninety year olds found that both insulin-dependent and non-insulin-dependent diabetics scored lower on cognitive tests of

²⁷² Akhlaq A. Farooqui & Tahira Farooqui, *Neurochemical Effects of Western Diet Consumption on Human Brain*, in *DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES* 15, 19 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015).

²⁷³ GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 142–43.

²⁷⁴ Ashley N. Gearhardt, William R. Corbin & Kelly D. Brownell, *Yale Food Addiction Scale*, MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT DATABASE FOR THE SOC. SCIS. (2009), <http://www.midss.org/content/yale-food-addiction-scale-yfas>.

²⁷⁵ GEARHARDT ET AL., *supra* note 259, at 143–44.

²⁷⁶ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 18.

²⁷⁷ *Id.*

²⁷⁸ *Id.* at 18–19.

²⁷⁹ *Id.* at 19.

²⁸⁰ *Id.*

²⁸¹ *Id.*

intellectual ability and verbal memory than control participants.²⁸² Early detection of diabetes risk and effective diabetes treatment may prevent or delay this cognitive decline.²⁸³

Consumption of high-sugar snacks and meals results in short-term attention and memory problems in healthy adults and children.²⁸⁴ Rats exposed to long-term high-sugar diets exhibit learning and memory deficits.²⁸⁵ Consistent intake of high-sugar foods maintains high blood glucose levels and increases the risk of glycation.²⁸⁶

Glycation is a normal progression where glucose reacts with protein in the body to form glucose-protein molecules called advanced glycation end products (AGEs).²⁸⁷ AGEs are debris that are resistant to the body's restorative processes, and their formation is irreversible.²⁸⁸ AGEs are responsible for inflammation, aging, joint stiffness, kidney problems, cataracts, plaque buildup and hardening of arteries, and compromised brain cells and neuron connections.²⁸⁹ In Alzheimer's patients, there are triple the number of AGEs than in normal brains, and they are accumulated in the amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles.²⁹⁰

Elevated blood sugar creates more AGEs than normal, accelerating aging.²⁹¹ Carbohydrates cause AGEs to form, and foods that create the largest spike in blood sugar trigger the greatest AGE formation.²⁹² Foods that contain the highest levels of preformed AGEs are meat and cheese; cured meats (e.g., bacon, sausage, pepperoni, and hot dogs) and meats cooked at high temperatures (like by frying or broiling) represent the highest risk.²⁹³

²⁸² LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 87.

²⁸³ *Id.*

²⁸⁴ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 112.

²⁸⁵ *Id.*

²⁸⁶ WILLIAM DAVIS, WHEAT BELLY: LOSE THE WHEAT, LOSE THE WEIGHT, AND FIND YOUR PATH BACK TO HEALTH 133–35 (2011).

²⁸⁷ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 133–34; Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 20.

²⁸⁸ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 133–35.

²⁸⁹ *Id.* at 133–34; BRANT CORTRIGHT, THE NEUROGENESIS DIET & LIFESTYLE: UPGRADE YOUR BRAIN, UPGRADE YOUR LIFE 87 (2015).

²⁹⁰ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 136.

²⁹¹ *Id.* at 135–37.

²⁹² *Id.* at 140.

²⁹³ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 140–41; CORTRIGHT, *supra* note 289, at 89.

Reducing AGE exposure promotes good health and longevity, especially since hemoglobin glycation is irreversible.²⁹⁴ The HbA1c blood test evaluates AGE formation by determining glycation rate.²⁹⁵ A lawyer with a low or normal BMI who limits carbs will have 4.0 to 4.8% of all hemoglobin glycated, expressed on the HbA1c test result as a range of 4.0 to 4.8.²⁹⁶ Normal HbA1c range is 5.0 to 6.4 and the diabetes threshold is 6.5, although some diabetics have eight to twelve percent glycated hemoglobin.²⁹⁷ About seventy percent of Americans have HbA1c levels between 5.0 and 6.9, and for every one percent HbA1c increase there is a twenty-eight percent increased risk of death.²⁹⁸

While all carbs raise blood sugar, wheat products skyrocket blood sugar to near diabetic levels.²⁹⁹ Wheat constitutes about twenty percent of all calories consumed worldwide and is second only to corn in farmland planted.³⁰⁰ Fifty years of genetic engineering have increased the wheat crop yield and created new gluten proteins.³⁰¹ Hybridization of wheat has produced a supercarb made up of seventy-five percent amylopectin A, the most digestible form of amylopectin, giving wheat bread the power to raise blood glucose more than table sugar.³⁰² The startling consequence of modern engineered wheat is that wheat products raise blood sugar higher than nearly every other carbohydrate.³⁰³ Consumption of wheat products triggers high insulin levels, greater fat deposits, inflammation, and a hunger cycle that features fatigue and mental fog when blood sugar drops.³⁰⁴

Lawyers seeking to lower blood sugar should consider reducing wheat products. Giving up wheat could be very challenging for some people because wheat polypeptides (also called exorphins) bind to opiate receptors in the brain.³⁰⁵ Scientists know this because in research animals, naloxone, the drug that knocks opiates off their receptors and blocks their action also prevents the effects of wheat-

²⁹⁴ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 134, 140–41.

²⁹⁵ *Id.* at 142.

²⁹⁶ *See id.* at 142.

²⁹⁷ *Id.*

²⁹⁸ *Id.*

²⁹⁹ *Id.* at 139.

³⁰⁰ *Id.* at 13.

³⁰¹ *Id.* at 14, 18, 25.

³⁰² *Id.* at 31–34.

³⁰³ *Id.* at 35.

³⁰⁴ *Id.* at 35–36.

³⁰⁵ *Id.* at 48–49.

derived exorphins.³⁰⁶ In humans, naloxone reduces food cravings, appetite, and calorie consumption.³⁰⁷ Decreasing consumption of high Glycemic Index carbs and preformed AGEs (cured meats, cheese, and meats cooked at high temperatures) will help stave off rising glycation HbA1c numbers.³⁰⁸ Controlling AGE formation is also important because high levels of AGEs lead to greater inflammation and oxidative stress.³⁰⁹

3. Inflammation

Inflammation is the body's normal immune response to injury or germs.³¹⁰ Inflammation often increases with age.³¹¹ Low-grade chronic inflammation is at the root of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, autoimmune diseases, and contributes to depression and cognitive deterioration.³¹²

Inflammation is triggered by being overweight, consuming high-caloric meals, and eating the Western Diet, including a high intake of processed foods, refined carbohydrates, and bad fats (animal fat; trans fats; and corn, safflower, sunflower, and sesame oils).³¹³ Other factors that cause inflammation are stress, inadequate sleep, insufficient physical activity, and Vitamin D deficiency.³¹⁴

Reducing inflammation has been correlated with memory improvement.³¹⁵ The first steps a lawyer can take to reduce inflammation are to control stress and limit sugar intake.³¹⁶ Diets rich in Omega-3 fatty acids and fruits and vegetables, which are high in

³⁰⁶ *Id.* at 49.

³⁰⁷ *Id.* at 51.

³⁰⁸ *Id.* at 140–41; CORTRIGHT, *supra* note 289, at 89.

³⁰⁹ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 138.

³¹⁰ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 19–20.

³¹¹ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 26.

³¹² BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 20; LESLIE KORN, NUTRITION ESSENTIALS FOR MENTAL HEALTH: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE FOOD-MOOD CONNECTION 3 (2016).

³¹³ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 20; KORN, *supra* note 312, at 2.

³¹⁴ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 3.

³¹⁵ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 26.

³¹⁶ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 3–4.

antioxidants, decrease inflammation.³¹⁷ Regular exercise also reduces inflammation.³¹⁸

4. *Oxidative Stress*

Alzheimer's disease involves both inflammation and oxidation, but researchers do not know whether these conditions are a cause or an effect.³¹⁹ One theory of brain aging posits that the brain suffers from the progressive inability to prevent inflammation and oxidative stress.³²⁰

Oxidation is the process in which atoms and molecules lose electrons as they touch other atoms and molecules.³²¹ Car rust and the browning of cut fruit are examples of oxidation.³²² Oxidation is beneficial when it facilitates energy transfer or transforms harmful substances into water-soluble waste that is eliminated during urination.³²³

Excess oxidation creates free radicals that hasten aging, stimulate cancer, and rupture plaques which can cause heart attacks and strokes.³²⁴ Extensive metabolic activity and production of free radicals occur in the brain.³²⁵ The brain is highly susceptible to oxidative stress due to its high metabolic load and rate of oxygen consumption.³²⁶ The plasma membranes of neurons are made up of long-chain fatty acids (DHA), which are highly oxidizable.³²⁷ Thus, the phospholipids in neuron membranes are vulnerable to damage from free radicals.³²⁸ The generation of free radicals is a normal part of human metabolism, but surplus free radicals lead to interference of neuron functioning, disruption of signaling, and brain cell death.³²⁹ A meta-analysis of the research on the presence of oxidative stress in psychiatric disorders

³¹⁷ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 26; Adrian L. Lopresti, *Contribution of Diet and Exercise in the Pathogenesis of Major Depression*, in *DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES* 96–97 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015).

³¹⁸ Lopresti, *supra* note 317, at 99.

³¹⁹ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 89.

³²⁰ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 30.

³²¹ THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 9.

³²² *Id.*

³²³ *Id.*

³²⁴ *Id.*

³²⁵ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 89.

³²⁶ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 27.

³²⁷ *Id.*

³²⁸ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 97, 190.

³²⁹ *Id.* at 89.

concluded that the majority of those disorders are associated with increased oxidation.³³⁰

High-protein diets may promote free radical production.³³¹ Plants produce free radicals during photosynthesis, but plants also contain antioxidants, which bind to and neutralize free radicals.³³² When lawyers eat plants with antioxidants, they are protected against free radicals, while beneficial oxidation is left unaffected.³³³ Antioxidants protect against free radical damage to neurons.³³⁴ The following nutrients have been shown to reduce oxidative stress and improve cognitive performance: Vitamin C, Vitamin E, DHA, beta-Carotene, and selenium.³³⁵ Animals that are fed antioxidants have superior learning capacity and memory retention.³³⁶ Other foods rich in antioxidants are listed in Part V.

5. Metals and Oxidation

Copper, iron, and zinc are metals that are needed by the body but, in excess, can harm brain cells and accelerate aging.³³⁷ These metals form free radicals, the highly unstable and destructive oxygen molecules that attack healthy cells.³³⁸ People with less copper and iron in their blood have fewer memory and cognitive difficulties.³³⁹ Excess copper impairs attention, learning, and memory.³⁴⁰ Surplus or insufficient iron levels cause cognitive impairment.³⁴¹ Research indicates that people who consume unhealthy fats (saturated fat or partially hydrogenated oils) in combination with excess copper have the cognitive function of people nineteen years older than their chronological age.³⁴²

Copper, iron, and zinc are also found in the beta-amyloid plaques of patients with Alzheimer's disease.³⁴³ Copper and iron promote the

³³⁰ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 190–91.

³³¹ THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 9.

³³² *Id.* at 10.

³³³ *Id.*

³³⁴ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 89.

³³⁵ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 27.

³³⁶ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 89.

³³⁷ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 25.

³³⁸ *Id.*

³³⁹ *Id.* at 25–26.

³⁴⁰ *Id.* at 28.

³⁴¹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 29–30.

³⁴² *Id.* at 27, 50–51; LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 86.

³⁴³ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 30; LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 91.

creation of free radicals, and zinc causes beta-amyloid proteins to bunch together to form plaques.³⁴⁴ Potentially harmful amounts of copper and iron are ingested from copper plumbing, cookware, fortified cereals, meats, and supplements that contain minerals.³⁴⁵ Plants contain nonheme iron, which has the equilibrium-promoting feature of providing needed iron to the brain and body while limiting excess.³⁴⁶ Phytic acid in plants also limits the amount of copper and zinc a lawyer's body absorbs.³⁴⁷ Exercise and donating blood help rid the body of excess iron.³⁴⁸

Aluminum, a metal that offers no nutritional value, has been found in the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease.³⁴⁹ Researchers disagree about whether a causal relationship exists, but regardless, aluminum is considered a neurotoxin.³⁵⁰ Since there is no benefit to ingesting aluminum, avoid it in cookware, soda cans, foil, frozen pizza cheese, pickle relish, single-serving creamers and salt packets, and choose aluminum-free baking powder, antacids, and antiperspirants.³⁵¹

Table 1. Metal Amounts Needed Daily³⁵²

Metals	Recommended Daily	Sources
Copper	.09 mg	Beans, leafy green vegetables, nuts, whole grains, and mushrooms.
Iron	8 mg adults over 50 18 mg adults 19 to 50	Leafy green vegetables, nuts, whole grains, and dried fruits.
Zinc	8 mg for women 11 mg for men	Oatmeal, whole-grain bread, brown rice, peanuts, beans, nuts, peas, and sesame seeds.

C. Emotional Conditions

The World Health Organization defines mental health "as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential,

³⁴⁴ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 30–31.

³⁴⁵ *Id.* at 31–34.

³⁴⁶ *Id.*

³⁴⁷ *Id.* at 35.

³⁴⁸ *Id.* at 43.

³⁴⁹ *Id.* at 36–38.

³⁵⁰ *Id.* at 39.

³⁵¹ *Id.* at 39–42.

³⁵² *Id.* at 36.

can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.”³⁵³ Two types of psychological well-being are hedonic (short-term pleasures evoked by the senses) and eudaimonic (longer-term positive states such as feelings of satisfaction or gratitude).³⁵⁴ Six components of eudaimonic well-being are autonomy, environmental mastery, self-acceptance, personal growth, purpose in life, and positive relationships with others.³⁵⁵

Emotion is an acute, specific perception, felt in response to an event.³⁵⁶ Mood, as defined by psychologists, is a positive or negative emotional state that varies in intensity, is modified in response to life’s circumstances, and is often expressed in terms of valence³⁵⁷ and activation (feeling sleepy or awake, energized or fatigued).³⁵⁸

At any given time, a lawyer’s mental status falls somewhere on a continuum between mental health and mental illness.³⁵⁹ A lawyer’s nutritional status also rests on a continuum between optimal physical health and disease, and the totality of a lawyer’s circumstances may be described as quality of life.³⁶⁰

1. Stress

Four of the six primary emotions are adverse: fear, anger, sadness, and disgust.³⁶¹ Jeansok Kim and David Diamond derived a three-part test to describe stress: (1) there must be a physiological response to the stressor that is measurable by another person; (2) the stressor must be perceived as detrimental; and (3) there is a lack of control over the

³⁵³ *Mental Health: A State of Well-Being*, WORLD HEALTH ORG., http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/mental_health/en/ (last updated Aug. 2014).

³⁵⁴ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 186.

³⁵⁵ *Id.*

³⁵⁶ Maria A. Polak et al., *Measuring Mood: Considerations and Innovations for Nutrition Science*, in NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE 96–97 (2015).

³⁵⁷ *Valence*, WEBSTER’S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY (3d ed. 1986) (defining valence as “the degree of attractiveness an individual, activity, or object possesses as a behavioral goal”).

³⁵⁸ Polak et al., *supra* note 356, at 96–97.

³⁵⁹ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at xxvi.

³⁶⁰ *Id.* at xxvi–xxvii.

