



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY WORKING WITH THE PRO SE DEFENDANT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**November 23, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

The court must strike a balance between a defendant's right to proceed pro se and a child's right to timely permanency. See *DCP&P v. R.L.M.* 236 N.J. 123 (2018). Facing pro se defendants presents unique challenges for a DAG, including handling discovery issues with both pro se defendants and stand-by counsel, ensuring the Court's proper voir dire of the defendant, protecting the trial record, and preventing trial delays.

This course will explore the DAG's role and ethical responsibilities when a defendant refuses the assistance of counsel, and provide instruction and strategies for addressing these complex issues in both in-person and remote proceedings. The presenters will provide guidance on the ethics issues that arise when dealing with pro se defendants, including how R.P.C.s 3.2 - 3.5 and 4.3 can guide a deputy in safeguarding both trial court proceedings and the record.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

DAG Jennifer A. Lochel is an Assistant Section Chief in the DCF South Section of the Division of Law, where she supervises Camden and Burlington Counties. She was previously a Lead Deputy Attorney General in the DCF South Section. DAG Lochel has extensive trial experience in children in court matters and has represented the Division in multiple appellate arguments. DAG Lochel recently appeared before the Supreme Court, where she successfully argued the Division's case in DCP&P v. R.L.M. DAG Lochel clerked for the Honorable Diane B. Cohen, P.J.F.P. and holds a J.D. from Widener University Law School.

DAG Michael A. Thompson is a member of the DCF Central Section of the Division of Law. He handles all aspects of DCP&P trial litigation for Middlesex West and has argued before the Appellate Division on several occasions. DAG Thompson also serves on the Judiciary's Children in Court Race Equity Leadership Team. Prior to joining the Division of Law, DAG Thompson served as an Assistant Deputy Public Defender with the Office of the Public Defender. He holds a J.D. from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law.

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 1.5 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 1.5 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.