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*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Announce An Attorney General's Series Program*

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **EFFECTIVE APPELLATE ADVOCACY**

**June 4, 2012**

**5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex**

**25 Market Street**

**6th Floor Point Meeting Area**

**Trenton, New Jersey**

#### ***Program Summary***

This program will offer insight on how to present an effective appeal and will address commonly asked questions regarding brief writing and oral advocacy before the Appellate Division and New Jersey Supreme Court. Please see the attached outline for the specific topics that will be addressed during the presentation.

#### ***Who Should Attend?***

This program is open to deputy attorneys general, assistant attorneys general and volunteer attorneys **only**. Please do not attempt to register for this program if you are not a DAG, AAG or volunteer attorney.

#### ***Who Is the Faculty?***

**Peter G. Verniero** is a member of Sills Cummis & Gross P.C., in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to joining that firm in 2004, he served for ten years in senior positions within the executive and judicial branches of state government, including chief counsel and then chief of staff to Governor Christine Todd Whitman, state Attorney General and Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. While Attorney General, Mr. Verniero personally argued major appeals before the New Jersey Supreme Court and United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Mr. Verniero formerly served as chair of the state Supreme Court's Professional Responsibility Rules Committee and chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Legal Education. He is the current vice chair of the Civil Practice Committee. He also serves as chair of Governor Chris Christie's Judicial Advisory Panel. Mr. Verniero is the annotator of the *Rules Governing the Courts*

*of the State of New Jersey*, a widely-cited treatise published by Gann Law Books. Mr. Verniero's essays on legal or judicial subjects have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Star-Ledger* of Newark and elsewhere. He serves on the editorial board of the *New Jersey Law Journal*.

Mr. Verniero graduated *summa cum laude* from Drew University in 1981, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated with honors from Duke University School of Law in 1984. He served as a law clerk to Justice Robert L. Clifford of the New Jersey Supreme Court during its 1984-85 term.

### ***CLE Credit***

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program had been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.2 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

**NY CLE Credit:** 1.0 substantive credit (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

**PA CLE Credit:** 1.0 substantive credit (\$1.50 mandatory registration fee required).

### ***How Do I Register?***

#### **State Employees**

Most State employees are able to register for this course by going to <http://reg.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/login.aspx?portalid=2> and creating an AGAI Course Registration account. To do so, your computer **must** be attached to the government's Garden State Network. Upon opening the AGAI Course Registration System home page, you will see the Create Account link in the Login Box. Click on it and create your account, which will include you selecting a user name and password. Once you create your account, you can access the AGAI Course Registration System at <http://reg.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/login.aspx?portalid=2> to register for future courses or to manage your account. Please retain your user name and password for your records.

#### **Non-State Employees or State Employees not Connected to the Garden State Network**

If you are not a State employee, or are otherwise unable to access the AGAI Course Registration System through the Garden State Network, kindly email the Advocacy Institute at: [AdvocacyInstitute@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:AdvocacyInstitute@lps.state.nj.us) for an authorization code to allow you access to the AGAI Course Registration System through the My New Jersey portal. **Setting up your account through the portal is a two-step process, the details of which are set forth in the next two paragraphs.**

Once you receive the portal authorization code you will be prompted to go to the My New Jersey portal at <http://www.state.nj.us/> and create a portal account. This is Step 1 of the process, which you need only do once.

Upon setting up your portal account, you need to set up your AGAI Course Registration System account. This is Step 2. To do so, log on to the My New Jersey Portal <http://www.state.nj.us/>. Upon opening the AGAI Course Registration System home page, you will see the Create Account link in the Login Box. Click on it and create your account, which will include you selecting a new user name and password. Once you create your account, you can access the AGAI Course Registration System at <http://reg.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/login.aspx?portalid=2> to register for future courses or to manage your account. Please retain your user name and password for your records.

## OUTLINE

### I. Court Operations

- A. Appellate Division Panels
- B. Supreme Court

### II. Standards of Appellate Review

### III. Brief Writing

- A. Organization and Clarity
- B. Selection of Issues
- C. Citations to the Record
- D. Length
- E. Tone
- F. Proof-reading, etc.

### IV. Oral Argument

- A. Does it matter?
- B. Organization and Issues to Cover
- C. Tone
- D. Responsiveness of Counsel
- E. Sensitivity to Broader Issues
- F. Humor
- G. Rebuttal

### V. Questions & Answers/Informal Discussion