³⁶¹ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 127; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 208.

stressor.³⁶² Stress has also been defined as the perception that demands exceed the physical and mental resources available to address them.³⁶³

Stress may result in some combination of irritability, anxiety, anger, and depression.³⁶⁴ Law students are more than twice as likely as other students to be diagnosed with anxiety, and lawyers suffer from depression at rates 3.6 times higher than other employed adults.³⁶⁵ Lawyers suffer from serious well-being problems in addition to anxiety and depression (suicide risk, substance abuse, and mental illness),³⁶⁶ but they do not exhibit these disorders prior to law school.³⁶⁷

The fight-or-flight stress response was very helpful when humans needed to escape from predators, but it can be maladaptive in law school or law practice.³⁶⁸ Acute stress, the kind meant to help evade predators, is short lived and designed to marshal resources to deal with an intellectual or physical challenge.³⁶⁹ Chronic stress is long lasting and is experienced during life's most exacerbating demands.³⁷⁰ Long-term stress can cause irritability, anxiety, panic attacks, or depression, and the physical effects include breathlessness, dizziness, muscle tension, sweating, chills, abdominal discomfort, increased blood pressure, heart palpitations, and chest pain.³⁷¹ Persistent stress response damages the lawyer body (impaired immune system, compromised digestive system, cardiovascular risk); mental state (anxiety, depression); and brain (hippocampus, amygdala) and impairs cognitive performance.³⁷²

³⁶² See MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 173–74.

³⁶³ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 189–90.

³⁶⁴ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 190.

³⁶⁵ Lekan Oguntoyinbo, *Battling Mental Illness in the Legal Profession*, DIVERSITY AND THE BAR, Apr. 2015, at 19; Martin E. P. Seligman, *Why are Lawyers So Unhappy?*, LAWYERS WITH DEPRESSION (Nov. 16, 2012), <http://www.lawyerswithdepression.com/articles/why-are-lawyers-so-unhappy/>.

³⁶⁶ Martin Seligman et al., *Why Lawyers Are Unhappy*, 23 CARDOZO L. REV. 33, 36–37 (2001).

³⁶⁷ Lawrence S. Krieger, *Institutional Denial About the Dark Side of Law School, and Fresh Empirical Guidance for Constructively Breaking the Silence*, 52 J. LEGAL EDUC. 112, 113–15 (2002).

³⁶⁸ See Gore, *supra* note 131, at 803; see SAPOLSKY, *supra* note 68, at 12.

³⁶⁹ PERLMUTTER & VILLOLDO, *supra* note 49, at 59.

³⁷⁰ *Id.*; see LITOWITZ, *supra* note 127, at 10, 19.

³⁷¹ See CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 232.

³⁷² SHAWN TALBOTT, THE CORTISOL CONNECTION: WHY STRESS MAKES YOU FAT AND RUINS YOUR HEALTH—AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT 22 (2007); HANSON, *supra* note 142, at 5260; RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 67–71; see DEVI, *supra* note 141, at 83–86.

Researcher and cell biologist Bruce H. Lipton argues that when cells are subjected to the fight-or-flight stress response, they are less able to absorb nutrients because their response is to protect themselves by blocking access.³⁷³ The protect-and-defend condition constricts blood vessels in the digestive system and inhibits the immune system.³⁷⁴ People with gastrointestinal disorders are at higher risk for psychological illnesses than physical illnesses, and digestive system problems may compromise nutritional status by altering food selection, nutrient intake, and/or nutrient absorption.³⁷⁵

One theory gaining support on the impact of stress on the brain is that the suppression of neuron growth from exposure to stress hormones is the source of depression because the hippocampus (emotional brain) and prefrontal cortex (thinking brain) shrink in chronically depressed people.³⁷⁶

2. Depression

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, more women suffer from depression than men, and depression puts people at risk of suicide.³⁷⁷ A landmark study conducted by the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and the American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs had 12,825 licensed and employed lawyer participants and found twenty-three percent of attorneys were experiencing stress, nineteen percent had symptoms of anxiety, 20.6% were actively problem drinking, and twenty-eight percent were suffering from depression.³⁷⁸ Over the course of their legal careers, sixty-one percent of attorneys had experienced anxiety, forty-six percent had dealt with depression, and 11.5% had suicidal thoughts.³⁷⁹

³⁷³ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 210–11.

³⁷⁴ *Id.* at 211.

³⁷⁵ *Id.* at 192.

³⁷⁶ *Id.* at 211.

³⁷⁷ *Depression Fact Sheet*, WORLD HEALTH ORG., <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs369/en/> (last updated Feb. 2017) (stating that approximately 300 million people from around the world suffer from depression and over 800,000 people commit suicide each year).

³⁷⁸ Patrick Krill, Ryan Johnson & Linda Albert, *The Prevalence of Substance Use and Other Mental Health Concerns Among American Attorneys*, J. OF ADDICTION MED. VOL. 10, Jan. Feb. 2016, at 46–51, http://journals.lww.com/journaladdictionmedicine/Fulltext/2016/02000/The_Prevalence_of_Substance_Use_and_Other_Mental.8.aspx. Men suffered from higher rates of depression, and women from anxiety and stress. *Id.* at 49.

³⁷⁹ *Id.* at 50.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, symptoms of depression include difficulty with concentration, memory, and decision making; fatigue or low energy levels; feeling irritable, anxious, sad, pessimistic, hopeless, worthless, or helpless; decreased interest in or pleasure from activities or hobbies; sleep difficulties; appetite and/or weight changes; pain, digestive problems, and headaches without a clear physical cause that do not resolve with treatment; and/or suicidal thoughts or attempts.³⁸⁰

In 2013, suicide was the tenth leading cause of death for Americans of all ages, and there were 113 suicides each day, translating to one every thirteen minutes.³⁸¹ Suicide rates have grown by sixty percent worldwide in the last forty-five years.³⁸² According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lawyers rank fourth in suicide rates compared to other professions, preceded only by dentists, pharmacists, and doctors.³⁸³ Lawyers suffer from depression at rates 3.6 times higher than other employed adults, and depression is linked to risk of suicide.³⁸⁴

Attorney Ken Jameson killed himself in 2011 at age fifty-eight, after a six-month bout of depression, despite generating a good income and a having strong marriage.³⁸⁵ In 2012, Finis Price III, a successful lawyer and popular professor at Chase Law School at Northern Kentucky University, jumped to his death at age thirty-seven.³⁸⁶ Lawyer Harry Rankin, fifty-eight, hanged himself while being treated for depression.³⁸⁷ Dave Nee was a well-loved law school graduate who took his own life while studying for the bar exam.³⁸⁸ In July 2014, Cheryl Hanna, a law professor at Vermont Law School, shot and killed herself with a handgun purchased the day before and soon after a nine-

³⁸⁰ *Depression Definition*, NAT'L INST. OF MENTAL HEALTH, <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

³⁸¹ *Suicide: Facts at a Glance*, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (2015), <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicide-datasheet-a.pdf>.

³⁸² LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 125.

³⁸³ Rosa Flores & Rose Marie Arce, *Why Are Lawyers Killing Themselves*, CNN (Jan. 20, 2014, 2:42 PM), <http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/19/us/lawyer-suicides/>.

³⁸⁴ Martin E. P. Seligman, *Why are Lawyers So Unhappy?*, LAWYERS WITH DEPRESSION (Nov. 16, 2012), <http://www.lawyerswithdepression.com/articles/why-are-lawyers-so-unhappy/>; *Depression Fact Sheet*, WORLD HEALTH ORG., <http://www.who.int/media/centre/factsheets/fs369/en/> (last updated Feb. 2017).

³⁸⁵ Flores & Arce, *supra* note 383.

³⁸⁶ *Id.*

³⁸⁷ *Id.*

³⁸⁸ *History*, DAVE NEE FOUNDATION, <http://www.daveneefoundation.org/history/> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

day hospitalization for depression.³⁸⁹ A respected domestic violence scholar, Hanna had been worried that she would be stigmatized if her depression became public and that her adversaries would use her illness against her.³⁹⁰

Both neurogenesis (the birth of new brain cells in the hippocampus) and neuroplasticity are impaired in people suffering from depression.³⁹¹ Research has discovered changes in the hippocampus and hypothalamus, as well as lower levels of BDNF, in depressed research participants.³⁹²

There is a relationship between diet and depression. Consumption of a Western diet increases the risk of depression, while the Mediterranean Diet is associated with a lower depression risk.³⁹³ Diet and depression have a bidirectional relationship: diet quality impacts depression symptoms and depression influences food selection.³⁹⁴ For example, the more calories, saturated fat, and salt eaten by college students, the poorer their mood two days later.³⁹⁵

Studies have shown that people with depression have low levels of folate (the supplement is known as folic acid), Vitamin B₁₂, Vitamin D, and Omega-3, and high levels of plasma homocysteine.³⁹⁶ Depressed research participants have presented with lower levels of Vitamin B₆ and Vitamin B₁₂ than control participants.³⁹⁷ Approximately ten to twenty percent of people in their late sixties and older are B₁₂ deficient, and vegetarians may be at risk for Vitamin B₁₂ deficiency.³⁹⁸ Affective symptoms of Vitamin B₁₂ deficiency include irritability, mood swings, apathy, and sleepiness, and cognitive symptoms include concentration, memory problems, and sluggish thinking.³⁹⁹

Research indicates that populations with higher consumption of Omega-3 fatty acids experience lower rates of depression, and fatty acid analysis of red blood cells showed a significant depletion of

³⁸⁹ Oguntoyinbo, *supra* note 365, at 19.

³⁹⁰ *Id.* at 19.

³⁹¹ Lopresti, *supra* note 317, at 94.

³⁹² *Id.*

³⁹³ *Id.* at 94–95.

³⁹⁴ *Id.*

³⁹⁵ *Id.* at 95.

³⁹⁶ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 98, 101, 107–09, 116.

³⁹⁷ *Id.* at 101, 107, 191.

³⁹⁸ *Id.* at 200.

³⁹⁹ *Id.*

Omega-3 fatty acids in patients with depression.⁴⁰⁰ Research participants with depression have also shown higher ratios of Omega-6 to Omega-3 than control participants.⁴⁰¹ Elderly, depressed women who were treated with Omega-3 supplements showed a significant decrease in depression symptoms and a significant improvement in their quality of life.⁴⁰² Ethyl-eicosapentaenoate (EPA) supplementation has been shown to decrease depression symptoms including anxiety, fatigue, sleep problems, libido issues, and suicidality.⁴⁰³

III NUTRITION

Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.
—Hippocrates⁴⁰⁴

Ancient Indian and Chinese healers, and Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, believed good health could be achieved with the appropriate diet.⁴⁰⁵ Medicine moved away from nutrition-based recommendations with the scientific discoveries of the Industrial Revolution.⁴⁰⁶ In the mid-1980s, medical education returned nutrition to the curriculum, and about two-thirds of American medical schools currently incorporate nutrition courses.⁴⁰⁷ Nutrition is a modifiable lifestyle element that can support brain health and improve cognitive function.⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰⁰ *Id.* at 98.

⁴⁰¹ *Id.* at 101.

⁴⁰² *Id.* at 102.

⁴⁰³ *Id.* at 100.

⁴⁰⁴ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 10.

⁴⁰⁵ *Id.* at 7.

⁴⁰⁶ *Id.* at 8 (noting that medical advances include pasteurization, vaccinations, antibiotics, anesthesia, and surgical techniques).

⁴⁰⁷ *Id.* at 8–9.

⁴⁰⁸ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5.

A. Nutrition and Digestive System Basics

Nutrition is the master key to human health.

–T. Colin Campbell⁴⁰⁹

Nutrition is defined as “the process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth;”⁴¹⁰ “the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances;”⁴¹¹ or “the science that links food to health and disease.”⁴¹² Food supplies energy for lawyers in the form of calories and the building block nutrients that create and maintain cells.⁴¹³

A nutrient is essential if it supports at least one specific biological function, if elimination of the nutrient leads to a decline in biological function(s), and if restoration of the withheld nutrient, prior to any permanent damage, restores biological function(s).⁴¹⁴ The essential nutrients are carbohydrates, proteins, lipids (also known as fats), water, vitamins, and minerals.⁴¹⁵ Carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids are macronutrients because they are needed in large amounts (measured in grams), and vitamins and minerals are micronutrients because they are needed in small amounts (measured in milligrams or micrograms).⁴¹⁶ People consume about one pound of protein, lipid, and carbohydrate; four teaspoons of minerals; and $\frac{1}{15}$ of a teaspoon of vitamins per day.⁴¹⁷

The body’s digestive system extracts nutrients from food and disposes of waste.⁴¹⁸ The digestive tract runs from the lips to the anus and is about thirty feet long.⁴¹⁹ Its major components are the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine.⁴²⁰ Food is moistened and broken into smaller pieces in the mouth.⁴²¹ After food

⁴⁰⁹ T. COLIN CAMPBELL, *WHOLE: RETHINKING THE SCIENCE OF NUTRITION* xii (2014).

⁴¹⁰ *Nutrition*, OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY (2d 1989).

⁴¹¹ *Nutrition*, WEBSTER’S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY (3d ed. 1986).

⁴¹² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 8.

⁴¹³ *See id.*

⁴¹⁴ *Id.*

⁴¹⁵ DONNA SHRYER & STEPHEN DAWSON, *BODY FUEL: A GUIDE TO GOOD NUTRITION* 7 (2010); MELVIN H. WILLIAMS, *NUTRITION FOR HEALTH, FITNESS & SPORT* 38 (8th ed. 2007); SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 10.

⁴¹⁶ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 11.

⁴¹⁷ *Id.* at 13–14.

⁴¹⁸ KARA ROGERS, *THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM* 117 (2011).

⁴¹⁹ SHRYER & DAWSON, *supra* note 415, at 5; ROGERS, *supra* note 418, at 19.

⁴²⁰ ROGERS, *supra* note 418, at 19.

⁴²¹ *Id.* at 24.

is swallowed, it travels about ten inches down a muscular tube, called the esophagus, to the stomach.⁴²² In the stomach, food is mixed with gastric juices, made smaller and more soluble, and released periodically into the small intestine.⁴²³ The pancreas, gallbladder, and liver release fluids to aid with digestion.⁴²⁴ When food particles become small enough, they are transported into the bloodstream through the intestinal wall.⁴²⁵ When all the nutrients have been absorbed from the food, the remaining waste moves to the end of the large intestine and is excreted.⁴²⁶ Digestion processes food to enable nutrients to reach the bloodstream and be distributed to cells.⁴²⁷

The parasympathetic rest-and-digest system normally controls digestive function.⁴²⁸ Stress engages the sympathetic fight-or-flight system, slowing or stopping digestion and causing hiccups, heartburn, nausea, diarrhea, and constipation.⁴²⁹ Controlling stress promotes healthy digestion.⁴³⁰ Mindful eating is a technique that can reduce stress and aid digestion and includes eating in a relaxed manner and in calm, stress-free places; breathing slowly and deliberately during a meal; eating with others and expressing gratitude; limiting meals at your desk, computer, and tv; and taking the first step in digestion seriously, and thoroughly chewing your food.⁴³¹

The human body relies on the synchronization of many highly structured organ systems composed of trillions of cells.⁴³² Cells combine to form tissues and tissues combine to form organs.⁴³³ A person's overall nutritional status determines how well each organ functions.⁴³⁴ Cells undergo a consistent chemical process of production of new substances and breakdown of older substances, both of which

⁴²² *Id.* at 43.

⁴²³ *Id.* at 47.

⁴²⁴ *Id.* at 57.

⁴²⁵ *Id.*

⁴²⁶ *Id.* at 58.

⁴²⁷ *Id.* at 118.

⁴²⁸ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 31.

⁴²⁹ *Id.* at 30–31.

⁴³⁰ *Id.*

⁴³¹ *Id.* at 13–14, 31–34.

⁴³² SMITH AND COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 78.

