



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Let the Sunshine In: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act

**January 7, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This presentation will cover the history and legal requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The presenters will discuss what constitutes a meeting, public notice requirements and exemptions and provisions governing meeting minutes. The program will also include a discussion of the nine exceptions that allow a public body to go into executive session, including personnel matters and attorney-client privilege.

Eligibility

This program will be of special interest to deputy attorneys general who represent or work with boards and commissions, but it is open to all deputies in the Divisions of Law, Gaming Enforcement, Alcoholic Beverage Control and the New Jersey Racing Commission. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

SDAG Steven Flanzman is the Section Chief of the Division of Law's Consumer Affairs Counseling Section. He represents the State Board of Medical Examiners, along with multiple committees of the Board of Medical Examiners and the Perfusionists' Advisory Committee. SDAG Flanzman also provides advice to the Division of Consumer Affairs on numerous issues, most recently on the Division's numerous initiatives and actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with advice on issues involving both the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act. SDAG Flanzman has previously represented the

Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Advertising in a challenge to Joint Opinion 732 (propriety of lawyers participating with “AVVO”) and in the matter of Opinion 39 (“Super Lawyers” and “Best Lawyers” designations). Prior to joining the Division of Law, SDAG Flanzman worked in the corporate law and litigation departments of Lowenstein Sandler and Sils Cummins. He graduated from Tufts University with a degree in economics and earned his law degree from Harvard University.

DAG Geoffrey Gersten is a member of the Division of Law’s Administrative Civil Rights Section. Before joining the Civil Rights Section, he was a member of the Public Utilities Section, where he counseled the Board of Public Utilities on issues including the Open Public Meetings Act and defended its decisions. He has also worked in the Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section. DAG Gersten, along with DAG/SC Flanzman, provides Open Public Meetings Act advice to various state agencies, including on how the OPMA landscape has evolved through the proliferation of remote meetings. DAG Gersten has handled numerous matters involving the recovery and review of electronic documents, subpoena responses to State and federal agencies and large-scale e-discovery requests. DAG Gersten has worked with New Jersey State agencies to assess their litigation hold practices and search and review capabilities for electronic document production and has co-developed and presented comprehensive e-discovery training to the Division’s deputies. He received the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in 2017 for Outstanding Contributions to a Special Project and in 2015 for Excellence in Investigations. DAG Gersten is a faculty member for the New Jersey Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute and the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute. He served as a law clerk for the Honorable Donald S. Goldman, J.S.C. (retired). DAG Gersten received his undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and his J.D. from American University, Washington College 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 2.0 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 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.