



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

The Ins and Outs of Central Registry Cases For Health and Human Services Deputies

December 19, 2023

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

R.J. Hughes Justice Complex

8th Floor, West Wing Conference Room 8-130

Trenton, New Jersey

Program Summary

The New Jersey Department of Human Services maintains a Central Registry of Offenders against Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Central Registry matters are handled by deputies in the Division of Law's Health and Human Services Section. This course will provide HHS deputies with guidance on how to handle Central Registry cases from inception to resolution, including discovery, hearing preparation, trial tips, and other common litigation issues. The presenters will use specific examples from HHS cases to discuss the burden of proving the case by a preponderance of the evidence and supporting the agency's finding of abuse, neglect or exploitation for placement on the Central Registry.

Eligibility

Attendance at this program is limited to Deputy Attorneys General in the Division of Law's Health and Human Services Section and Assistant Attorneys General in the Trenton Administrative Practice Group.

Faculty

DAG Caroline Gargione is the Mental Health Guardianship Supervisor for the Health and Human Services Section of the Division of Law. She reviews all mental health guardianships before they are assigned to a DAG, addresses questions and problems about specific guardianships, and conducts guardianship training for deputies and state hospital staff. Her practice includes handling discrimination claims at the EEOC and DCR, and litigation in the Office of Administrative Law, Superior Court and Appellate Division on discrimination, Central Registry, civil commitment, Medicaid, vital statistics and Division of Developmental Disabilities matters. She also mentors newer attorneys. DAG Gargione is counsel for the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund and the Public Health Council. She previously served in the Employment Litigation Section of DOL. Prior to joining the Department, she was a litigation attorney and a solo practitioner. DAG Gargione interned for the Honorable Anne E. Thompson, U.S.D.J. She received a Bachelor's of Science from Rutgers College with a double major in Business and English, and received a J.D. from New York Law School, where she earned the American Jurisprudence Award in Legal Writing.

DAG Michael Sarno is a member of the Health and Human Services Section of the Division of Law. He litigates cases in State and federal courts and the Office of Administrative Law involving the Departments of Human Services and Health, Central Registry matters, civil rights and appeals by nursing homes and other medical entities challenging violations and penalties imposed by the Department of Health. He also handles appellate work in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Appellate Division and assists on several "special litigation" teams involving high profile cases within the DOL. DAG Sarno was a co-coordinator for the summer 2023 internship program in his section. He previously served in the Tort and Judiciary Litigation Section of DOL. Before that, he practiced in the private sector for over 12 years, including with a large national law firm. DAG Sarno received a Bachelor of Science in Finance with an Economics minor, *summa cum laude* from the College of New Jersey. He received a J.D., *summa cum laude* from Villanova Law School, where he was a Managing Editor on the Villanova Law Review.

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 total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.