⁴³³ *Id.*

⁴³⁴ *Id.*

require energy from carbohydrate, protein, lipid, water, minerals, and vitamins.⁴³⁵ A healthy diet properly fuels the body's cells.⁴³⁶

Metabolism consists of all the chemical processes by which nutrients are utilized to support life.⁴³⁷ During these processes, the body releases and uses energy from food, synthesizes substances from others, and prepares waste for excretion.⁴³⁸ Metabolism has two functions: the building up of substances (anabolism) and the tearing down of substances (catabolism).⁴³⁹ Metabolism takes place in each cell when either a catabolic reaction releases energy by breaking down a nutrient into smaller component or an anabolic process, such as when proteins are built from amino acids.⁴⁴⁰ Other anabolic processes include the formation of hormones and enzymes, and the growth of bone and muscle tissue.⁴⁴¹

Each cell has an inner and outer structure.⁴⁴² The cell exterior is a cell membrane consisting of a double-layer of lipid, cholesterol, protein, and carbohydrate.⁴⁴³ Inside the cell, compartments and particles, called organelles, perform specialized functions.⁴⁴⁴ The liquid inside the cell is the cytoplasm, where a small amount of energy is produced by anaerobic metabolism, a chemical process that does not require oxygen.⁴⁴⁵ This process aids the survival of all cells and is the only source of energy production in red blood cells.⁴⁴⁶ Mitochondria, the cell's power plants, convert food energy to a form of energy cells can use via aerobic metabolism, which uses oxygen.⁴⁴⁷

Energy from the sun is captured by plants, which take carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen from their environment and produce carbohydrates, lipids, or proteins.⁴⁴⁸ The digestive system breaks down

⁴³⁵ *Id.*

⁴³⁶ *Id.*

⁴³⁷ KAREN EICH DRUMMOND & LISA M. BREFERE, NUTRITION FOR FOODSERVICE AND CULINARY PROFESSIONALS 18 (7th ed. 2010).

⁴³⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 81.

⁴³⁹ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 18.

⁴⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴⁴¹ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 91.

⁴⁴² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 80.

⁴⁴³ *Id.* at 79–80.

⁴⁴⁴ *See id.* at 79–81 (stating that organelles include: cell nucleus, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi complex, lysosomes, and peroxisomes).

⁴⁴⁵ *Id.* at 80.

⁴⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁴⁸ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 86.

these foods into simple compounds that are transformed by cells into energy for immediate or delayed use.⁴⁴⁹ The main fuel for the brain is glucose, which is supplied by carbohydrates.⁴⁵⁰ Other brain fuels include amino acids which form the neurotransmitters serotonin, norepinephrine, and epinephrine; calcium needed for the release of neurotransmitters; and Vitamin B₁₂, which helps to form the insulating myelin sheath.⁴⁵¹

The digestive system has been described as the second brain because it produces many of the neurotransmitters used by the body.⁴⁵² The second brain digestive system also utilizes over thirty neurotransmitters.⁴⁵³ Food consumption is regulated largely by dopamine and serotonin, and ninety-five percent of the body's serotonin is found in the digestive system.⁴⁵⁴ The digestive tract contains bacteria that must remain in balance for optimal functioning—this environment is called the microbiome.⁴⁵⁵ A healthy level of beneficial bacteria supports stress regulation and maintains levels of GABA, the neurotransmitter that reduces anxiety.⁴⁵⁶ Beneficial gut bacteria promotes intestinal tract function, a healthy immune system, and weight control.⁴⁵⁷

Prebiotic foods such as onions, garlic, leeks, asparagus, bananas, beans, agave, chia, and chicory root create conditions where healthy bacteria can flourish in the digestive system.⁴⁵⁸ Probiotics are the beneficial bacteria required in a healthy digestive system that work to improve the immune system and prevent infection and inflammation.⁴⁵⁹ Probiotic bacteria produce GABA, serotonin, B Vitamins, folate, and Vitamin K.⁴⁶⁰ Probiotics can be consumed from supplements or from fermented foods like yogurt and cheese with live cultures, brewer's yeast, sauerkraut, kombucha, kimchi, miso, and

⁴⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁵⁰ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 89.

⁴⁵¹ *Id.* at 88–89.

⁴⁵² KORN, *supra* note 312, at 12, 29.

⁴⁵³ *Id.* at 32.

⁴⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵⁵ *Id.* at 48.

⁴⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁵⁷ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 176.

⁴⁵⁸ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 51.

⁴⁵⁹ *Id.* at 52.

⁴⁶⁰ *Id.*

micro-algae.⁴⁶¹ Kefir, a yogurt-type tangy drink, is high in protein, calcium, and healthy bacteria.⁴⁶²

The body stores nutrients in various locations. Fat is stored in specialized cells in adipose tissue, and carbohydrate is stored short-term in the form of glycogen in the liver and muscles.⁴⁶³ Glucose and amino acids are stored in the blood, and vitamins and minerals are stored in the liver.⁴⁶⁴ When nutrients from the diet are insufficient, the body breaks down its own tissues.⁴⁶⁵ When there is too much nutrient supplementation, some cannot be stored or excreted (Vitamin A and iron), and tissue damage occurs.⁴⁶⁶ The best approach to nutrient acquisition is from food.⁴⁶⁷

Nutrition is often taught using a reductionist approach by considering the ways in which each food adds specific nutrients to our diet.⁴⁶⁸ This view can lead lawyers to focus on counting daily calories and tracking the amount of carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids they consume.⁴⁶⁹ The author of *The China Study* and *Whole: Rethinking the Science of Nutrition*, T. Colin Campbell, argues that this approach oversimplifies how our bodies utilize food.⁴⁷⁰ When a lawyer eats, her body absorbs needed nutrients, but there is no direct relationship between the amount of a food that is consumed and the extent the body will utilize it.⁴⁷¹ The nutrient levels in foods vary greatly, thus there is no way to know how much of a nutrient is bioavailable, or how much is used by the lawyer's body.⁴⁷² Nutrient interaction is very complex because nutrients can modify the impact of other nutrients in the lawyer's body.⁴⁷³ The amount of a nutrient consumed in a meal and the amount of that nutrient that reaches the body's site of action depends on the body's needs at that given moment.⁴⁷⁴ The lawyer's body absorbs what

⁴⁶¹ *Id.* at 52–53.

⁴⁶² BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 176.

⁴⁶³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 101.

⁴⁶⁴ *Id.* at 102.

⁴⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁶⁸ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 64–65.

⁴⁶⁹ *Id.* at 67.

⁴⁷⁰ *Id.* at 68.

⁴⁷¹ *Id.* at 68–69, 93–95.

⁴⁷² *Id.* at 69–70.

⁴⁷³ *Id.* at 70–71, 95–97.

⁴⁷⁴ *Id.* at 68.

it needs and discards what it doesn't.⁴⁷⁵ Thus, Campbell contends lawyers should resist supplements, especially mega-dosing, in favor of ingesting whole foods that their bodies are designed to thrive on.⁴⁷⁶ Benefits from phytochemicals found in fruits and vegetables are also more pronounced from whole foods rather than in supplements.⁴⁷⁷

Body weight regulation requires a balance of energy intake from food and energy expenditure from daily activities and exercise.⁴⁷⁸ A high-energy diet coupled with a sedentary lifestyle can lead to obesity and diabetes.⁴⁷⁹ The body has a limitless capacity to store fat in adipose cells that can grow to six times their original size and can endlessly increase in number.⁴⁸⁰ Fat cells shrink in size during weight loss, but not in overall number.⁴⁸¹ Obesity and diabetes increase the risk of depression, cognitive function, and dementia.⁴⁸² If cell scientist Bruce H. Lipton's theory about cells moving to the protect-and-defend mode during stress and limiting nutrient absorption is accurate, eating to promote good health involves the lawyer's whole self.⁴⁸³

B. The Western Diet

The body typically relies on carbohydrates and fats for fuel and on protein to support body processes.⁴⁸⁴ Carbohydrates and protein contain about four calories per gram, while fat contains about nine calories per gram.⁴⁸⁵ All plant foods contain a mixture of carbohydrate, protein, and fat.⁴⁸⁶

Malnutrition encompasses any nutrition disorder.⁴⁸⁷ The Nutrition Paradox describes a condition where obesity coexists with malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies.⁴⁸⁸ High-calorie malnutrition occurs when an individual ingests an adequate number of calories but insufficient

⁴⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁷⁶ *Id.* at 71–72.

⁴⁷⁷ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 13.

⁴⁷⁸ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 372.

⁴⁷⁹ Dauncey, *supra* note 71, at 3.

⁴⁸⁰ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 433.

⁴⁸¹ *Id.*

⁴⁸² Dauncey, *supra* note 71, at 3.

⁴⁸³ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 210–11.

⁴⁸⁴ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 119.

⁴⁸⁵ JOEL FUHRMAN, EAT TO LIVE 114 (2011); DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 82.

⁴⁸⁶ FUHRMAN, *supra* note 485, at 115.

⁴⁸⁷ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 153.

⁴⁸⁸ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 7.

vitamins and minerals.⁴⁸⁹ This is often caused by a high intake of low-nutrient calories such as sugar or alcohol or a high consumption of foods that are low in vitamins or minerals in proportion to the calories they contain.⁴⁹⁰

The Western Diet is centered on animal fat, starch, and sugar.⁴⁹¹ Americans on this diet consume about three-quarters of a pound of meat and poultry and an average of twenty-two teaspoons of added sugar per day.⁴⁹² At the same time, they eat about half the fiber, fruits, and vegetables that they should.⁴⁹³ These dietary practices lead to excess insulin and inflammation known to cause cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.⁴⁹⁴ The high salt intake associated with the Western Diet increases risk of high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems, and kidney damage.⁴⁹⁵ High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is an important brain risk factor in depression, brain aging, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and stroke.⁴⁹⁶ High fat intake reduces the birth of new brain cells and BDNF levels in the hippocampus.⁴⁹⁷ Diets high in fat and sugar cause a decline in attention, memory, processing speed, verbal facility, and mental flexibility.⁴⁹⁸

Lawyers and law students do not need any meat or dairy products in their diets, the healthiest lawyers may be those who eliminate animal products,⁴⁹⁹ and a reduction in intake of animal products will improve, and may eliminate, general health and brain disorders.⁵⁰⁰ An understanding of how carbohydrates, proteins, and fats contribute to good health will help lawyers make better nutrition choices.

⁴⁸⁹ *See id.*

⁴⁹⁰ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 154.

⁴⁹¹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 18; Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 111.

⁴⁹² BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 17–18.

⁴⁹³ *Id.* at 18.

⁴⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁹⁵ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 23.

⁴⁹⁶ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 23–24.

⁴⁹⁷ Lopresti, *supra* note 317, at 97; Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 15, 18.

⁴⁹⁸ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 111–12.

⁴⁹⁹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 58.

⁵⁰⁰ *Id.*

C. Carbohydrates

Carbohydrate (often referred to as a carb) means hydrate of carbon, and carbs contain carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms.⁵⁰¹ During photosynthesis, plants use energy from sunlight, carbon dioxide from air, and water to create carbohydrates, which make up sixty to ninety percent of the plant's dry weight.⁵⁰² Foods that supply carbohydrates are fruits, vegetables, legumes, dairy products, cereals, breads, and pasta.⁵⁰³ Legumes include beans, lentils, peas, and peanuts.⁵⁰⁴

Carbohydrates are the main fuel for red blood cells, nervous system cells, and brain cells.⁵⁰⁵ Carbs have gotten a bad reputation—one which should in fact be reserved for refined and simple carbohydrates, not for complex carbs obtained from vegetables, fruits, legumes, and whole grains.⁵⁰⁶ The latter are all nutrient-dense per calorie, and the bulk and fiber they contain leads to satiety without a calorie overload.⁵⁰⁷ In contrast, meat, dairy, and oils are so calorie dense, it is difficult for hunger to be satisfied without calorie overconsumption.⁵⁰⁸

The three main carbohydrates are simple carbohydrates, complex carbohydrates, and dietary fiber.⁵⁰⁹

1. Simple Carbohydrates

The simple carbohydrates are monosaccharides (single-sugar molecules) and disaccharides (double-sugar molecules).⁵¹⁰ The simplest sugar monosaccharides are glucose, fructose, and galactose.⁵¹¹ Four common disaccharides are table sugar (“sucrose, [which is] a combination of glucose and fructose”), milk sugar (“lactose, [which is] a combination of glucose and galactose”), and corn syrup (which is “a combination of glucose and fructose”).⁵¹²

⁵⁰¹ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 82.

⁵⁰² *Id.*

⁵⁰³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 119.

⁵⁰⁴ *Id.* at 209 (stating that legumes have pods containing a single row of seeds and beans are mature legume seeds).

⁵⁰⁵ *Id.* at 120; DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 82.

⁵⁰⁶ FUHRMAN, *supra* note 485, at 115.

⁵⁰⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁰⁸ *Id.* at 116.

⁵⁰⁹ SHRYER & DAWSON, *supra* note 415, at 9.

⁵¹⁰ NANCY CLARK, NANCY CLARK'S SPORTS NUTRITION GUIDEBOOK 111–12 (Human Kinetics 5th ed. 2003).

⁵¹¹ *Id.* at 11.

⁵¹² *Id.*

Other simple sugar food additives include honey, brown sugar, and maple syrup.⁵¹³

The major monosaccharide found in the body is glucose, known as blood sugar in the bloodstream.⁵¹⁴ Most glucose in the diet comes from table sugar and starch, which are “converted into glucose in the liver.”⁵¹⁵ Overconsumption of simple carbs harms both the brain and the body.⁵¹⁶ In a study of 181 participants, age sixty-five and older with no history of dementia, those participants with elevated blood glucose had impairment of the dentate gyrus, a section of the hippocampus associated with age-related decline.⁵¹⁷ Research shows that ingestion of simple high-glycemic carbs impairs memory one to two hours later.⁵¹⁸ High levels of simple carbs increase the risk of obesity and insulin resistance.⁵¹⁹

2. Complex Carbohydrates

Complex carbohydrates “are formed when sugars link together to create long, complex chains.”⁵²⁰ Vegetables tend to store excess sugar as starch (e.g. sweet corn becomes more starchy over time) and fruits tend to convert starches into sugars as they ripen (e.g., bananas).⁵²¹ Starches in food like potatoes, bread, and rice are either burned for energy or stored as glycogen in the liver or muscles.⁵²² Carbs in soft drinks or sports drinks supply energy but no vitamins or minerals (unless fortified).⁵²³ The carbs in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains

⁵¹³ *Id.* at 113.

⁵¹⁴ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 121.

⁵¹⁵ *Id.*

⁵¹⁶ See BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 17–20 (suggesting there is a correlation between overconsumption of carbohydrates and diseases like diabetes); LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 87. Overconsumption of simple sugars can lead to diabetes, and people with diabetes experience cognitive impairment as well as other negative health impacts. A study comparing 168 diabetics with over 2000 control subjects found that the diabetics scored lower on tests of intellectual and verbal abilities. *Id.*

⁵¹⁷ JUDITH HORSTMAN, THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN HEALTHY AGING BRAIN: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MATURE MIND 152 (Jossey-Bass 1st ed. 2012).

⁵¹⁸ See Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 19.

⁵¹⁹ *Id.*

⁵²⁰ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 113.

