



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Guardianship Training

May 9, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.*

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
Advocacy Institute Conference Center
Fourth Floor, West Wing
25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625**

***Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.**

Program Summary

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of termination of parental rights/FG litigation, including ten month reviews, permanency hearings, and pleadings. The presenters will discuss the four prongs of the best interests test as set forth in N.J.S.A. 30:4C-15.1(a) and review the new kin legislation with a specific focus on its impact upon the best interests test. The presenters will also provide a primer on the basics of trial presentation, including direct and cross-examination, evidence objections, soliciting expert testimony, and tips for effective trial preparation.

Eligibility

Attendance at this program is limited to Deputy Attorneys General in the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families Practice Group invited to attend.

Faculty

DAG Merav Lichtenstein is an Assistant Section Chief in the DCF Essex Section of the Division of Law. Prior to joining DOL, DAG Lichtenstein clerked for the Honorable Thomas Weisenbeck, A.J.S.C. in Morris County. She holds an undergraduate degree from Emory University and a J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University.

DAG Kosha Gala is a member of the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families Practice Group DCF South, where she handles guardianship matters in Cumberland and Salem County. DAG Gala has successfully represented the Division in many guardianship trials and appellate matters. Prior to joining the Division of Law, DAG Gala was a solo practitioner concentrating in family law, real estate, and municipal matters. She also served as a Law Guardian in Union, Middlesex, and Gloucester County. DAG Gala clerked for the Honorable Thomas P. Zampino in Essex County after earning her J.D. from Seton Hall Law School. She received a B.S. from New York University.

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. in Somerset County. DAG Oliverio received B.A. 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.

DAG Cynthia McGeachen is a member of the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families Practice Group DCF Central. She currently litigates Guardianship matters in Ocean County, but has also been a FN Deputy. Prior to joining the Division of Law, she worked very briefly in private practice and clerked at the Morris County Prosecutor's Office. She clerked for the Honorable Theodore Bozonelis, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division in Morris County. Cynthia received a B.A. from Montclair State University and a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law - Newark.

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 5.7 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 2.4 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in civil trial law, 2.4 qualify as hours of credit towards newly admitted lawyers' requirements/civil trial preparation, and 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

PA CLE Credit: 4.5 Substantive Credits (\$7.50 mandatory registration fee required).

AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00-10:45 Overview & Pre Guardianship (FG) Litigation

- Goal of FG Litigation, Title 30 and Relevant Definitions
- 10 Month Review Conferences & Permanency Hearings

10:45-11:30 Guardianship (FG) Litigation

- Filing the Complaint & Service
- Types of Hearings and their Components
- Surrenders (Types & Authority)

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-12:45 Four Prongs and Changes in the Law

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:45-2:45 Trial Preparation

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:00 Trial Practice Tips

- Relevant Evidence Rules
- Direct & Cross
- Expert & Lay Testimony

4:00 – 4:15 Questions & Open Discussion