



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Arson Investigation for Prosecutors

**September 19, 2023
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Middlesex County Police Training Center
11 West Patrol Road
Edison, New Jersey***

*** This program will be simulcast to the Edison location.**

Program Summary

This program will provide prosecutors with a basic overview of arson investigations, fire science, crime scenes and relevant case law. The presenter will discuss the interplay between arson and other crimes, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and guidelines. The presenter will also focus on legal strategies and considerations to help ensure the successful prosecution of these complex cases.

Eligibility

This program is open to County Prosecutors and Assistant Prosecutors and Deputy Attorneys General in the Department of Law and Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice.

Faculty

Captain Gary Wasko is a member of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, where he is assigned to the Major Crimes Section. He is the supervisor of the MCPO Arson Unit and is a Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), conferred by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Captain Wasko has conducted or been involved in over 800 fire/arson investigations and has testified as an expert witness numerous times. He has also been involved in or conducted 15 explosive device/post-blast investigations. Captain Wasko serves as firefighter in Lawrence Township, New Jersey, where he has held the positions of Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief,

Deputy Chief, and Chief of the Lawrenceville Fire Company. He has responded to over 5,000 calls for service and has received extensive training in the methods and technology for extinguishing, preventing and determining the causes of fires. Captain Wasko holds a B.S with a concentration in Fire Science and a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven and an M.S. in Emergency Services Management from Columbia Southern 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 total Alternate Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) Program CLE credit. Of these, 1.2 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in criminal trial law, 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.