⁵²¹ *Id.*

⁵²² *Id.*

⁵²³ *Id.*

provide energy along with vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytochemicals.⁵²⁴

3. Fiber

Fiber is a group of non-starch polysaccharides that cannot be digested or absorbed, so it passes through the digestive system unchanged.⁵²⁵ Insoluble fiber, also known as nonfermentable fiber, neither dissolves in water, nor is metabolized by the bacteria in the intestines.⁵²⁶ Insoluble fiber gives plants their structure, provides a natural laxative that speeds up food travelling through the digestive system, and is found in wheat bran, whole grains, nuts, fruit skins, and some vegetables.⁵²⁷ Soluble fiber swells in water to form a gel and is readily fermented by the bacteria in the large intestine.⁵²⁸ Soluble fiber (found in beans, oats, oat bran, barley, lentils, chickpeas, and some fruits and vegetables) “reduces blood cholesterol and controls blood glucose.”⁵²⁹ Fiber is lost during food processing, so a variety of whole fiber-rich foods should be consumed.⁵³⁰

4. How Carbohydrates Work in the Body—Glucose and Glycogen Storage

There are three major energy sources of carbohydrate in the body: blood glucose, liver glycogen, and muscle glycogen.⁵³¹ Generally, digestible carbohydrates in the diet are converted into glucose to fuel red blood cells, the nervous system, and the brain.⁵³² The supply of blood glucose is limited to about twenty calories, but blood glucose can be restored from glucose absorbed during digestion or from liver glycogen.⁵³³ The greatest concentration of glycogen is found in the liver, but one hour of aerobic exercise uses over half the liver glycogen supply, and “fifteen hours or more of starvation will deplete the liver

⁵²⁴ *Id.* at 114.

⁵²⁵ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 92; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 123.

⁵²⁶ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 123.

⁵²⁷ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 49; *see* DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 92; *see also* SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 123.

⁵²⁸ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 58; *see* DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 92; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 124.

⁵²⁹ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 124; *see also* CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 58.

⁵³⁰ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 57.

⁵³¹ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 120.

⁵³² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 138.

⁵³³ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 120.

glycogen stores.”⁵³⁴ A carbohydrate-rich diet can nearly double liver glycogen amounts.⁵³⁵

The largest amount of carbohydrate is stored in muscle glycogen because muscles make up such a large amount of body mass.⁵³⁶ The average lean, 150-pound male has approximately 1800 calories of carbs stored as glycogen, with 1400 in the muscles and 400 in the liver.⁵³⁷ Glycogen in the liver can supply glucose to the blood during normal activities, but muscle glycogen is reserved to fuel muscles during exercise.⁵³⁸ Between 60,000 and 100,000 calories are stored in the body as fat, but fat is not used to fuel high-intensity workouts because muscles require carbohydrates from glycogen to perform optimally.⁵³⁹ Moderate-intensity workouts burn fifty to sixty percent fat, while low-intensity activities are mostly fueled by fat calories.⁵⁴⁰ During intense exercise or endurance sports, muscles rely on the glycogen stores, but trained muscles have the capacity to store twenty to fifty percent more glycogen than untrained muscles.⁵⁴¹

When muscle glycogen stores get too low, the endurance athlete experiences overwhelming fatigue.⁵⁴² When liver glycogen is depleted, the athlete’s brain suffers, and she can experience lightheadedness, weakness, and an inability to concentrate.⁵⁴³ While muscles have the capability both to store glucose and burn fat, the brain can do neither.⁵⁴⁴ The brain needs a steady supply of glucose to perform optimally, and healthy carbs can provide this critical energy source.⁵⁴⁵

Carbs are important to both aerobic exercise and strength training because they are stored in the muscles and provide fuel during

⁵³⁴ *Id.* (explaining how the liver can store 300–400 calories of glycogen).

⁵³⁵ *See id.*

⁵³⁶ *Id.*

⁵³⁷ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 83; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 123.

⁵³⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 123.

⁵³⁹ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 120.

⁵⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁵⁴¹ *Id.*

⁵⁴² *See id.* at 120.

⁵⁴³ *Id.* at 129.

⁵⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁴⁵ *Id.*

exercise.⁵⁴⁶ Carbohydrate-rich proteins can be a good option for active lawyers—think beans and rice, lentil soup, hummus, and chili.⁵⁴⁷

If carb supply is inadequate, the body uses protein or fat for energy.⁵⁴⁸ Protein is usually utilized to build and maintain muscles and organs, but if carbs are insufficient, the body redirects amino acids to make glucose from proteins.⁵⁴⁹ Protein wasting from lengthy fasting eliminates protein from the muscles, heart, liver, and kidneys and can be life-threatening if body systems fail.⁵⁵⁰ When carb levels are deficient, the metabolism of fats is inefficient and incomplete, causing them to become ketone bodies.⁵⁵¹ Ketones are released into the blood, where they are transported to body tissues for use as energy.⁵⁵² The resulting ketosis disrupts normal acid-base balance.⁵⁵³

5. *The Glycemic Index*

The nutritional value of carbs used to be determined by whether the carb in question was simple or complex, but a more precise system assesses the capacity of the food to elevate blood sugar.⁵⁵⁴ The Glycemic Index (GI) evaluates carbs based on their impact on blood sugar, and high GI foods enter the blood stream quickly and increase the rate of glycogen replacement.⁵⁵⁵ Low to moderate GI foods enter the blood stream slowly and provide persistent energy.⁵⁵⁶ Before endurance sports or arduous intellectual activities, low GI foods will supply sustained energy.⁵⁵⁷ Physically fit people are able to store the glycogen from digested sugar in their muscles and require less insulin than sedentary people.⁵⁵⁸ Harvard Medical School provides a GI food

⁵⁴⁶ *Id.* at 120.

⁵⁴⁷ *Id.* at 59, 99.

⁵⁴⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 138.

⁵⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵⁵² *Id.*

⁵⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁵⁴ CLARK, *supra* note 510, at 115.

⁵⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁵⁶ *Id.* at 117.

⁵⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁵⁸ *Id.* at 118.

chart online that describes the glycemic load of many beverages, processed foods, dairy, grains, beans, nuts, fruits, and vegetables.⁵⁵⁹

Research shows that attention and memory are impaired, in both children and adults, following consumption of a high GI meal.⁵⁶⁰ In animal studies, long-term high GI diets compromise learning and memory processes.⁵⁶¹

D. Protein

“Protein was discovered by Gerardus Mulder in 1839”⁵⁶² and is so important, its name comes from the Greek word meaning “first.”⁵⁶³ “Like carbohydrates and fats, proteins contain carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen,” but they also have nitrogen.⁵⁶⁴ Proteins are long chains of amino acids, and eleven of the twenty can be manufactured by the body.⁵⁶⁵ Amino acids are the building blocks of protein, and humans require nine essential amino acids to come from their diet.⁵⁶⁶ Animal proteins are described as high-quality or complete proteins because they contain all nine essential amino acids, thus the human body can metabolize animal protein more efficiently than plant protein.⁵⁶⁷

Approximately seventy percent of the protein in the Western Diet comes from five sources: beef, poultry, milk, cheese, and white bread.⁵⁶⁸ The consumption of animal proteins has been steadily dropping in the United States, but increasing in Asia, particularly in China and India.⁵⁶⁹ High consumption of animal proteins creates negative environmental impacts, in addition to undesirable health effects.⁵⁷⁰ A diet high in animal protein impairs kidney function, and

⁵⁵⁹ See *Glycemic Index and Glycemic Load for 100+ Foods*, HARVARD HEALTH PUBL'NS (Feb. 2015), http://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/glycemic_index_and_glycemic_load_for_100_foods.

⁵⁶⁰ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 112.

⁵⁶¹ *Id.*

⁵⁶² CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 31.

⁵⁶³ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 162.

⁵⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁶⁵ *Id.* See generally WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 195.

⁵⁶⁶ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 202–03.

⁵⁶⁷ *Id.* at 207; CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 31.

⁵⁶⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 206.

⁵⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁷⁰ *Id.*

increases the risk for diabetes, depression, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease.⁵⁷¹

Research shows that animal protein consumption has a greater impact on cancer growth than chemical carcinogens⁵⁷² because animal protein ignites cancer growth within cells, and "protein, once consumed, works within the cell to turn on the cancer process."⁵⁷³ The protein in cow's milk has been shown to stimulate cancer development in scientific experiments.⁵⁷⁴ Cancer growth can be reduced when animal protein consumption is cut.⁵⁷⁵ In a rodent study, all the rats in the group that were fed a powerful carcinogen, aflatoxin, and a diet of twenty percent casein protein from dairy developed liver cancer or cancer precursor legions.⁵⁷⁶ The rats in the other group that consumed the aflatoxin but were limited to five percent casein protein did not develop cancer.⁵⁷⁷ In this study, plant proteins did not encourage cancer growth.⁵⁷⁸

Plant proteins are a healthy alternative to animal proteins.⁵⁷⁹ Plant proteins contain very little saturated fat and cholesterol, making them beneficial to both the heart and brain.⁵⁸⁰ Soy protein and quinoa seed are complete plant proteins.⁵⁸¹ To acquire all nine essential amino acids from plants, a lawyer must consume different combinations of plant proteins, such as beans and rice or vegetables and nuts.⁵⁸²

Eating protein helps a lawyer feel fuller and more satisfied than carbs or fat.⁵⁸³ Good plant proteins include seeds, nuts, and legumes.⁵⁸⁴ One ounce of seeds (such as pumpkin or sunflower seeds) or nuts (such as almonds, pecans, pistachios, or walnuts) provides 160 to 190 calories, six to ten grams of protein, and fourteen to nineteen grams of

⁵⁷¹ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 21.

⁵⁷² CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 33; MICHAEL GREGER WITH GENE STONE, HOW NOT TO DIE 66–67, 69–70, 75 (2015).

⁵⁷³ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 32; GREGER, *supra* note 572, at 213–15.

⁵⁷⁴ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 36, 39, 92.

⁵⁷⁵ *Id.* at 36.

⁵⁷⁶ *Id.* at 30–31.

⁵⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁷⁸ *Id.* at 31.

⁵⁷⁹ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 209.

⁵⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁵⁸¹ *Id.* at 207.

⁵⁸² *Id.* at 209.

⁵⁸³ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 21.

⁵⁸⁴ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 209.

fat.⁵⁸⁵ Nuts grow on trees; peanuts are legumes because they grow underground.⁵⁸⁶ Legumes have pods containing a single row of seeds, which include great northern beans, kidney beans, soybeans, lentils, garden peas, black-eyed peas, and peanuts.⁵⁸⁷ Beans are mature legume seeds, and one half cup supplies 100 to 150 calories, five to ten grams of protein, five grams of fiber, and less than one gram of fat.⁵⁸⁸ Soaking dry beans in water releases the indigestible carbs they contain and limits intestinal gas.⁵⁸⁹

Every cell contains protein and most proteins are in a constant cycle of breakdown, repair, and regeneration.⁵⁹⁰ North American adults consume about sixty-five to 100 grams of protein per day, but their body degrades and remakes about 250 grams daily in a protein turnover process that recycles most amino acids.⁵⁹¹ Muscles, connective tissue, hormones, enzymes, and antibodies are made of protein.⁵⁹² Surplus protein does not enhance body development, but a protein deficit can slow tissue repair and compromise the immune system.⁵⁹³ Adults need about fifteen percent of their calories from protein, with the upper limit at thirty-five percent of total calories.⁵⁹⁴ Plant proteins are low in calories, saturated fat, and cholesterol.⁵⁹⁵

E. Fats

Lipids are energy dense, and they provide nine calories per gram in comparison to the four calories per gram found in carbohydrates and proteins.⁵⁹⁶ Lipids include fats, oils, cholesterol, and lecithin.⁵⁹⁷ Fats and oils are found in both animals (usually solids) and plants (usually

⁵⁸⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁹⁰ *Id.* at 212.

⁵⁹¹ *Id.*

⁵⁹² *Id.*

⁵⁹³ *Id.* at 212, 214.

⁵⁹⁴ *Id.* at 217.

⁵⁹⁵ *Id.* at 209.

⁵⁹⁶ *Id.* at 11–12.

⁵⁹⁷ DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 126.

oils).⁵⁹⁸ A lipid is a fat if it is solid at room temperature and an oil if it is liquid at room temperature.⁵⁹⁹ Lipids do not dissolve in water.⁶⁰⁰

Like carbohydrates, lipids consist of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen.⁶⁰¹ Most of the lipids in foods and in the body are triglycerides, and the others are sterols, such as cholesterol, and phospholipids.⁶⁰² Triglycerides are made up of fatty acids and glycerol.⁶⁰³ Fatty acids are chains of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms that vary in both length and carbon saturation.⁶⁰⁴

Food experts and chefs describe lipids as fats, and to simplify the discussion of lipids, this Article will use the general term—fat.⁶⁰⁵ Dedicated fat cells (also known as adipose cells) store large amounts of fat and can increase in weight approximately fifty times.⁶⁰⁶ Fat plays an important role in cell membranes and “transports the fat-soluble vitamins throughout the body.”⁶⁰⁷ Fat prevents protein from being burned as energy, conserving it for other functions.⁶⁰⁸ Although twenty to thirty-five percent of the adult diet can be fat, very little fat is needed to maintain optimal health: only two to four tablespoons of plant oil daily and fatty fish (salmon or tuna) twice per week.⁶⁰⁹

The major fat in the body and in foods, triglycerides, contains fatty acids.⁶¹⁰ A fat is considered saturated, monounsaturated, or polyunsaturated based on the fatty acid that is present in the greatest concentration.⁶¹¹ A fatty acid is a long chain of carbons flanked by hydrogen on both sides.⁶¹²

To picture a fatty acid, think of a centipede. Each body segment is a carbon and each body segment has a pair of legs, which are hydrogen molecules.⁶¹³ A saturated fatty acid is a carbon centipede with every

⁵⁹⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹⁹ *Id.*; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 11.

⁶⁰⁰ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 160.

⁶⁰¹ *Id.*

⁶⁰² *Id.*

⁶⁰³ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 154.

⁶⁰⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁰⁵ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 160.

⁶⁰⁶ *Id.* at 180.

⁶⁰⁷ *Id.* at 181.

⁶⁰⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁰⁹ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 159.

⁶¹⁰ *Id.* at 160.

⁶¹¹ *Id.* at 161.

⁶¹² *Id.* at 160.

⁶¹³ *See id.*

one of its hydrogen legs, making it fully saturated with hydrogens, solid at room temperature, and likely an animal fat like the white ring of “fat surrounding a piece of uncooked steak.”⁶¹⁴

A monounsaturated fat is a carbon centipede with two missing hydrogen legs on one side, missing two adjacent carbon body segments.⁶¹⁵ The adjoining carbon body segments share a double carbon bond with each other and are less solid because they are less saturated with hydrogen.⁶¹⁶ Foods rich in monounsaturated fat are avocados, canola oil, and olive oil.⁶¹⁷

A polyunsaturated fat is a carbon centipede with two sets of double-bonded carbon body segments that are missing their hydrogen legs.⁶¹⁸ Foods with a high percentage of polyunsaturated fats are corn, safflower, soybean, and sunflower oils.⁶¹⁹ A trans fatty acid is created when an unsaturated fat is processed to artificially move hydrogen legs into the positions where they were missing from the carbon body segments.⁶²⁰

1. Unhealthy Fats

Saturated, trans, and polyunsaturated fats endanger the lawyer brain and heart.⁶²¹ A high saturated fat intake increases the risk of impaired attention, memory, processing speed, mental flexibility, and verbal fluency.⁶²² The Western Diet typically involves overconsumption of fat and sugar in processed foods, and this combination likely causes attention and memory decline due to oxidation, inflammation, and a reduction of BDNF.⁶²³ Studies show that the abilities to sustain attention, to learn, and to remember are harmed by high fat and sugar-laden processed foods.⁶²⁴ The oxidation, inflammation, and decreased levels of BDNF caused by the Western Diet also increase the risk of

⁶¹⁴ *Id.*

⁶¹⁵ *Id.* at 161.

