



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Exploring Defenses to Section 1983 Litigation: Absolute/Qualified Immunity and Beyond

**February 10, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This seminar will focus on the various defenses available to State defendants in opposing 42 U.S.C.A. §1983 damage actions, with primary emphasis on the absolute and qualified immunity doctrines. In addition, the seminar will explore the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine, claim preclusion and judicial estoppel theories.

Eligibility

This program is intended for LPS attorneys who handle §1983 and other federal actions. Other LPS attorneys, however, may find the program of interest. This program is also open to attorneys in county prosecutors' offices. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

AAG Michael C. Walters is a Deputy Director in the Division of Law. He previously served as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of Litigation. Prior to that position, he was the Section Chief of the Education & Higher Education Section, where he supervised the coordination and development of litigation strategy for representing the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey colleges and universities. He has briefed and argued cases involving a wide range of issues before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the New Jersey Appellate Division and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He began his career as a law clerk for The Honorable Myron H. Gottlieb, J.S.C and graduated from Rutgers School Law in 1998.

AAG Daniel M. Vannella is an Assistant Attorney General with the Litigation Practice Group in the Division of Law. Prior to that, he was the Chief of the Tort Litigation & Judiciary Section, as well as a deputy and then an Assistant Chief with the Corrections & State Police Section. AAG Vannella has handled and supervised a large number of state/federal litigation and appellate matters involving constitutional, civil rights, and tort issues. He has argued before the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the Third Circuit, and the Appellate Division, and defended five jury trials before the U.S. District of New Jersey. AAG Vannella previously worked for the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office, in private practice, and as a law clerk for the Honorable Richard J. Geiger, J.S.C. He obtained his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from The College of New Jersey, and his J.D. from William & Mary Law School.

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.