



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Resiliency for Division of Criminal Justice Prosecutors

April 24, 2023

9:00 a.m.* – 4:30 p.m.

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
4th Floor Conference Center Room A
25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey**

***Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.**

Program Summary

This resiliency program has been specifically designed for Division of Criminal Justice deputy and assistant attorneys general. It will provide DCJ attorneys with a comprehensive overview of resiliency that emphasizes its importance in the legal profession and includes tools and techniques to counter stress and set goals. Attorneys will learn how to balance their strengths, understand mindfulness, explore the concepts of spiritual and physical reliance, engage in interpersonal problem-solving and practice good listening and active, constructive response. These skills are designed to underscore the intent of Attorney General Gurbir Grewal's Directive 2019-1, promoting a Resiliency Program and mandating resiliency training for law enforcement officers to protect their mental health and create a supportive culture to better serve the broader community.

Eligibility

Registration for this program is limited to deputy and assistant attorneys general in the Department of Law & Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice.

Faculty

Philip S. Aronow recently retired as First Assistant Prosecutor with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office. He was previously an Assistant Attorney General and served as Bureau Chief of the Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureau (PS&TB) with the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). He initially joined DCJ as part of a New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Initiative to bolster domestic counter-terrorism efforts following the events of 9-11, and later became Chief of that unit.

As an FAP, Phil spearheaded Juvenile Justice Alternative Initiatives for at-risk and disadvantaged youth, including an initiative for implementing STEM and literacy-based programs. At DCJ, Phil prosecuted cases involving gang activity such as narcotics and firearms trafficking and related crimes such as shootings and homicides as part of the Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau and led multi-jurisdictional task forces targeting fugitives charged with violent crimes. As Chief of PS&TB, Phil was responsible for the supervision, coordination, and training of the county prosecutor's offices and state-wide law enforcement agencies, including the New Jersey Police Training Commission and the DCJ Academy. He was also charged with statewide training as part of the Facial Scrub and Human Trafficking Initiatives. He is certified in Mental Health First Aid Training and a founder and Master Resiliency Trainer for the New Jersey Law Enforcement Resiliency Program. Phil was also the Project Director on behalf of the Attorney General's Office for the series of Fugitive Safe Surrender Programs held across New Jersey. Phil oversaw community outreach and community justice efforts as part of the Attorney General's Initiatives for 21st Century Policing, Bias Crimes, Veterans Diversion and Police Chaplains.

He serves as a Faculty Member and Coordinator with the TOP GUN Training Program for the interdiction and prosecution of gang, gun and drug cases. He is one of the founders of the DELTA Leadership & Supervisors Training Program and the U.N.I.T. School for undercover officers. He has a B.S. in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering from Lafayette College and a J.D. from Widener University School of Law.

Robert Czepiel, Jr. is the CEO of *Resilient Minds on The Front Lines*, a team comprised of resiliency practitioners, trainers, educators, psychologists, retired and active law enforcement, medical professionals, chaplains, business professionals and retired and active military officers.. The Resilient Minds Training Program adopts principles of well-being to allow individuals a greater sense of self-awareness and trains them to "remind, reframe, and rewire" their thought process.

Prior to founding *Resilient Minds*, Mr. Czepiel served as Chief Resiliency Officer and an Acting Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, where he supervised the Cyber and Financial Crimes and Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureaus, the Forfeiture Unit, Brady/Giglio reviews, the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement Officers, Ethics, Community Outreach, and the Police Training Commission. He was previously Chief of DCJ's Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureau, where he supervised and updated training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors and created the curriculum for courses offered by the Division of Criminal Justice and the Police Training Commission. He has also served in DCJ's Official Corruption Bureau and as an Assistant Prosecutor at the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Czepiel lectures and teaches on criminal justice related topics, has served as an adjunct professor of law at Widener University School of Law in Delaware and is a volunteer instructor with Widener's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. He is also an adjunct professor at Burlington County College. He graduated from Widener Law School in Harrisburg.

