



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Asserting Qualified Immunity as a Defense

May 15, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WEBINAR

Program Summary

Qualified Immunity is an important defense available to state actors who are defending against claims of violating Section 1983 actions. This seminar will cover the basics of qualified immunity defenses and provide practical advice from SPEC practitioners who have successfully obtained dismissals based on Qualified Immunity. Examples of recent opinions will be provided.

Eligibility

Registration for this program is limited to deputy and assistant attorneys general in the State Police, Employment and Corrections and Tort Litigation and Judiciary Sections of the Division of Law.

Faculty

AAG Michael C. Walters is a Deputy Director in the Division of Law. He previously served as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of Litigation. Prior to that position, he was the Section Chief of the Education & Higher Education Section, where he supervised the coordination and development of litigation strategy for representing the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey colleges and universities. He has briefed and argued cases involving a wide range of issues before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the New Jersey Appellate Division and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He began his career as a law clerk for The Honorable Myron H. Gottlieb, J.S.C and holds a J.D from Rutgers Law School.

DAG Michael Vomacka is an Assistant Section Chief in the State Police, Employment, and Corrections Section of the Division of Law. He supervises trial attorneys and handles the defense of complex employment and civil rights cases brought against State entities. Prior to joining the Division of Law, DAG Vomacka was a law clerk in Passaic County, handled personal injury and product liability civil litigation cases in private practice, and prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases as an Assistant District Attorney in Texas. He holds an undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

DAG Marvin L. Freeman is a member of the State Police, Employment and Corrections Section of the Division of Law. He previously served in the U.S. Department of Justice as a Corrections Officer with the Bureau of Prisons and as a Special Agent with the FBI. While assigned to the FBI's Legal Unit in New York, he was appointed as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where he handled civil actions against the FBI, most of which were "Bivens" cases, the federal counterpart to 42 U.S.C. 1983, Title VII discrimination claims and civil forfeitures. He also provided legal instruction to federal and local law enforcement officials on searches, seizures and the use of deadly force. DAG Freeman is a U.S. Army veteran. He holds an undergraduate degree from Drury University and a J.D. from the Beasley School of Law at Temple University.

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 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.