



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

County Working Groups and Mental Health Issues in Prosecutions*

**May 10, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Congress Hall
200 Congress Place
Cape May, NJ 08204**

*This program is part of the County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey (CPANJ) Spring Overnight Meeting

Program Summary

Attorney General Directive 2020-14 established Countywide Working Groups (CWGs) to address law enforcement encounters with special needs populations and persons with mental health or behavioral issues. The Directive also established a Statewide Steering Committee to review the progress of CWGs, exchange ideas and provide feedback on best practices, emerging trends and latest guidance, identify opportunities for multi-county coordination of programs, and provide information about opportunities for grants and coordinate grant submissions. This program will review the purpose and function of CWGs and explore in detail two main areas where mental health issues affect prosecutions in New Jersey – competency and the insanity defense.

Eligibility

Attendance at this program is limited to County Prosecutors, Division of Criminal Justice Assistant Attorneys General and Department of Law and Public Safety executive staff invited to attend. Registrants will receive the course materials on the day of the program.

Faculty

Kelly Shelton is a Warren County Assistant Prosecutor who supervises the office's Appellate and Mental Health Units. She has supervised the Mental Health Unit since its inception in 2009. AP Shelton has argued cases before the Appellate Division, the New Jersey Supreme Court and the Third Circuit. She has also tried cases ranging from drug possession to sexual assault and murder. In 2018, she was recognized for Outstanding Advocacy over a Career in a Non-Trial Position by the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey. AP Shelton holds a J.D. from the Temple University School of Law.

Tiffany Wilson is a Union County Assistant Prosecutor and the Director of the office's Pre-Indictment Division. Her unit tries cases in which competency, insanity, or diminished capacity related to a defendant's mental illness are raised and subsequently monitored. AP Wilson assists law enforcement officers and assistant prosecutors in assessing their cases and determining options for detention or disposition when a defendant's mental illness may be a factor in their criminal behavior. She also represents Union County in civil commitment matters. AP Wilson instructs recruits at the John H. Stamler Police Academy on de-escalation and interacting with individuals with special needs. In 2018, she was responsible for ensuring that every Union County police officer received the Attorney General's mandated training on law enforcement interactions with the mentally ill and de-escalation. AP Wilson is the liaison for Union County law enforcement officers considering diversion in lieu of arrest through Union County's Mental Health Jail Diversion Program or Veterans Diversion Program. She holds an undergraduate degree from Villanova University and a J.D. from the College of 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 1.2 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.