DAG Adam Klein is a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Justice's Appellate Bureau. He handles matters in the Appellate Division and Supreme Court of New Jersey and has briefed cases in the United States Courts of Appeals. He recently handled a hearing before a Supreme Court-appointed Special Master. DAG Klein is a member of the Division's working group on the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act and the Bureau's Search and Seizure Team. Before joining the Division, DAG Klein was an Assistant Prosecutor with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, where he tried criminal cases in the Law Division. He clerked in the Law Division, Criminal Part for the Honorable Michele M. Fox, J.S.C. He holds a B.A. from West Chester University and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School-Camden, where he was a staff editor of the Rutgers Journal of Law & Religion.

David Leonardis is the Training & Outreach Liaison for the Prosecutors' Supervision & Training Bureau in the Division of Criminal Justice. He creates specialized training for law enforcement officers and performs outreach on behalf of the Division, working with law enforcement and government agencies, and community and faith-based organizations to enhance community relations. Mr. Leonardis also served as State Chief Resiliency Officer for New Jersey, overseeing the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Resiliency Program.

Prior to serving in his current role, Mr. Leonardis was the Chief for the Outreach and Special Projects Bureau at the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness, where he oversaw special projects and developed private sector outreach programs. He was also chief of the OHSP Training Bureau, where he developed and delivered counter-terrorism and domestic awareness training programs. Mr. Leonardis started his public service career with the New Jersey State Police, retiring at the rank of Captain and as the Executive Officer of the Investigations Section. He also served as the Commandant of the State Police Training Academy. Mr. Leonardis has been an adjunct professor in the Criminology Department at The College of New Jersey, and taught at Seton Hall University's Education and Human Resource Departments. He currently teaches in the Monmouth University Criminal Justice Graduate program. He holds a B.S. from William Paterson College and a Master's Degree in General Education from Seton Hall University.

Danielle LoRusso is the Statewide Chief Resiliency Officer. She oversees the resiliency program and provides training and resources to law enforcement officers who need assistance in coping with the daily stress of police work. Ms. LoRusso was also NJ CARES' first Operation Helping Hand Peer-to-Peer Learning Coordinator. She provided support to all New Jersey county OHH programs and trained law enforcement and OHH partners in understanding and addressing addiction and on best practices for implementing OHH. She began her employment with NJ CARES as a county coordinator for OHH, providing individualized assistance to county OHH programs throughout the State.

Before joining NJ CARES, Ms. LoRusso was a Sergeant in the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office. During the last three years of her career, she developed the prosecutor's new Community Relations Unit, through which she implemented and administered Operation Helping Hand as the unit's first supervisor. Prior to supervising the Community Relations Unit, Ms. LoRusso worked in undercover narcotics, including assignment to the Camden Office of the DEA. She was the first female Administrative Sergeant/Commander of the Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force

and was a negotiator with the Gloucester County Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). Ms. LoRusso holds an Associate's Degree from Gloucester County College.

AAG Jennifer Stonerod is the Chief of Staff of the Department of Law & Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice. As Chief of Staff, AAG Stonerod manages personnel, operational, and administrative functions for the Division, while overseeing the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") Counsel and State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. Jennifer is also tasked with juvenile criminal justice initiatives, having served as point on the Attorney General Directive *Establishing Policies, Practices, and Procedures to Promote Juvenile Justice Reform* in 2020. Jennifer also serves as Chairperson for the Fingerprint Compliance Committee and Subcommittee.

AAG Stonerod previously served as the Division's Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Liaison to the County Prosecutors' Offices and as Chair to the Division's Domestic Violence Working Group and the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Working Group. Jennifer formerly served on the Supreme Court Domestic Violence Working Group and on the Supreme Court *Ad Hoc* Committee on Domestic Violence, the Working Group on Pro Bono Attorney Training Materials, and New Jersey's legislatively created Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault. Jennifer is also credited with developing the Division's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Symposium. AAG Stonerod is a certified Police Training Commission Instructor, having taught across the State on domestic violence, including training new Chiefs of Police, those tasked with Internal Affairs, and new investigators at the Division's Police Academy at Sea Girt. AAG Stonerod was also faculty to Division trainings, such as the Undercover Narcotics Investigative Training (U.N.I.T.) School and Top Gun. AAG Stonerod also served on the Division's team that implemented and trained prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the State on Criminal Justice Reform and on the ODARA risk assessment tool.

