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## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **Attorney Conducted Voir Dire**

**April 18, 2023  
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

### **WEBINAR**

#### ***Program Summary***

An Attorney Conducted Voir Dire (ACVD) Pilot Program has commenced in Bergen, Camden, and Middlesex Counties, resulting in over ten juries being selected with these new standards. A panel of prosecutors from Bergen, Camden, and Middlesex Counties and representatives of the Judiciary will discuss their experiences with ACVD, including the changes in the jury selection process, the types of cases appropriate for ACVD at this stage, compiling an agreed-upon list of juror questions, and addressing hardship or challenges for cause that can be asserted based on review of the juror questionnaire, as well as challenges that arise during oral questioning. The Supreme Court has authorized the expansion of the ACVD pilot program to criminal trials in Monmouth County as of May 1, 2023 and may expand it to additional counties, so this program will provide guidance for prosecutors who are not familiar with ACVD protocols.

#### ***Eligibility***

Registration for this program is limited to county prosecutors and assistant prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice Deputy Attorneys General.

#### ***Faculty***

**Assistant Prosecutor Kimberley Capers** is Chief of the Trial Section at the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, where she supervises 11 APs in the trial section who prosecute all types of indictable cases charged by the county's police departments. She is also a member of the office's Bias Unit, providing legal guidance to municipal police departments on bias incidents and crimes and serves on the BCPO Diversity Committee. AP Capers was previously the Chief Assistant Prosecutor in the Confidential Investigations Unit, investigating and prosecuting cases involving

misconduct by law enforcement officers and public officials. She started her career at the BCPO in the Special Victims Unit, prosecuting adult and child sexual abuse and child physical abuse cases. Prior to joining the BCPO, AP Capers was the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Bureau at the Office of the District Attorney, Bronx County where she served in the Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Units. She holds an undergraduate degree from New York University and received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

**Leslie Darcy** is the Criminal Division Manager for the Judiciary's Bergen County Vicinage, where she is also its PTI Director. She has served the Judiciary as the Human Resources Supervisor for the Morris/Sussex Vicinage and as the Assistant Criminal Division Manager for Sussex County. Ms. Darcy was Essex County's first Substance Abuse Evaluator where she developed the TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime) program prior to the inception of what is now known as Recovery Court. She began her career with the Vera Institute of Justice as an Intake Coordinator for their alternative to Incarceration Program and spent over 15 years in the private sector as a Human Resources Director. Ms. Darcy earned dual certifications from the National Center for State Courts as a Certified Court Manager and Certified Court Executive. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Goucher College and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University.

**Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Farrell** is a member of the Trial Teams Section of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. He has successfully tried an attempted murder jury trial as well as the first jury trial in Middlesex County under the Attorney-Conducted Voir Dire (ACVD) program. Prior to joining the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Ryan worked as an associate attorney at a law firm in Ocean County, New Jersey where he focused on personal injury litigation and land use/zoning matters. AP Farrell began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Carolyn A. Murray, J.S.C. & the Honorable Richard T. Sules, J.S.C., Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex Vicinage. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School in 2018.

**Lori Grimaldi** is the Criminal Division Manager in the Judiciary's Middlesex Vicinage. She previously served as the Assistant Civil Division Manager, Assistant Criminal Division Manager, and as Court Services Supervisor 2. She has also served as a senior probation officer and began her career with the vicinage as a probation officer. Ms. Grimaldi holds a Bachelor's Degree in Justice Studies from Montclair State University and a Master's Degree in Human Services from Seton Hall University.

**Assistant Prosecutor Deanna Himelson** serves in the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, where she has tried two cases using attorney conducted voir dire since the pilot program commenced in Middlesex. Prior to joining the MCPO, AP Himelson was an Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York, where she conducted numerous trials in which jurors were selected through attorney conducted voir dire. She graduated Cum Laude from the University at Albany and Magna Cum Laude from New York Law School.

**Jessica Lewis Kelly, Esq.** is a Special Assistant to the Administrative Director of the New Jersey Courts. She is involved in ongoing jury reforms as championed by the Supreme Court, and works on other statewide initiatives and special projects. She previously served as Statewide Manager of Jury Programs and as an attorney in the Judiciary's Civil Practice

Division. She holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Virginia and a J.D. with honors from Rutgers University - Newark School of Law.

**First Assistant Prosecutor Christopher L. C. Kuberiet** supervises over 200 staff members of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, while taking a hands-on approach with every case. He also served as interim Middlesex County Prosecutor from September 2019 to July 2020. As First Assistant, Kuberiet oversees the office's specialty units – Major Crimes, Special Victims, and Professional Standards. He also oversees police policies and procedures and provides guidance to the Executive First Assistant Prosecutor. He previously served as Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor, overseeing the Major Crimes Unit and Trial Teams Operations. Before that, he was an Assistant Prosecutor assigned to the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit and the Career Criminal and Gang Unit. He began his career at the MCPO in the Juvenile Unit, later becoming its Section Chief. Throughout his tenure, First Assistant Prosecutor Kuberiet has prosecuted cases ranging from juvenile matters to violent crimes including homicides, aggravated sexual assaults and kidnapping, with an unwavering support for crime victims' rights. He served a judicial clerkship with the Honorable David G. Lucas, holds an undergraduate degree from Albright College and a J.D. with honors from Rutgers University School of Law.

**Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Manteiga** is a member of the Domestic Violence Unit in the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. Prior to joining the CCPO, she was a prosecutor at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Before that, AP Manteiga was a prosecutor at the State Attorney's Office in Pinellas County, Florida, where she tried approximately fifty trials ranging from firearms cases, assaults and homicides. All of those trials were conducted using attorney conducted voir dire. She holds a J.D. from George Washington University School of Law.

**Brian J. McLaughlin** is the Chief of Programs & Procedures for the New Jersey Judiciary. He previously served as the Manager of Jury Programs and has also worked for the Judiciary's Appellate Division, the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the Ocean Vicinage, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Rowan University and an M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master of Public Administration from Villanova University.

**Mary Wiesemann** is the Criminal Division Manager for the Judiciary's Camden Vicinage. She has previously served in various positions in all three Trial Court Divisions, Probation, and the Municipal Division. She holds a degree in Political Science and Government from Rutgers University Camden.

### ***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 1.8 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 1.8 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in criminal trial law, 1.8 qualify as hours of credit towards newly admitted lawyers' requirements/criminal trial preparation, and 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.