⁶¹⁶ *Id.*

⁶¹⁷ *Id.*

⁶¹⁸ *See id.*

⁶¹⁹ *Id.*

⁶²⁰ *See id.* at 162.

⁶²¹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 50–57; Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 111.

⁶²² Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 111–12.

⁶²³ *Id.* at 112–13.

⁶²⁴ *Id.* at 112.

depression, mild cognitive impairment, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease.⁶²⁵

Fat acts as an appetite stimulant—the more you consume, the more you crave.⁶²⁶ Processed foods are products designed to overstimulate the motivation and reward system in the brain with high fat and sugar content, and the brain impact of hyperpalatable foods parallels that of drugs of abuse.⁶²⁷ The desire to consume hyperpalatable foods is seated in the dopamine repeat-behavior system, and the enjoyment of those foods is controlled by the opioid and endocannabinoid hedonic hot spots.⁶²⁸ Research on animals suggest that processed foods rich in saturated fat and added sugar can cause food addiction when the dopamine system is downregulated, and withdrawal of such a diet mirrors rodent behaviors observed during the withdrawal of drugs of abuse.⁶²⁹

In saturated and trans fats, the fat molecule is covered or saturated with hydrogen atoms.⁶³⁰ Saturated fats are found in dairy products and the marbling in meat.⁶³¹ A high-risk amount of daily saturated fat is about twenty-five grams, the amount found in the following daily menus: bacon and eggs, a grilled cheese sandwich, and meat; or cereal and milk, salmon salad, and half a cheese pizza.⁶³²

Trans fat, also known as partially hydrogenated oil, is created when food manufacturers turn liquid oils into solid fats in the hydrogenation process.⁶³³ Research shows that those who consume the most saturated and trans fats have the highest risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.⁶³⁴ High cholesterol is a predictor of Alzheimer's because saturated and trans fats cause a body to produce more cholesterol, which can result in blood-flow reducing plaques in the heart and brain.⁶³⁵

Polyunsaturated fats present a health risk because the double carbon bonds are vulnerable to oxidation.⁶³⁶ Limiting polyunsaturated fat in

⁶²⁵ See *id.* at 113–14.

⁶²⁶ FUHRMAN, *supra* note 485, at 117.

⁶²⁷ Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 114–15.

⁶²⁸ *Id.* at 114.

⁶²⁹ See *id.* at 115.

⁶³⁰ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 50.

⁶³¹ *Id.* at 51.

⁶³² *Id.* at 56.

⁶³³ *Id.* at 51.

⁶³⁴ *Id.* at 51–52.

⁶³⁵ See *id.* at 53–56.

⁶³⁶ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 162.

the lawyer diet reduces the risk of oxidation-induced inflammation, which can promote aging, cancer, neuron damage, and Alzheimer's.⁶³⁷ Oils to limit due to their polyunsaturated fat content are corn, safflower, soybean, and sunflower.⁶³⁸

Lawyers should read nutrition labels on processed foods to understand where they may be consuming harmful fats such as animal fats (bacon, beef, chicken, ham, lamb, lard, pork, and turkey); dairy fats (butter and cream); polyunsaturated oils; and partially hydrogenated shortening or oil.⁶³⁹

2. *Healthy Fats*

However, lawyers need some fat in their diets because their cell membranes are composed of two protein layers with a filling of fat in between.⁶⁴⁰ Research has shown that having a high amount of Omega-3 fats in blood cells can protect against cognitive decay.⁶⁴¹ Consistent intake of Omega-3 fatty acids protects both brain and cardiovascular health.⁶⁴²

To better understand Omega-3, Omega-6, and Omega-9 fatty acids, we return to the carbon chain unsaturated fat centipede. The head of the fatty acid centipede is the methyl group omega end, and the tail is the acid group end.⁶⁴³ The location of the first double-carbon bond, where two carbons are bonded and there are no hydrogen legs on one side, can be three, six, or nine carbons from the methyl omega head.⁶⁴⁴ If the first carbon bond is three carbons from the methyl omega head, it is an Omega-3 fatty acid.⁶⁴⁵ If the first carbon bond is six carbons from the methyl omega head, it is an Omega-6 fatty acid, and if it is nine carbons away, it is an Omega-9 fatty acid.⁶⁴⁶ Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids are essential to the lawyer diet, which are acquired only from foods

⁶³⁷ *Id.*; see also LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 87.

⁶³⁸ See SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 161 (providing examples of some oils that are rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids).

⁶³⁹ See *id.* at 169 (providing examples of foods that contain hidden fats).

⁶⁴⁰ See BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 59.

⁶⁴¹ *Id.*

⁶⁴² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 164 (suggesting that regularly ingesting omega-3 along with other types of acids can help ensure brain and cardiovascular health).

⁶⁴³ *Id.* at 161.

⁶⁴⁴ *Id.* at 162.

⁶⁴⁵ *Id.* In food, the major Omega-3 fatty acid is alpha-linolenic acid. *Id.*

⁶⁴⁶ *Id.* at 162. In food, the major Omega-6 fatty acid is linoleic acid and Omega-9 is oleic acid. *Id.*

because the human body is incapable of producing them.⁶⁴⁷ Conversely, Omega-9 is synthesized in the body and does not need to be part of the diet.⁶⁴⁸

Good fats in fruits, vegetables, and nuts can be transformed in the body to the type of fat that the lawyer brain requires.⁶⁴⁹ Walnuts, chia seeds, flax seeds, flax oil, and canola oil are rich sources of the Omega-3 fat alpha-linolenic acid (ALA).⁶⁵⁰ The body uses enzymes to convert Omega-3 ALA into eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which are both critical to the optimization of the brain and nervous system.⁶⁵¹ Fatty fish (salmon, tuna, halibut, anchovies, catfish, herring, mackerel, striped bass and trout) are good sources of preformed EPA and DHA.⁶⁵² Omega-3 fatty acids reduce inflammation and decrease blood clotting, and they can lower blood triglycerides, and can improve depression.⁶⁵³

Omega-6 fatty acids, which primarily come from animal sources in the diet, increase inflammation and create a risk of cardiovascular problems.⁶⁵⁴ Omega-6 fats are found in the following cooking oils: corn, cottonseed, grapeseed, safflower, soybean, and sunflower.⁶⁵⁵ Most lawyers should greatly limit the intake of oils to maintain a healthy ratio of Omega-6 and Omega-3 fats: two to four grams of Omega-6 for every gram of Omega-3.⁶⁵⁶ The Paleo Diet, as practiced during the Stone Age, had an Omega-6 to Omega-3 ratio of 1:1.⁶⁵⁷ Meat-eating lawyers who want to lower the risk of inflammation and increase the brain building blocks EPA and DHA should decrease Omega-6 fatty acids, increase Omega-3 fatty acids, and strive for a ratio closer to 1:1.⁶⁵⁸ For lawyers considering supplements, a healthy, vegan option for DHA is from an algae source, rather than from fish.⁶⁵⁹

⁶⁴⁷ See *id.* at 163. Only plants can make the parent fatty acids for Omega-3 and Omega-6. *Id.*

⁶⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁴⁹ See BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 60.

⁶⁵⁰ *Id.* at 60–61; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 168.

⁶⁵¹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 59–60; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 163.

⁶⁵² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 164. Preformed Omega-3 fatty acids do not need to be converted from ALA into EPA or DHA. *Id.*

⁶⁵³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 164–65.

⁶⁵⁴ *Id.* at 164 (stating that when Omega 6 fatty acids are consumed in excess, the consumption can contribute to negative health effects).

⁶⁵⁵ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 60.

⁶⁵⁶ *Id.* at 61 (stating that the ratio should be 2:1 to 4:1).

⁶⁵⁷ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 15, 18.

⁶⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁵⁹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 62.

F. Vitamins and Minerals

The macronutrients required by humans in substantial daily amounts for making energy and building body tissue include carbohydrates, proteins, fats, and water.⁶⁶⁰ Micronutrients are small amounts of vitamins and minerals needed to regulate metabolic processes.⁶⁶¹ The vitamins that provide protection for the brain include Vitamin E, Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, and folate.⁶⁶²

1. Vitamin E

Vitamin E is an antioxidant that neutralizes free radicals.⁶⁶³ Vitamin E is fat-soluble and is present in adipose cells and the lipid bilayers of cell membranes.⁶⁶⁴ Because the lipids in these cell membranes are mostly polyunsaturated fatty acids and are vulnerable to oxidation, Vitamin E can provide electrons or hydrogen to free radicals and stabilize them.⁶⁶⁵ Vitamin E appears to afford the most protection to red blood cells and lung cells, both of which are exposed to high oxygen levels.⁶⁶⁶ Vitamin E may also prevent or reduce the creation of oxidized LDL cholesterol, potentially decreasing the risk of plaque formation in the arteries that leads to cardiovascular disease.⁶⁶⁷

Research shows that for every five milligrams of Vitamin E consumed daily, the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease is reduced by twenty-six percent.⁶⁶⁸ Two forms of Vitamin E that work in tandem are alpha-tocopherol and gamma-tocopherol.⁶⁶⁹ Most supplements are limited to alpha-tocopherol; so to get both forms, one should consume eight to eighteen milligrams of Vitamin E-rich foods per day.⁶⁷⁰ Megadosing with Vitamin E supplements creates a risk of bleeding, and lawyers should obtain Vitamin E in foods.⁶⁷¹ The best sources of

⁶⁶⁰ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 39.

⁶⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶⁶² BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 67.

⁶⁶³ *Id.* at 67–68.

⁶⁶⁴ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 291.

⁶⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁶⁸ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 68.

⁶⁶⁹ *Id.* at 69.

⁶⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁶⁷¹ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 293.

Vitamin E are nuts, seeds, plant oils, and fortified breakfast cereals.⁶⁷² A list of other foods containing Vitamin E can be found in the Vitamin Chart in Table 2.

2. *The B Team*

As the cells in the lawyer's body build protein, they create a toxic byproduct called homocysteine.⁶⁷³ High levels of homocysteine in the blood increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cognitive decline.⁶⁷⁴ B Vitamins (B₆, B₁₂, and folate), working in tandem, clear homocysteine from the blood and improve memory problems in older participants.⁶⁷⁵ Lawyers with high homocysteine levels can suffer from mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer's disease, so sufficient intake of B Vitamins is necessary to reduce this risk.⁶⁷⁶ Increased B Vitamins have increased the size and improved the function of the memory-processing hippocampus.⁶⁷⁷

Research indicates that people who suffer from depression have low levels of folate (also known as folic acid) and Vitamin B₁₂ and high levels of homocysteine.⁶⁷⁸ Vegetarians and the elderly are particularly at risk for low Vitamin B₁₂.⁶⁷⁹ Vitamin B₁₂ is best obtained from a supplement or fortified foods such as breakfast cereals or plant milks.⁶⁸⁰ It is poorly absorbed from animal products and not present in plants.⁶⁸¹ A list of food containing B Vitamins is provided in the Vitamin Chart in Table 2.

⁶⁷² *Id.* at 292.

⁶⁷³ See BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 71.

⁶⁷⁴ *Id.* at 71–72.

⁶⁷⁵ *Id.* at 71–73.

⁶⁷⁶ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 73; LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 84; Celeste A. De Jager & Samrah Ahmed, *Research on the Effects of Vitamins and Minerals on Cognitive Function in Older Adults*, in NUTRITION FOR BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE 206–07 (2015).

⁶⁷⁷ See Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 4.

⁶⁷⁸ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 101, 107, 116.

⁶⁷⁹ See *id.* at 200.

⁶⁸⁰ See BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 75; Jager & Ahmed, *supra* note 676, at 206–07.

⁶⁸¹ *Id.* at 75–76; Jager & Ahmed, *supra* note 676, at 206.

Table 2. Vitamin Chart

	Recommended Dietary Allowance	Food Sources
Vitamin E	22.4 IU per day ⁶⁸² 15 mg per day ⁶⁸³	Trace amounts of Vitamin E are in apples, asparagus, avocados, blackberries, broccoli, collard greens, egg yolk, melons, mangoes, spinach, sweet potatoes, and whole grains, but much larger amounts are found in the following nuts and seeds: almonds, hazelnuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, flaxseed, sesame seeds, and sunflower seeds. The best sources are almonds and sunflower seeds. ⁶⁸⁴
Folate	400 micrograms per day ⁶⁸⁵	Asparagus, broccoli, green leafy vegetables, and spinach. ⁶⁸⁶
Vitamin B ₆	1.3 mg per day for adults to age 50 1.5 mg per day for women over 50 1.7 mg per day for men over 50 ⁶⁸⁷	Bananas, beans, green vegetables, nuts, sweet potatoes, and whole grains. ⁶⁸⁸
Vitamin B ₁₂	2.4 micrograms per day ⁶⁸⁹	B ₁₂ is one of the rare micronutrients that is best ingested from a supplement, from fortified breakfast cereals, or from fortified soy milk. ⁶⁹⁰ It is poorly absorbed from animal products and is not found in plants. ⁶⁹¹

⁶⁸² BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 69.

⁶⁸³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 292.

⁶⁸⁴ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 69–70; LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 90; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 292.

⁶⁸⁵ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 74.

⁶⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁸⁷ *Id.* at 75.

⁶⁸⁸ *Id.* at 74.

⁶⁸⁹ *Id.* at 75.

⁶⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁶⁹¹ *Id.* at 75–76.

G. Phytochemicals and Antioxidants

Phytochemicals are compounds found in fruits and vegetables that may reduce the risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease.⁶⁹² Although there is no legal definition of the term superfood, foods high in phytochemicals are often described as superfoods.⁶⁹³ Research indicates that whole foods provide the greatest health benefits from phytochemicals.⁶⁹⁴ Phytochemicals in fruit, vegetables, and tea are rich in Vitamins C and E and reduce cancer risk as well as protect against oxidative damage.⁶⁹⁵

An antioxidant is a compound that may stop the damage associated with oxidation and that helps to prevent the oxidation of substances in the body or in food—particularly lipids.⁶⁹⁶ Plants contain large numbers of antioxidants and have a synergistic effect, so eating a variety of different kinds of plants provides the most benefit.⁶⁹⁷ Plant-based foods that are rich in antioxidants include legumes, nuts, apples, berries, broccoli, cherries, grapes, onions, oranges, plums, prunes (dried plums), raisins, red bell peppers, and spinach.⁶⁹⁸ The number one source of antioxidants in the American diet is coffee.⁶⁹⁹ Tea also contains antioxidants.⁷⁰⁰

Polyphenols are phytochemicals that have antioxidant properties and are believed to protect plants from UV rays, disease, and drought.⁷⁰¹ Polyphenols and flavonoids from plants have both anti-obesity and anti-diabetic effects.⁷⁰² Flavonoids may encourage brain cell growth in the hippocampus and protect brain cells from damage, decreasing the risk of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.⁷⁰³ There are four classes of polyphenols:

⁶⁹² SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 13; DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 222–23.

⁶⁹³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 13.

⁶⁹⁴ *Id.* at 13.

⁶⁹⁵ *Id.* at 329.

⁶⁹⁶ *Id.* at 190.

⁶⁹⁷ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 19.

⁶⁹⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 191.

⁶⁹⁹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 38.

⁷⁰⁰ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 191.

⁷⁰¹ Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 143.

⁷⁰² Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 22.

⁷⁰³ HORSTMAN, DAY IN THE LIFE, *supra* note 36, at 161.