Before joining the Division, AAG Stonerod served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Burlington County in the Appellate, Juvenile, and Domestic Violence Units. Prior to serving as an Assistant Prosecutor, AAG Stonerod was an associate at Parker McCay and a law clerk to the Honorable Michael J. Hogan, J.S.C., in Burlington County. AAG Stonerod received an Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contribution to a Special Project in 2016 and 2017 and a Director's Award for Division Impact in 2019. She earned a B.A. from Widener University and a J.D. from Widener University School of Law.

DAG John Nicodemo is Acting Counsel to the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice, where he oversees the newly-established DCJ Outreach and Community Services Unit, the State Grand Jury and CODIS Compliance Units and the DCJ Internship Program. He also performs legal reviews for *Brady* and *Giglio* matters and DCJ's Body Worn Camera Policy. DAG Nicodemo is a member of the criminal working group for the Attorney General's Reproductive Rights Strike Force, which ensures the rights of New Jersey reproductive health providers and patients seeking their services.

Prior to his current position, DAG Nicodemo was the Deputy Chief of the Public Corruption Bureau in the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability. He began his career in the Division of Criminal Justice as prosecutor in the Financial, Cyber and Public Corruption Bureaus. He is the former Internship Coordinator for the Division of Criminal Justice and a current hearing officer for the OAG Disciplinary Review Board. DAG Nicodemo is also a member of the Attorney General's Diversity Council and played an instrumental role in establishing the

Department's Employee Resource Groups. After earning a Bachelor's Degree and an M.B.A. from Temple University, DAG Nicodemo worked in the entertainment industry for several years. He subsequently earned his law degree from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law School in New York.

Renee T. White is a Supervising Assistant Prosecutor in the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, where she is the Director of the Special Offenders Unit (SOU) and Coordinator of the Prosecutor-Led Mental Health and Veterans Diversion Programs. The SOU handles mental health and veterans' diversion, ID/DD matters, competency, NGRI, and KROL matters and crisis related duty calls. As the Supervising Assistant Prosecutor for the SOU, Ms. White is one of the Duty to Warn and Extreme Risk Protective Order designees for her office. Additionally, she is the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Law Enforcement Coordinator and the Chief Resiliency Officer for Ocean County. Ms. White is also a registered nurse who has worked in and out of emergency departments within major corporate healthcare systems. She currently works at CityMD in Lacey Township, NJ as an ANCC board certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-BC) and is the owner and practitioner for her own behavioral health practice, Micrennic Health and Wellness, in Little Egg Harbor, NJ. She is also the Rotation Director/Supervisor for PGY-2 Forensic Psychiatry Residents at Hackensack School of Medicine. Ms. White is a Forensic Nurse-Certified in Sexual Assault (FN-CSA) and an ANCC board certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP-BC). Ms. White earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice and History from Rutgers University, a J.D. from Widener University School of Law and an A.A.S. from Ocean County College. She also holds an MSN from Rutgers University and a post-masters certificate from Johns Hopkins University. Ms. White is currently attending Yale University to obtain her doctorate in nursing, which she anticipates completing in 2023.

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 7.2 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 7.2 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

PA CLE Credit: 6.0 Substantive Credits (\$9.00 mandatory registration fee required).

Registration

Attorneys eligible to attend this program will receive registration instructions from the Division of Criminal Justice.

AGENDA

New Jersey Resiliency Overview and the Toolkit	9:10 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
Counting Blessings, Accomplishing Goals	9:40 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Controlling Reactions by Understanding Why We React	10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

Break	11:10 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.
Checking Your Playbook, Balancing Your Thinking	11:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Balancing Your Strengths	12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Lunch	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Acceptance, Mindfulness & Meaning-Making	1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Spiritual Resilience	2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Physical Resilience	2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Break	3:00 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
Interpersonal Problem Solving	3:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.
Good Listening & Active Constructive Responding	3:40 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.