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## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **FN and FG Hot Topics - Making Sense of the Letters**

**November 20, 2023**  
**1:20 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.**

## WEBINAR

### *Program Summary*

This program will provide a general overview of FN and FG litigation, with an emphasis on current hot topics and appellate trends. The presenters will discuss specific tools and strategies to assist deputies with client counseling, litigation and trial preparation, evidence selection, witness prep, and protecting the record for appeal.

### *Eligibility*

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend.

### *Faculty*

**DAG Mary L. Harpster** is a member of the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families Appeals Section, where she drafts appellate briefs and oppositions to petitions for certification, handles a heavy motion practice, and conducts oral advocacy. Her work includes three successful affirmative appeals challenging a trial court's interpretation of the July 2021 amendments to Title 9, Title 30, and the KLG Act, and the recently published decision in DCP&P v. D.C.A., 474 N.J. Super. 11 (App. Div. 2022). Prior to joining the DCF Appellate Section, DAG Harpster was a member of the DCF Essex Section, handling FN, FG, and FC cases for six local offices. Before practicing law, she worked in nonprofit theater management. DAG Harpster holds a J.D. from NYU School of Law.

**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 Sharon Piccioni** is a member of the Division of Law's Department of Children and Families South Section, where she represents the client agency in Atlantic and Camden counties. She has handled every type of case in the child protection field, with a primary concentration in FN litigation. DAG Piccioni also serves as the FN trainer for new deputies and interns in DCF-South. Prior to joining the Division of Law, she was a Law Guardian in Burlington and Cumberland Counties. DAG Piccioni clerked for Camden County Assignment Judge Hon. Francis J. Orlando, Jr., A.J.S.C. She holds a J.D. and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Rutgers University, Camden.

### ***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 1.8 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.