- Stilbenes, such as the resveratrol found in red wine;⁷⁰⁴
- Flavonoids (antioxidant and anti-inflammatory), contained in fruit, vegetables, legumes, red wine, tea, and chocolate.⁷⁰⁵ Dark chocolate containing at least seventy-percent cacao has some of the highest concentrations of antioxidant flavonoids of all food.⁷⁰⁶ Dark chocolate reduces stress hormone levels and may be metabolized in a way that does not lead to weight gain.⁷⁰⁷
- Lignans in legumes, flax, fruits, and vegetables;⁷⁰⁸
- Phenolic Acids, found in tea, coffee, cinnamon, apples, blueberries, cherries, kiwis, and plums.⁷⁰⁹

Exercise increases the production of free radicals, which can be beneficial and assist with muscle contraction and the adjustments to increased fitness.⁷¹⁰ Athletes and serial exercisers should consume diets rich in antioxidants from fruit, vegetables, and whole grains to protect against oxidative damage.⁷¹¹

IV

CAFFEINE AND ALCOHOL

A. Caffeine

Caffeine is a stimulant found in coffee beans, tea leaves, chocolate, soda, and energy drinks.⁷¹² When a lawyer starts the day with coffee or tea, caffeine blocks adenosine receptors in the brain.⁷¹³ Adenosine is a neurotransmitter that induces sleep, and caffeine is its antagonist drug that connects with the adenosine receptor, obstructs it, and prevents it from promoting sleep.⁷¹⁴ Caffeine also stimulates dopamine

⁷⁰⁴ Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 146.

⁷⁰⁵ See *id.* at 143; JOSEPH MERCOLA, *Polyphenols – What They Are and Why You Need Them*, MERCOLA.COM (Dec. 14, 2015), <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2015/12/14/polyphenols-benefits.aspx>.

⁷⁰⁶ See BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 39.

⁷⁰⁷ *Id.* at 39–40.

⁷⁰⁸ MERCOLA, *supra* note 705.

⁷⁰⁹ *Id.*

⁷¹⁰ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 420.

⁷¹¹ *Id.* at 421.

⁷¹² MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 393–94.

⁷¹³ *Id.* at 395.

⁷¹⁴ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 180; MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 216; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 397, 399.

release in the brain.⁷¹⁵ Three substances have been identified in chocolate that are similar to the endogenous cannabinoids in the brain, which may explain the pleasure lawyers experience from coffee, tea, and chocolate beyond the stimulating impact of caffeine.⁷¹⁶

Caffeine is the most widely used psychoactive drug, exceeding nicotine, alcohol, and illicit drugs.⁷¹⁷ Moderate, regular coffee intake is not a health hazard and may even provide cardiovascular health benefits.⁷¹⁸ Caffeine reduces fatigue, improves concentration, and prolongs intellectual efficiency.⁷¹⁹ Although the energy drink Red Bull contains sugar, taurine, and glucuronolactone, the stimulant effects are due largely to the caffeine.⁷²⁰

However, lawyer overconsumption of caffeine, in popular energy drinks such as Red Bull and Monster, can cause agitation, insomnia, tremors, seizures, gastrointestinal problems, heart palpitations, respiratory issues, and cardiac arrest.⁷²¹ In one study, a forty-seven-year-old male who increased his coffee intake from about ten cups per day to approximately thirty-six cups experienced depression, explosive anger, and paranoia, all of which were resolved with a reduction of coffee consumption.⁷²²

B. Alcohol

Alcohol is the second most widely used drug, trailing only caffeine, but it is the most abused drug.⁷²³ Alcohol is a mixed action drug because it starts in low doses as a stimulant, producing mild euphoria and reducing anxiety, but later depresses neural activity and in higher doses causes incoordination and sedation.⁷²⁴ The effects of alcohol on the brain are complex because alcohol acts on multiple neurotransmitters: GABA, glutamate, dopamine, and endorphins.⁷²⁵

⁷¹⁵ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 180; MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 216.

⁷¹⁶ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 217.

⁷¹⁷ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 25.

⁷¹⁸ *Id.* at 23.

⁷¹⁹ *Id.*

⁷²⁰ *Id.* at 24.

⁷²¹ GIBB, *supra* note 38, at 179–80; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 398.

⁷²² LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 23–24.

⁷²³ MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 266.

⁷²⁴ NEIL R. CARLSON, *PHYSIOLOGY OF BEHAVIOR* 631 (11th ed. 2013); NEIL V. WATSON & S. MARC BREEDLOVE, *THE MIND'S MACHINE: FOUNDATIONS OF BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR* 95 (2012).

⁷²⁵ MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 283–90.

The sedating and calming effects of alcohol are due to increased GABA, which results in some degree of reduced anxiety, social disinhibition, and poor motor control.⁷²⁶ Alcohol also inhibits glutamate by reducing its effectiveness, even for social drinkers with low blood alcohol levels.⁷²⁷ Glutamate interference causes alcohol to impair learning and memory, disrupt long-term potentiation, and prevent neurogenesis (the birth of new neurons in the hippocampus).⁷²⁸ Like other addictive substances, alcohol releases dopamine, which promotes repeat behavior, and endorphins, the body's endogenous opioids.⁷²⁹

Grapes and red wine are excellent sources of the antioxidant resveratrol, which prevents blood clots, damage to blood vessels, and reduces bad cholesterol.⁷³⁰ Modest alcohol intake has been shown to cut the risk of Alzheimer's disease by about fifty percent, but even limited alcohol use comes with an increased risk of liver disease, breast cancer in women, iron overload, and interference with folate absorption, which may increase homocysteine levels and impair folate's cancer protecting power.⁷³¹

Research shows that heavy alcohol use shrinks brain volume frontal lobes (causing apathy, disinhibition, and impaired executive function), the hippocampus (causing memory problems), and the cerebellum (causing incoordination).⁷³² Those who abstain from alcohol have greater brain volume than moderate and former drinkers.⁷³³ A lawyer does not have to drink heavily for years to cause damage to the brain and weakened cognition.⁷³⁴ A study of eighteen- to twenty-four-year-old college students who periodically participated in binge drinking showed verbal memory deficits, indicating damage to the hippocampus.⁷³⁵

Some college students are engaged in drunkorexia behaviors, or disordered eating prior to drinking, to limit calories prior to alcohol use

⁷²⁶ CARLSON, *supra* note 724, at 633; WATSON & BREEDLOVE, *supra* note 724, at 95.

⁷²⁷ See MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 285.

⁷²⁸ See CARLSON, *supra* note 724, at 632; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 285.

⁷²⁹ CARLSON, *supra* note 724, at 632–33; MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 287, 289.

⁷³⁰ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 168.

⁷³¹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 78–79.

⁷³² MEYER & QUENZER, *supra* note 165, at 277.

⁷³³ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 44.

⁷³⁴ MCKIM & HANCOCK, *supra* note 191, at 154.

⁷³⁵ *Id.*

or to increase the high they experience.⁷³⁶ The practice involves skipping meals, inducing vomiting, consuming laxatives, or exercising heavily before intense drinking.⁷³⁷ In a study of 1184 students, over eighty percent of those who experienced an incident of heavy drinking in the prior thirty days reported practicing a drunkorexic behavior in the previous three months.⁷³⁸ Both men and women practice drunkorexic behaviors, but earlier research indicated that men are motivated to do so to save money to spend on alcohol, while women are trying to save calories from food prior to consuming calories from alcohol.⁷³⁹ Students who lived in fraternities and sororities were most likely to practice drunkorexic behaviors, followed by students who lived in residence halls on campus.⁷⁴⁰

Lawyers and law students with NQ may want to consider their relationship with alcohol and whether the brain impacts are worth the risks of alcohol consumption.

V

OPTIMIZING THE LAWYER BRAIN

Facts are easy to come by.

Finding a new way to think and a new confidence in our choices is difficult indeed.

—Seth Godin⁷⁴¹

Healthy aging is defined as “the process of optimizing opportunities for physical, social and mental health to enable older people to take an active part in society without discrimination and to enjoy an independent and good quality of life”⁷⁴² Major objectives are the preservation of brain reserve (the capacity to withstand physical damage) and cognitive reserve (active safeguarding of cognitive capacity).⁷⁴³ Successful aging involves limiting disability and disease,

⁷³⁶ John Johnson, *College ‘Drunkorexia’ More Common Than Thought*, USA TODAY (July 3, 2016, 11:01 AM), <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/07/03/college-drunkorexia-more-common-than-thought/86653224/>.

⁷³⁷ *Id.*

⁷³⁸ Jake New, *‘Drunkorexia,’ INSIDE HIGHER ED* (June 30, 2016), <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/30/study-8-10-students-said-they-engaged-behaviors-related-drunkorexia>.

⁷³⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁷⁴¹ Seth Godin, *Taking Notes vs. Taking Belief*, SETH GODIN BLOG (June 23, 2016), http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/2016/06/taking-notes-vs-taking-belief.html.

⁷⁴² Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 30.

⁷⁴³ *Id.*

maximizing the ability to recover from illness or injury, and protecting cognitive competence.⁷⁴⁴ Research-based interventions for optimizing successful aging include stress management, social connectedness, intellectual stimulation, physical activity, and healthy nutrition.⁷⁴⁵ Among the lifestyle recommendations for improving cognitive function, anxiety, depression, and substance use, nutrition and exercise are the most important.⁷⁴⁶

A. Brain Health and Popular Diets

Real food is medicine and fake food is toxic to brain health.

–Leslie Korn⁷⁴⁷

Doctors and scientists disagree on the most effective nutrition plan to optimize brain and general health. Because people eat a variety of foods, causing nutrients to interact, it is easier to conduct research on and to critique holistic diets.⁷⁴⁸ Although more research is needed to further illuminate the cause-effect relationship of food with health, current research indicates that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, fish, nuts, and legumes, combined with low or no consumption of meat and high-fat dairy, reduce the risk of cognitive decline.⁷⁴⁹ It may help lawyers to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the following prominent diets: Paleo, Mediterranean, and Whole-Food Plant-Based; heed the recommendations for preventing depression and Alzheimer's; and consult with their doctors about making nutrition changes.

1. Paleo Diet

The Paleolithic Diet, known also as the stone-age diet, contains thirty-nine percent protein, forty percent carbohydrates, and twenty-one percent fats—all derived from fresh fruits and green vegetables, seeds, lean meat, and seafood.⁷⁵⁰ The ratio between Omega-6 and

⁷⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁴⁶ See KORN, *supra* note 312, at xi; Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 145–46.

⁷⁴⁷ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 24.

⁷⁴⁸ Marialaura Bonaccio, Giovanni de Gaetano & Licia Iacoviello, *Effect of a Mediterranean Diet on Mental and Physical Quality of Life*, in DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES 42 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015).

⁷⁴⁹ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 23.

⁷⁵⁰ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 15.

Omega-3 fatty acids is 1:1.⁷⁵¹ This diet is also known as the Traditional or Authentic Diet and features foods that are low glycemic and high in antioxidants, fiber, and Omega-3 fatty acids.⁷⁵² Fat sources include fish, birds, wild game, and plants.⁷⁵³ Digestion and gut health are optimized with prebiotics (bran, cactus, chia, oatmeal, and psyllium) and probiotics (kefir, kimchi, sauerkraut, and yogurt).⁷⁵⁴ Processed food from cans and packages, refined sugar and grains, synthetic preservatives, and food coloring are eliminated.⁷⁵⁵ Research indicates that high-protein diets promote free radical production.⁷⁵⁶ If lawyers who eat meat can maintain a healthy Omega-6 and Omega-3 fatty acid ratio and can consume adequate vegetables and fruit, the Paleo Diet may minimize inflammation and oxidative stress.⁷⁵⁷

2. *Mediterranean Diet*

The Mediterranean Diet was named by Ancel Keys in the 1960s after research showed that populations overlooking the Mediterranean Sea had significantly lower rates of cardiovascular disease and cancer than other populations.⁷⁵⁸ People who consume the Mediterranean Diet live longer and healthier lives; enjoy better health status; have better blood pressure, lipid metabolism, and cardiovascular health; and have a reduced risk of inflammation, cancer, obesity, depression, age-related cognitive decline, and Alzheimer's disease.⁷⁵⁹ The Mediterranean Diet contains "lots of fruit, green vegetables, grains, cheese, olive oil, beans, red wine, and yogurt, with some fish, poultry, and eggs."⁷⁶⁰ Research at the Harvard School of Public Health showed that the Mediterranean Diet could prevent ninety percent of type 2 diabetes, eighty percent of heart disease, and seventy percent of stroke cases.⁷⁶¹

⁷⁵¹ *Id.*

⁷⁵² See KORN, *supra* note 312, at 4–5.

⁷⁵³ See *id.* at 5.

⁷⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵⁵ *Id.* at 4, 6.

⁷⁵⁶ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 9.

⁷⁵⁷ Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 18–19.

⁷⁵⁸ Virginia Boccardi & Giuseppe Paolisso, *Effect of Mediterranean Diet on Human Health in Seniors: Relationship with Telomers*, in DIET AND EXERCISE IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES 30 (Farooqui & Farooqui eds., 2015). The countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea that typically consume the Mediterranean Diet include Greece, Palestine, Lebanon, Spain, Portugal, and Southern Italy. *Id.*

⁷⁵⁹ See Boccardi & Paolisso, *supra* note 758, at 30–31; Bonaccio, de Gaetano & Iacoviello, *supra* note 748, at 40.

⁷⁶⁰ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 21.

⁷⁶¹ *Id.*

Foods in the Mediterranean Diet that are linked to a reduced risk of cognitive deterioration and dementia are fruits and vegetables (antioxidants, polyphenols); olive oil (unsaturated fatty acids, Vitamin E, polyphenols); and fish (fatty acids, Vitamin B₁₂).⁷⁶² The health benefits from foods rich in antioxidants, polyphenols, fiber, and monounsaturated fats are due to their anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidation properties.⁷⁶³

A 2013 meta-analysis found that high adherence to the Mediterranean Diet was “consistently associated with a forty percent reduced risk of cognitive impairment (including mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and Alzheimer’s), a twenty-nine percent reduced risk of stroke and a thirty-two percent reduced risk of depression.”⁷⁶⁴ Moderate commitment to the Mediterranean Diet was associated with reduced risk of cognitive deterioration and depression.⁷⁶⁵

The nine dietary characteristics of the Mediterranean Diet are: (1) high ratio of monounsaturated to saturated fatty acids (mainly olive oil); (2) high consumption of fruit; (3) high consumption of vegetables; (4) high consumption of legumes and nuts; (5) high consumption of non-refined cereals, including bread; (6) moderate consumption of milk and dairy products; (7) moderate ethanol consumption (mainly red wine); (8) low consumption of red meat, meat products, and poultry; and (9) high consumption of fish.⁷⁶⁶ A good quality of life is associated with high cognitive function, low levels of depression, strong physical health, and robust social connections.⁷⁶⁷ Lawyers who adopt the Mediterranean Diet may reduce their risk of depression, cognitive decline, and strokes.⁷⁶⁸

3. Whole Food Plant-Based Diet

T. Colin Campbell argues that the best way to eat for optimal health is to consume a variety of plant-based foods (vegetables, fruits, raw nuts and seeds, beans and legumes, and whole grains) in as natural a

⁷⁶² Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 23–24.

⁷⁶³ Bonaccio, de Gaetano & Iacoviello, *supra* note 748, at 40; Lopresti, *supra* note 317, at 96–97.

⁷⁶⁴ Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 24.

⁷⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶⁶ *Id.* at 20.

⁷⁶⁷ See Bonaccio, de Gaetano & Iacoviello, *supra* note 748, at 40.

