



The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Announce

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

LIABILITIES AND IMMUNITIES UNDER THE NEW JERSEY TORT CLAIMS ACT

**May 14, 2014
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
New Jersey State House
125 West State Street
3rd Floor, Authorities Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey**

Program Summary

This program will provide an introduction to sovereign immunity in the State of New Jersey and will provide an overview of public entity defense under New Jersey's Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1 et seq. This presentation will include explanations of the statute's notice requirements, restrictions on suits and damages, as well as applications of the liabilities and immunities provided under the Act.

Who Should Attend?

This program is intended solely for those selected to participate in the *State House Series* programs, notice of which such persons have already received. Please do not attempt to register if you have not been so selected.

Who Is the Faculty?

Geri Benedetto is the Associate Vice President and Chief University Counsel for Kean University, the third largest public university in the State of New Jersey. Previously, she was a Deputy Attorney General, an Assistant Section Chief, and the Section Chief of the Division of Law's Tort Litigation Section, a litigation unit that defends the State, its agencies, and employees against personal injury, wrongful death, Federal Employer's Liability Act, abuse, and other negligence claims. Ms. Benedetto also worked for the Division of Law as a DAG representing the Governor's Office of Employee Relations on behalf of all State agencies and employees in employee relations litigation. Ms. Benedetto joined the Division in 1992 after several years as a litigation associate at Blank Rome in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Temple University School of Law and was Symposium Editor of the *Temple Law Review*. Ms. Benedetto has successfully tried many State and federal cases and has been a longstanding faculty member of the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute.

DAG Robert H. Murphy joined the Division of Law in February 2011 as a Volunteer Associate in the Tort Litigation Section. He was hired as a deputy in the Tort Litigation Section in August 2011 wherein he is responsible for defending a full docket of civil cases brought under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, the Mistaken Imprisonment Act, the New Jersey Civil Rights Act and 42 U.S.C. §1983 in State and Federal Court. Prior to coming to the Division of Law, DAG Murphy clerked for the Honorable Melvin R. Wright in Washington, D.C. He received his Juris Doctorate, in May 2008 from American University, Washington College of Law. He received a Master of Arts in Philosophy and Social Theory from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Saint Mary's College of Maryland.

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, and 2.0 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in civil trial law.

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 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.