



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

KLG v. Adoption A Primer on Client Counseling and Legal Strategy

**November 21, 2022
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

The Division of Child Protection & Permanency's permanency planning for children in its custody has become legally complex with the advent of new legislation impacting N.J.S.A. 30:4C-15.1 and 3B:12A-6. Deputies analyzing whether kinship legal guardianship (KLG) or adoption is in the best interest of a child must have a strong understanding of who the child is and how they are impacted by their relationships. If a client determines that adoption is in the best interest of the child, a deputy will need to prove that KLG is not in the child's best interest, and thus not an alternative to adoption. Many factors may go into these proofs, including the permanent aspect of adoption; current visitation; and other child specific considerations. This program is designed for all DCP&P deputies because the permanency question is pervasive throughout all stages of litigation. Specific tools and strategies will be discussed to assist with client counseling and trial preparation including the Rules of Evidence, choice of evidence, and working with lay witnesses. The presenters will also discuss client counseling and strategic presentation to the judiciary when both KLG and adoption are equally viable plans.

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 the Section Chief of the DCF Central Section of the Division of Law. She was previously an Assistant Section Chief and Lead Deputy Attorney General in the DCF South Section, supervising Camden and Burlington Counties. DAG Lochel has extensive

trial experience in child protection matters. She has represented the Division in multiple appellate arguments, including successfully arguing DCP&P v. R.L.M. before the Supreme Court. DAG Lochel clerked for the Honorable Diane B. Cohen, P.J.F.P. She holds a J.D. from Widener University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Delaware.

DAG Lauren Oliverio is a member of the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families Practice Group in Hudson County, where she represents DCP&P in termination of parental rights matters. DAG Oliverio has litigated select home cases, matters involving severe physical and emotional abuse, and contested Kinship Legal Guardianship hearings in counties throughout northern New Jersey. Prior to joining the Department of Law and Public Safety, DAG Oliverio was in private practice specializing in real estate and commercial litigation. She clerked for the Honorable Robert B. Reed, P.J.Cr., Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset Vicinage. DAG Oliverio received Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Labor and Industrial Relations from the Pennsylvania State University and a J.D., cum laude, from Roger Williams University, 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, 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.