⁷⁶⁸ See Andreeva & Kesse-Guyot, *supra* note 12, at 24.

condition as possible.⁷⁶⁹ In addition, he recommends avoiding animal products, heavily processed foods, oil, salt, and sugar.⁷⁷⁰ The China Study resulted in two powerful findings: people who consumed the most animal-based food experienced the most chronic disease, and people who consumed the most plant-based food avoided chronic disease and were the healthiest.⁷⁷¹ The lawyer who chooses to consume a diet rich in whole foods will lower the risk of cognitive decline and the lawyer who eats a higher percentage of processed foods increases risk of cognitive deficits.⁷⁷²

Campbell uses three sources of evidence to support his claim that the Whole Food Plant-Based diet is optimal: observational research results, biomimicry, and evolutionary biology.⁷⁷³ In observational research, scientists examine the diet and disease characteristics of a population to look for associations between variables.⁷⁷⁴ The China Study revealed that the higher the consumption of animal products by a large ecosystem of people living in rural China, the greater the occurrence of cancer, heart disease, and stroke.⁷⁷⁵ Biomimicry looks to animal diets and demonstrates that chimps, gorillas, hippopotamus, and elephants develop strong and healthy muscle and bone systems eating plant-based diets.⁷⁷⁶ Evolutionary biology compares the body characteristics of herbivores and carnivores and suggests that humans share nearly all the characteristics of herbivores, and few with carnivores.⁷⁷⁷

Campbell concluded that there are multiple benefits to the consumption of plant-based foods and numerous health risks associated with eating animal-based foods.⁷⁷⁸ He lists a number of world-class athletes that have improved their performance on a plant-based diet.⁷⁷⁹ A number of athletes have chosen a vegan diet to enhance their strength

⁷⁶⁹ THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 7.

⁷⁷⁰ *Id.* at 7, 24.

⁷⁷¹ *See* THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 7.

⁷⁷² Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 6.

⁷⁷³ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 79–82.

⁷⁷⁴ *Id.* at 79.

⁷⁷⁵ *Id.* at 80–81.

⁷⁷⁶ *Id.* at 81.

⁷⁷⁷ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 82. Examples of the systems that are compared in this research include the digestive system, the shape of the jaw and teeth, and the pH balance of the stomach. *Id.*

⁷⁷⁸ THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 21.

⁷⁷⁹ *Id.* at 23–24 (noting that Ironman Dave Scott, tennis champion Martina Navratilova, and track greats Carl Lewis and Edwin Moses eat plant-based diets).

and stamina, but also to reduce the suffering of animals.⁷⁸⁰ The Union of Concerned Scientists 2013 report, *The \$11 Trillion Reward*, found that if Americans consumed just one more serving of either fruits or vegetables per day, over 30,000 lives could be saved.⁷⁸¹ Rodent studies confirmed the plant-based diet finding when rats fed a low animal protein diet voluntarily spent more time on the exercise wheel and suffered from less fatigue than rats fed a chow loaded with animal protein.⁷⁸² Diseases of the brain can also be reduced or eliminated with the adoption of a largely plant-based diet.⁷⁸³ A longitudinal study of 272 Californians showed that those participants who skipped meat (vegans and vegetarians) were one third as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease as the carnivores.⁷⁸⁴

Campbell's research presents a strong argument for lawyers to act immediately to make dietary changes, and nutrition modification will happen only one lawyer at a time.⁷⁸⁵ He also argues that food policy will change only after a sufficient number of individuals experience the benefits of a Whole Food Plant-Based diet.⁷⁸⁶ Who better to lead a food revolution than healthy lawyers?

4. Diet Recommendations for the Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease

The following are a set of dietary guidelines, presented at the 2013 Conference on Nutrition and the Brain, designed to help prevent Alzheimer's disease:

1. Carbohydrates: Replace meat and dairy with vegetables, fruits, legumes (beans, peas, lentils), and whole grains.
2. Fats: Minimize saturated fats found in dairy, meats, and oils (coconut, palm, corn, canola); Minimize Trans fats in snack and

⁷⁸⁰ *The Compassionate Athlete: Athletes Tackle Questions About Plant-Based Eating*, VEGAN OUTREACH (Apr. 2016), <http://veganoutreach.org/CA.pdf> (including athletes from football, hockey, wrestling, skiing, bodybuilding, and UFC).

⁷⁸¹ THE \$11 TRILLION REWARD: HOW SIMPLE DIETARY CHANGES CAN SAVE LIVES AND MONEY, AND HOW WE GET THERE, UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS 1, 5 (2013), http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/legacy/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/11-trillion-reward.pdf (finding that an additional serving of vegetables or fruits could also save five billion dollars in medical costs).

⁷⁸² THE CHINA STUDY, *supra* note 9, at 24.

⁷⁸³ See Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 3.

⁷⁸⁴ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 49.

⁷⁸⁵ CAMPBELL, *supra* note 409, at 289.

⁷⁸⁶ *Id.* at 289–90.

fried foods (partially hydrogenated oils); and replace with olive and avocado oils (monounsaturated fatty acids).

3. Supplements: Acquire Vitamin E from foods, rather than supplements (three meals of fish or seafood per week for non-vegetarians); Folic Acid should be acquired either from food or a supplement; Vitamin B₁₂ should be consumed from a supplement; and if multiple vitamins are used, choose supplements without iron and copper. DHA and EPA supplementation in animals has increased synaptic membranes and dendritic spines in hippocampal cells of normal animals.⁷⁸⁷ Researchers hypothesize that if this could be replicated in human brains, this treatment might help cognitive decline in patients with neurodegenerative diseases (dementia, Alzheimer's) or brain injuries, including strokes.⁷⁸⁸
4. Aluminum: Minimize exposure by selecting cookware, baking powder, antacids, antiperspirants, frozen pizza cheese, pickle relish, single-serving creamers and salt packets without aluminum present and limiting use of soda cans and foil.⁷⁸⁹

5. Diet Recommendations for the Prevention or Improvement of Depression

1. Foods: B Vitamins (B₆, B₁₂, and folate), work to remove homocysteine from the blood.⁷⁹⁰ Foods rich in folate include asparagus, broccoli, green leafy vegetables, and spinach.⁷⁹¹ For foods containing Vitamin B₆, eat bananas, beans, green vegetables, nuts, sweet potatoes, and whole grains.⁷⁹² Vitamin B₁₂ can be consumed in fortified breakfast cereals or fortified soy milk.⁷⁹³ Fish with the highest Omega-3 are herring, salmon, mackerel, and Bluefin tuna.⁷⁹⁴
2. Supplements: Lawyers suffering from depression, or those wishing to stave off depression, should check with their doctors on adding the supplements that research indicates have an impact

⁷⁸⁷ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 88.

⁷⁸⁸ *Id.* at 89.

⁷⁸⁹ Jager & Ahmed, *supra* note 676, at 206–07; BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 39–42; LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 87.

⁷⁹⁰ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 71–73.

⁷⁹¹ *Id.* at 74.

⁷⁹² *Id.*

⁷⁹³ *Id.* at 75.

⁷⁹⁴ LEYSE-WALLACE, *supra* note 25, at 221–22.

on depression including folic acid, Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, Vitamin D, Omega-3, and EPA.⁷⁹⁵ Vitamin B₁₂ is one of the rare micronutrients that is best ingested from a supplement, or from fortified breakfast cereals or fortified soy milk.⁷⁹⁶ It is poorly absorbed from animal products and not found in plants.⁷⁹⁷

B. Neuro-Protective Nutrition Practices

He that takes medicine and neglects diet wastes the skills of a physician.

—Chinese Proverb⁷⁹⁸

The lawyer's nutritional practices, the fuel she chooses to consume, can offer protection against cognitive decline.⁷⁹⁹ Dietary choices can impact neurotransmitter and signal transduction pathways, synaptic connections between neurons, membrane fluidity, and neurogenesis.⁸⁰⁰

1. It's Never Too Late to Start

The most famous pediatrician, Dr. Benjamin Spock, was very athletic as a young man, winning a gold medal on the Yale rowing crew at the 1924 Olympics.⁸⁰¹ In his eighties, he experienced numerous health problems: recurrent pneumonia, fluid around his heart and lungs due to exposure to tuberculosis, and chronic neuropathy that made it difficult to walk.⁸⁰² His doctors told him his only recourse was to use a wheel chair, install an elevator in his home, and wait for the end.⁸⁰³ Upon getting the quote for the pricey elevator, Dr. Spock decided to try major dietary changes.⁸⁰⁴ He eliminated meat and cheese, and moved to a diet rich in vegetables and whole grains.⁸⁰⁵ His sleep improved within days, his strength and energy returned within three weeks, and he lost fifty pounds of fluid within six weeks.⁸⁰⁶ Dr. Spock became an

⁷⁹⁵ *Id.* at 98, 100–02, 107–09, 116, 221.

⁷⁹⁶ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 75.

⁷⁹⁷ *Id.* at 75–76.

⁷⁹⁸ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 7.

⁷⁹⁹ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5; Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 145.

⁸⁰⁰ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5.

⁸⁰¹ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 82.

⁸⁰² *Id.* at 82–83.

⁸⁰³ *Id.* at 83.

⁸⁰⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁰⁵ *Id.*

⁸⁰⁶ *Id.*

advocate of plant-based diets and lived until he was nearly ninety-five years old.⁸⁰⁷

2. *Reasons to Get Started*

Just as Dr. Dean Ornish demonstrated in 1990 that it was possible to reverse heart disease,⁸⁰⁸ it is possible to reverse harm to the lawyer brain.⁸⁰⁹ There are many reasons for a lawyer to start improving her brain power with better nutrition: to optimize her professional capacity, to reduce the environmental damage factory farming causes from increasing greenhouse gases and pesticide use, to remove herself from the American food cycle that consumes more than one million animals per hour,⁸¹⁰ and to better care for herself and her family and model healthy habits for her children.

3. *Five Simple Ways to Start*

Eat food that you want your brain cells to be built of.

—David Katz, MD⁸¹¹

1. Partake of breakfast every day to avoid overeating later and to prevent your body from storing more fat, because the duration between meals throws your metabolism into starvation mode.⁸¹²
2. Eat smaller meals and snacks frequently to maintain consistent blood sugar levels.⁸¹³
3. Eat a big salad every day.⁸¹⁴ Include dark leafy greens because the greatest nutrition value is contained in the darkest greens.⁸¹⁵ Dress your salad with vinegar and a little olive oil to reduce the rise of blood glucose.⁸¹⁶ Your olive oil should be cold-pressed extra-virgin, come in a dark bottle, and be consumed within a few months of purchase because light, air, and time reduce the nutrition benefits.⁸¹⁷ Add an avocado to your salad to help your

⁸⁰⁷ *Id.* at 84.

⁸⁰⁸ *Id.* at 154–55.

⁸⁰⁹ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 3.

⁸¹⁰ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 189.

⁸¹¹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 277.

⁸¹² *Id.* at 65, 144, 299, 301, 313, 327; KORN, *supra* note 312, at 13.

⁸¹³ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 60–61, 227, 230, 264, 330; KORN, *supra* note 312, at 12.

⁸¹⁴ FUHRMAN, *supra* note 485, at 117–18.

⁸¹⁵ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 41.

⁸¹⁶ *Id.* at 24.

⁸¹⁷ *Id.* at 48.

body absorb more of the antioxidants in the other salad ingredients.⁸¹⁸

4. Drink coffee, tea, and water.⁸¹⁹ Coffee is comparable to fruit as a source of polyphenol antioxidants.⁸²⁰ Tea contains antioxidant polyphenols called catechins.⁸²¹ The half-life of caffeine is about six hours. Thus, your coffee or tea from “8 a.m. is half gone by 2 p.m., and three-quarters gone by 8 p.m.”⁸²²
5. Snack on about a ¼ cup of a variety of nuts because they contain a variety of antioxidants.⁸²³ Use nuts and seeds as an ingredient, sprinkling them on salad or yogurt, or adding them to sauces or smoothies.⁸²⁴

4. Eating Tips: Carbs

Eat as if your brain depends on it.

–Travis Stork, MD⁸²⁵

- Choose healthy carbs to limit their power to stimulate the addict brain.⁸²⁶
- Slash sugar consumption to reduce cravings; improve immune function; lower risk of weight gain, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, extra wrinkles, learning and memory problems, and irreparable glycation.⁸²⁷ Use stevia to sweeten.⁸²⁸ Reduce consumption of wheat products.⁸²⁹
- Consume a pound of produce a day, the more colorful the better including “all the colors of the brainbow,”⁸³⁰ to ingest powerful antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, and fiber.⁸³¹ If veggies such as

⁸¹⁸ *Id.* at 33.

⁸¹⁹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 37–38, 53–54; ELLIE WHITNEY & SHARON RADY ROLFES, UNDERSTANDING NUTRITION 376 (14th ed. 2015); SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 39.

⁸²⁰ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 38.

⁸²¹ *Id.* at 53.

⁸²² BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 125.

⁸²³ *Id.* at 45.

⁸²⁴ *See* BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 70, 163.

⁸²⁵ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 281.

⁸²⁶ *Id.* at 298.

⁸²⁷ *Id.* at 68–69, 245, 295, 321; KORN, *supra* note 312, at 10; Francis & Stevenson, *supra* note 255, at 112; DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 133–34.

⁸²⁸ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 318.

⁸²⁹ DAVIS, *supra* note 286, at 35, 139.

⁸³⁰ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 14; FUHRMAN, *supra* note 485, at 117–18.

⁸³¹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 67, 273.

broccoli, brussels sprouts, or spinach are too bitter to be appetizing, spritz them with lemon juice or apple cider vinegar to mellow and sweeten the taste.⁸³²

- Opt for organic produce to avoid pesticides and limit risk for obesity, diabetes, depression, stroke, and Parkinson's disease.⁸³³ Refer to the Environmental Working Group's Dirty Dozen and Clean Fifteen lists.⁸³⁴
- Plan on getting vitamins and nutrients primarily from whole foods.⁸³⁵ The supplements doctors most commonly take themselves and also recommend to patients are: Vitamin D; Vitamin B₁₂; fish oil or fish and flax oil combined or EPA/DHA (for Omega-3 fatty acids); and probiotics.⁸³⁶
- Snack on the ABCs: apples, bananas, and carrots, for increased fiber with low calorie counts.⁸³⁷
- Experiment with gluten-free (gluten is the protein in wheat and barley) for one month to see if you improve digestive issues, joint pain, skin rashes, brain fogginess, and/or blue moods.⁸³⁸

5. Eating Tips: Protein

- Increase quality protein as you reduce sugar.⁸³⁹
- Reduce meat and increase fish intake to improve your Omega-6/Omega-3 balance.⁸⁴⁰
- If you eat meat, adopt a healthy portion limit—the size of your fist.⁸⁴¹
- Increase plant protein: soy Beans, quinoa, millet, beans and rice, and vegetables and nuts.⁸⁴²

⁸³² BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 159.

⁸³³ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 253, 325; Farooqui & Farooqui, *supra* note 272, at 17.

⁸³⁴ EWG's 2016 Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce, ENVTL. WORKING GRP., http://www.ewg.org/foodnews/?gclid=Cj0KEQjwuLKtBRDPicmJyvu_qZMBEiQAzIGN5g_4OMbyf_qvesPMIHMxZq3iMCCIDyD8R6EgF162-_UaAqXc8P8HAQ (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

⁸³⁵ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 281, BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 68–70, 73–76.

⁸³⁶ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 202–03; BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 75.

⁸³⁷ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 291, 319. Bananas also contain blood pressure-lowering potassium. *Id.*

⁸³⁸ *Id.* at 204–05, 208, 227, 245.

⁸³⁹ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 10.

⁸⁴⁰ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 67–68.

⁸⁴¹ *Id.* at 136.

