



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Let the Sunshine In: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act

**January 11, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This presentation will cover the history and legal requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The presenters will discuss what constitutes a meeting, public notice requirements and exemptions and provisions governing meeting minutes. The program will also include a discussion of the nine exceptions that allow a public body to go into executive session, including personnel matters and attorney-client privilege.

Eligibility

This program will be of special interest to deputy attorneys general who represent or work with boards and commissions, but it is open to all deputies in the Divisions of Law, Gaming Enforcement, Alcoholic Beverage Control and the New Jersey Racing Commission. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

SDAG Steven Flanzman is the Section Chief of the Division of Law's Consumer Affairs Counseling Section. He supervises the work of a section that provides general representation to over 50 professional licensing boards, as well as to the Division of Consumer Affairs and its numerous units. SDAG Flanzman has provided representation to the State Board of Medical Examiners, along with multiple committees of the Board of Medical Examiners, throughout his 35 year career with the Division of Law. He also has provided section-wide advice on issues related to the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act. More recently, he provided the Division of Consumer Affairs advice and counsel on the countless initiatives and actions that the Division needed to take to respond to the public health emergency throughout the COVID-19

pandemic. SDAG Flanzman has previously represented the Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Advertising in a challenge to Joint Opinion 732 (propriety of lawyers participating with “AVVO”) and in the matter of Opinion 39 (“Super Lawyers” and “Best Lawyers” designations). Prior to joining the Division of Law, he worked in the corporate law and litigation departments of Lowenstein Sandler and Sills Cummis. SDAG Flanzman graduated *summa cum laude* from Tufts University with a degree in economics and earned a J.D. from Harvard University.

DAG Geoffrey Gersten is a member of the Division of Law’s Civil Rights Section. Before joining the Civil Rights Section, he was a member of the Public Utilities Section, where he counseled the Board of Public Utilities across a broad range of agency advice, administrative actions and litigation. He has also worked in the Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section on various litigation matters. In addition to his section assignment, DAG Gersten is a member of the Division of Law’s E-Discovery Task Force, counsel’s the Office of Corrections Ombudsperson and the Watershed Property Review Board. DAG Gersten provides Open Public Meetings Act advice across the Division of Law including developing practices and procedures for implementing OPMA during the pandemic and the post-pandemic landscape of hybrid and remote meetings. DAG Gersten has worked with New Jersey State agencies to assess their litigation hold practices and search and review capabilities for electronic document production and has co-developed and presented comprehensive e-discovery training to the Division’s DAsG. He received the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in 2017 for Outstanding Contributions to a Special Project and in 2015 for Excellence in Investigations. DAG Gersten is a faculty member for the New Jersey Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute and the National Association of Attorneys General. He served as a law clerk for the Honorable Donald S. Goldman, J.S.C. (retired). DAG Gersten received his undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and his J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law.

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 2.0 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.