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*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Announce*

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION: AN OVERVIEW OF SELECT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

**March 14, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex**

**6th Floor Point Meeting Area – Attorney General's Library**

**25 Market Street**

**Trenton, New Jersey**

#### **Program Summary**

This presentation will provide an overview of the special education process in New Jersey with a focus on select legal requirements relating to the identification, evaluation and provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities. The presentation will include a discussion of federal requirements set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state requirements as detailed in N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

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

This program is open to all government attorneys, space permitting.

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

**John Worthington, Esq.**, is the Manager of the Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of Special Education Programs within the New Jersey Department of Education. In this capacity he oversees the implementation of administrative of policy for the office, including development of regulations, model IEPs and the Parental Rights in Special Education booklet. In addition, Mr. Worthington oversees the dispute resolution system, the complaint investigation process, the approval and monitoring of approved private schools for students with disabilities and clinics and agencies, the SEMI program, and the IDEA Part B and AARA grant processes. Prior to obtaining his current position, Mr. Worthington worked for eleven years for the New Jersey Attorney General, primarily representing the Department of Education, and in July of 2000 began working for the Department of Education. Initially, he worked in the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes assisting in the preparation of Commissioner decisions in contested cases. From September 2002 to March 2005, he worked in the Office of Special Education Programs as the Coordinator of Dispute Resolution. In March 2005, Mr. Worthington became the Coordinator of Policy Development in the Office of Special Education Programs. In January,

2007, Mr. Worthington was appointed Acting Director of State Board of Appeals, in addition to continuing his duties as Coordinator of Policy Development. In this capacity, he oversaw the processing and determination of appeals of decisions of the Commissioner of Education, State Board of Examiners and School Ethics Commission on behalf of the New Jersey State Board of Education. After the Office of State Board Appeals closed in the Spring of 2008, he returned full-time to the Office of Special Education Programs. In the Fall of 2009 he became the Acting Manager of the Bureau of Policy and Planning.

**Kathy Ehling, Esq.**, is the Coordinator of State Performance Planning, Office of Special Education Programs within the New Jersey Department of Education. Kathy's primary responsibilities within the OSEP include coordinating the annual submission of the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report to the United States Department of Education, coordinating the submission of New Jersey's annual IDEA Part-B application, and developing policy and regulatory documents. Ms. Ehling worked as a complaint investigator and mediator prior to becoming a coordinator. Prior to joining the department, Kathy worked as a fifth grade teacher in the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

### **CLE Credit**

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.0 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

**NY CLE Credit:** 2.0 substantive credits (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

**PA CLE Credit:** 1.5 substantive credits (\$3.00 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. Once your portal account is created you are prompted to enter your authorization code. This is Step 1 of the process, which you need only do once.

**If you have already been issued an authorization code in the past you do not need to request another one.** You can log into your account on the Garden State Network at <http://www.state.nj.us> and under the heading NJ L&PS Applications you will see the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute's Registration System. Click on that and log into your account on our system.

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.