⁸⁴² KORN, *supra* note 312, at 9.

- Eliminate meat one or two days a week in favor of vegetarian meals.⁸⁴³
- Choose organic eggs and organic and/or wild meats to limit exposure to additives, preservatives, hormones, and pesticides.⁸⁴⁴

6. *Eating Tips: Fats*

- Embrace healthy fats to make your brain more efficient and aid nutrient absorption from other foods.⁸⁴⁵
- Increase Omega-3 fats to improve brain and cardiovascular health.⁸⁴⁶
- Pair carbs with healthy fats to slow glucose conversion and feel satiated.⁸⁴⁷
- Eliminate, or significantly minimize, unhealthy oils (corn, safflower, soybean, sunflower) to improve your Omega-6/Omega-3 balance.⁸⁴⁸
- Snack on nuts or dark chocolate to maintain stable blood sugar levels and keep your metabolism revved up with a steady intake of good nutrients to digest.⁸⁴⁹

7. *Eating Tips: Vitamins and Minerals*

- Obtain vitamins and minerals from whole foods because of their antioxidants and fiber: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes.⁸⁵⁰
- Check with your doctor about including supplements in your diet and ask about: Vitamin D and Vitamin B₁₂; for Omega-3 and EPA/DHA, flax oil, fish oil, or flax/fish oil combined; and probiotics.⁸⁵¹

8. *Eating Tips: Habits*

- Integrate good habits first, then work on eliminating bad habits.⁸⁵²

⁸⁴³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 39.

⁸⁴⁴ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 14.

⁸⁴⁵ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 63.

⁸⁴⁶ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 59; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 164.

⁸⁴⁷ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 62–63, 142.

⁸⁴⁸ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 161.

⁸⁴⁹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 205, 209, 219, 223, 277.

⁸⁵⁰ *Id.* at 281; BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 68–70, 73–76.

⁸⁵¹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 202–03; BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 75.

⁸⁵² KORN, *supra* note 312, at 14–15.

- Thwart emotional eating by: distinguishing between head hunger and real hunger, managing stress, and eating mindfully to limit stress hormone-related excess fat storage and to gain more nutritional value from your food.⁸⁵³
- Eat when relaxed to empower the parasympathetic rest-and-digest system and avoid digestion problems.⁸⁵⁴
- Shop at the outsides of the grocery store to limit the incentive salience of highly processed and sweet-laden food, usually shelved in the center aisles.⁸⁵⁵
- Embrace the ritual of preparing fresh food daily. Choose guilty-pleasure television or pod-casts to entertain you during food preparation.⁸⁵⁶
- Keep your kitchen neat because a cluttered and chaotic kitchen causes people to eat more calories and select less healthy foods.⁸⁵⁷
- Consider using a subscription food service to help you prepare fresh food at home. Blue Apron⁸⁵⁸ provides meal plans for meat eaters and vegetarians and Purple Carrot⁸⁵⁹ supplies vegan meal kits.
- To establish good habits, keep a log of food consumed and daily activities.⁸⁶⁰

Love food that loves you back.

—David Katz, MD⁸⁶¹

9. Foods with Superpowers

Although there is no legal definition of superfood, foods high in phytochemicals are often described as superfoods.⁸⁶² Variety is an

⁸⁵³ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 69–70, 156–57.

⁸⁵⁴ See KORN, *supra* note 312, at 13–14.

⁸⁵⁵ *Grocery Store Secret: Shop the Perimeter*, MAYO CLINIC (Aug. 6, 2014), <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/in-depth/health-tip/art-20048842>.

⁸⁵⁶ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 24–25.

⁸⁵⁷ LENNY R. VARTANIAN, KRISTIN KERNAN & BRIAN WANSINK, CLUTTER, CHAOS, AND OVERCONSUMPTION: THE ROLE OF MIND-SET IN STRESSFUL AND CHAOTIC FOOD ENVIRONMENTS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOOD & BRAND LAB 9–10 (2016).

⁸⁵⁸ BLUE APRON, <https://www.blueapron.com/> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

⁸⁵⁹ THE PURPLE CARROT, <https://thepurplecarrot.com/> (last visited Mar. 28, 2017).

⁸⁶⁰ *Food and Physical Activity Trackers*, AM. DIABETES ASSOC. (May 15, 2015), <http://www.diabetes.org/food-and-fitness/weight-loss/getting-started/food-and-physical-activity.html>.

⁸⁶¹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 277.

⁸⁶² See SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 13.

important component of maintaining good physical and mental health, so lawyers should strive to incorporate as many of the foods with superpowers as possible.⁸⁶³ The following chart includes food that are rich in phytochemicals, polyphenols, Omega-3 fatty acids, healthy proteins, prebiotics, and probiotics.⁸⁶⁴

Table 3. Nutrient-rich Foods

Fruits and Vegetables			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Apples	Antioxidants, Soluble Fiber	Heart Disease, High Cholesterol, Obesity, and Stroke	Antioxidants
Apricots	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Asparagus	Folate, Glutathione, Inulin, and Saponins	Cancer, Obesity, Digestive Upset and Bloating	Prebiotic Folate works to reduce homocysteine in blood, which increases MCI and Alzheimer's risk
Beets	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Berries	Anthocyanins, Antioxidants, Fiber, and Vitamin C, Phytochemicals	Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Memory Loss, and Obesity	Delay age-related cognitive decline
Blueberries	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Broccoli	Fiber, Folate, Sulforaphane, and Vitamin C, Polyphenols	Cancer and Heart Disease	Folate works to reduce homocysteine in blood, which increases MCI and Alzheimer's risk

⁸⁶³ See *id.* at 38–39.

⁸⁶⁴ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 69–76; BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 29–56, 299; DRUMMOND & BREFERE, *supra* note 437, at 222–23; KORN, *supra* note 312, at 9; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 14, 38–39; WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 58.

Fruits and Vegetables			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Brussels Sprouts	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Cabbage	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Cauliflower	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Carrots	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Cherries	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Citrus Fruits	Vitamin C, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Antioxidant ⁸⁶⁵
Cranberries	Phytochemicals	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Dark Leafy Greens (Kale, Spinach, Romaine Lettuce)	Calcium, Carotenoids, Fiber, Folate, Iron, Vitamins C, E, and K	Cancer, Diabetes, Macular Degeneration, and Obesity	Folate works to reduce homocysteine in blood, which increases MCI and Alzheimer's risk ⁸⁶⁶
Eggplant	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Garlic	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Grapes	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Green Peas	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Green Tea	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Honeydew Melon	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Hot Peppers	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Kale	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants

⁸⁶⁵ WILLIAMS, *supra* note 415, at 58.

⁸⁶⁶ *Id.*

Fruits and Vegetables			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Mangoes	Carotenoids, Fiber, Vitamin C, and Vitamin E	Diabetes, Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, and Obesity	Likely antioxidants
Nectarines	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Onions	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Papaya	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Peaches	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Peanuts	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Pears	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Peppers Yellow	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Pineapple	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Plums	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Prunes	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Raisins	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Red Cabbage	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Soy Beans and Soy Milk	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Strawberries	Vitamin C	Oxidative stress	Antioxidant ⁸⁶⁷
Sweet Potatoes	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Tomatoes	Phytochemicals, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants
Whole Grains	Vitamin E, Polyphenols	Oxidative stress	Likely antioxidants

⁸⁶⁷ *Id.*

Protein			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Beans and Legumes ⁸⁶⁸	Antioxidants, Folate, Potassium, Protein, Soluble Fiber, Phytochemicals	Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Obesity	Vitamin B ₆ works to reduce homocysteine in blood, which increases MCI and Alzheimer's risk
Buckwheat ⁸⁶⁹	Flavonoids	High Blood Pressure and Cholesterol, Diabetes	
Eggs	Antioxidants, Choline, Omega-3 Fatty Acids, and Protein	Cancer, Macular Degeneration, and Obesity	Protein becomes dopamine, norepinephrine, and epinephrine increasing alertness, energy, and mood
Nuts, Nut Butters, and Seeds (Chia & Hemp Seeds) ⁸⁷⁰	Calcium, Healthy Fats, Magnesium, Protein, and Vitamin E	Alzheimer's Disease, Heart Disease, and Obesity	Vitamin E and Omega-3 fatty acids protect against brain shrinkage and cognitive decline. Vitamin E neutralizes free radicals and reduces risk of Alzheimer's disease
Oats	Folate, Protein, and Soluble Fiber	Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Obesity	

⁸⁶⁸ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 209.

⁸⁶⁹ BHATIA, *supra* note 8, at 299 (“Buckwheat (kasha) isn't a grain, but a fruit seed that is related to rhubarb and sorrel . . . higher in protein than brown rice,” and it can be substituted for brown rice and the flour can be used in baking).

⁸⁷⁰ The Doctors, *3 Super-Seeds Everyone Should Be Eating*, THE HUFFINGTON POST ENTERTAINMENT (July 23, 2015), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/seeds-to-boost-health_55b088d3e4b0a9b94853b5ff; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 168.

Protein			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Quinoa	Antioxidants, Fiber, Folate, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, and Protein	Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Obesity	
Salmon (wild)	Omega-3 Fatty Acids, Protein, Selenium, Vitamin B12, and Vitamin D	Arthritis, Breast Cancer, Depression, Heart Disease, Infertility, Macular Degeneration, Memory Loss, and Skin Cancer	Omega-3s are the primary brain fat and they keep cell membranes flexible to enhance transmitter migration
Fats			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Avocados	Beta-Carotene, Fiber, Folate, Lutein, Monounsaturated Fat, Phytosterols, Potassium, and Zeaxanthin	Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Macular Degeneration, and Obesity	Minimize age-related memory decline
Fatty Fish Salmon, Tuna & Halibut ⁸⁷¹	Omega-3 fatty acids	Inflammation Aids immune and cardiovascular systems. Decreases blood clotting & triglycerides	Part of brain structure, aids concentration and vision, and decreases inflammation.
Nuts, Nut Butters, and Seeds (Chia & Hemp Seeds) ⁸⁷²	Calcium, Healthy Fats, Magnesium, Protein, Vitamin E, Antioxidants, Fiber	Alzheimer's Disease, Heart Disease, and Obesity	Vitamin E and Omega-3 fatty acids protect against brain shrinkage and cognitive decline. Vitamin E neutralizes free radicals and reduces risk of Alzheimer's disease

⁸⁷¹ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 163–164, 173 Other fatty fish that are rich in Omega-3 include: anchovies, striped bass, catfish, herring, mackerel, sardines, and trout. *Id.*

⁸⁷² The Doctors, *supra* note 870; SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 168.

Protein			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Nuts/Seeds: Walnuts, Chia & Flax Seeds ⁸⁷³	Omega-3 fatty acids, Antioxidants, Fiber	Inflammation Aids immune and cardiovascular systems. Decreases blood clotting & triglycerides	Part of brain structure, aids concentration and vision, and decreases inflammation
Olive Oil	Antioxidants, Monounsaturated Fat, and Vitamin K	Bone Loss, Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, and Stroke	
Oils: Canola & Soybean ⁸⁷⁴	Omega-3 fatty acids	Inflammation Aids immune and cardiovascular systems. Decreases blood clotting & triglycerides	Part of brain structure, aids concentration and vision, and decreases inflammation
Phytochemicals and Antioxidants			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Coffee ⁸⁷⁵	Boron, Caffeine, Chromium, and Polyphenols	Cancer, Diabetes, Parkinson's Disease, and Stroke	Cuts risk of Alzheimer's disease. Antioxidants
Dark Chocolate ⁸⁷⁶	Flavonoids	Depression, Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Obesity. Decreases inflammation	Likely antioxidants
Tea	Caffeine and Catechins	Arthritis, Bone Loss, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity, Stroke, and Viral Infections	Likely antioxidants

⁸⁷³ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 163–64.

⁸⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁷⁵ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 79.

⁸⁷⁶ SMITH & COLLENE, *supra* note 5, at 193.

Digestive Health (Second Brain)⁸⁷⁷			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Asparagus	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Bananas	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Bark Flour	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Bran	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Beans	Prebiotic, Fiber	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Cactus	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Chia	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Garlic	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Leeks	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Oatmeal	Prebiotic, Fiber	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Onion	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Psyllium	Prebiotic	Harmful bacteria	Prebiotic
Brewer's Yeast	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Cheese with live cultures	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Kefir	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Kimchi	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic

⁸⁷⁷ KORN, *supra* note 312, at 5, 50–53.

Digestive Health (Second Brain)⁸⁷⁷			
	Key Nutrients	Protects Against	Brain Benefits
Kombucha	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Micro-algae	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Miso	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Sauerkraut	Probiotic	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic
Yogurt	Calcium, Potassium, Probiotics, Protein, and Vitamin B12	Digestive Problems, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Osteoporosis	Probiotic

C. Exercise to Enhance Brain Health

As a lawyer changes dietary habits, she should also consider adding exercise to her regimen.⁸⁷⁸ Lawyers who exercise can increase dopamine levels, ensuring it becomes part of a regular routine.⁸⁷⁹ In addition to healthy fuel choices, exercise is the other most powerful practice for optimizing brain function.⁸⁸⁰

The lawyer brain requires twenty-five percent of the body's calories, twenty percent of its oxygen, and twenty five percent of its blood flow.⁸⁸¹ Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, maximizing the

⁸⁷⁸ BARNARD, *supra* note 218, at 105.

⁸⁷⁹ *Id.* at 186.

⁸⁸⁰ RATEY, GO WILD, *supra* note 71, at 245.

⁸⁸¹ AMEN, *supra* note 18, at 17.

distribution of nutrients and improving the elimination of waste.⁸⁸² Exercise helps keeps the hippocampus healthy by increasing blood flow.⁸⁸³

Exercise increases and rebalances dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine, improving motivation, reinforcing good habits, enhancing mood, and improving sleep, attention, heartbeat, and blood pressure.⁸⁸⁴ Exercise increases BDNF production, improving neurogenesis and neuroplasticity, and reducing inflammation and oxidative stress.⁸⁸⁵ Along with wise nutrition practices, exercise is the second half of an anti-aging strategy for lawyers designed to prevent disease, protect cognitive function, reduce depression risk, and increase longevity.⁸⁸⁶

CONCLUSION

A good quality of life for lawyers includes high cognitive function, low levels of depression, strong physical health, and robust social connections.⁸⁸⁷ The lawyer's nutritional practices can offer protection against cognitive decline and disease.⁸⁸⁸ For the lawyer brain, food choices can improve neurotransmitter pathways; synaptic connections between neurons; and neurogenesis.⁸⁸⁹ This Article seeks to increase lawyer NQ and help lawyers and law students develop a food philosophy and anti-aging plan that works to ensure a robust quality of life.

⁸⁸² MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 21–22.

⁸⁸³ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 65; MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 21–22.

⁸⁸⁴ CARTER ET AL., THE HUMAN BRAIN, *supra* note 42, at 231; CARTER, MAPPING THE MIND, *supra* note 18, at 28–29; HORSTMAN, DAY IN THE LIFE, *supra* note 36, at 8, 34; MEDINA, *supra* note 46, at 16–17; *see* RATEY, SPARK, *supra* note 60, at 36–38; SWEENEY, *supra* note 44, at 15, 221.

⁸⁸⁵ Lopresti, *supra* note 317, at 99–100.

⁸⁸⁶ Pandey & Rizvi, *supra* note 226, at 126–27.

⁸⁸⁷ Bonaccio, de Gaetano & Iacoviello, *supra* note 748, at 40.

⁸⁸⁸ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5; Lephart, *supra* note 231, at 145.

⁸⁸⁹ Best & Dye, *supra* note 17, at 5.

