



The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2017 NEW JERSEY BRIDGE THE GAP SYMPOSIUM

October 26, 2017

8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.¹

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
Fourth Floor Conference Center Room A
25 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

Program Summary

This comprehensive five-presentation symposium is intended to provide “newly admitted” attorneys with the opportunity to meet their *BCLE Reg. 201:2* obligations. The presentations will include: Basic Estate Administration, Family Law, Municipal Law, Law Office Management, and Real Estate Closings; the full descriptions of which are contained in the attached course summary.

Who Should Attend?

This program is intended for “newly admitted lawyers” who must satisfy their obligations under *BCLE Reg. 201:2*. **Please do not attempt to register for this program if you are not a “newly admitted lawyer” as defined under *BCLE Reg. 103:1(n)*.**

Who Is the Faculty?

Please see attached.

¹ Registration is from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

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 up to 7.5 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism. Moreover, participants will be able to apply the credits awarded for these presentations toward their New Jersey *Newly Admitted Lawyer* obligations.

NY CLE Credit: Up to 7.5 substantive credits (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

PA CLE Credit: Up to 5.0 substantive credits (\$1.50 per credit mandatory registration fee required).

How Do I Register?

You must apply separately for each presentation you are interested in attending. Registering for one presentation does not mean you are registered for any of the other four presentations.

State Employees

Most State employees are able to register for this course by going to <http://reg2.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/lpcreg/login.aspx?portalid=2> and creating an AGAI Course Registration account. To do so, your computer **must** be attached to the government's Garden State Network. Upon opening the AGAI Course Registration System home page, you will see the Create Account link in the Login Box. Click on it and create your account, which will include you selecting a user name and password. Once you create your account, you can access the AGAI Course Registration System at <http://reg2.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/lpcreg/login.aspx?portalid=2> to register for future courses or to manage your account. Please retain your user name and password for your records.

Non-State Employees or State Employees not Connected to the Garden State Network

If you are not a State employee, or are otherwise unable to access the AGAI Course Registration System through the Garden State Network, kindly email the Advocacy Institute at: AdvocacyInstitute@lps.state.nj.us for an authorization code to allow you access to the AGAI Course Registration System through the My New Jersey portal. **Setting up your account through the portal is a two-step process, the details of which are set forth in the next two paragraphs.**

Once you receive the portal authorization code you will be prompted to go to the My New Jersey portal at <http://www.state.nj.us/> and create a portal account. This is Step 1 of the process, which you need only do once.

Upon setting up your portal account, you need to set up your AGAI Course Registration System account. This is Step 2. To do so, log on to the My New Jersey Portal <http://www.state.nj.us/>.

Upon opening the AGAI Course Registration System home page, you will see the Create Account link in the Login Box. Click on it and create your account, which will include you selecting a new user name and password. Once you create your account, you can access the AGAI Course Registration System at <http://reg2.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/lpcreg/login.aspx?portalid=2> to register for future courses or to manage your account. Please retain your user name and password for your records.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE, COURSE SUMMARIES AND FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

MUNICIPAL COURT PRACTICE

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Summary: This course will present a fundamental overview of municipal court practice in New Jersey. It will include discussions of municipal court jurisdiction, significant Court Rules and programs available to all persons with matters before municipal courts.

Presenter: Michael V. Dowgin, Esq. is the Chief Judge of the South Brunswick Township Municipal Court, where he has presided for 18 years. He is a member of the Middlesex County Municipal Court Judges Association, where he has held several leadership positions, including president. Dowgin is a solo practitioner with a concentration in civil litigation, including construction law, commercial transactions, real estate, zoning and estate planning. He has been a Certified Civil Trial Attorney since 1993. Dowgin holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Colgate University and a JD from the Seton Hall University School of Law.

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FAMILY LAW

10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Summary: This presentation will provide a survey of New Jersey matrimonial law. Topics to be covered include grounds for divorce, custody and equitable distribution. Relevant court rules and recent developments in the law will also be discussed.

Presenter: Peter Halden, Esq. has been a family law practitioner for over 40 years. His expertise includes all issues pertaining to family law including divorce, custody, and the economic aspects of divorce. He is currently a member of Borger Matez, a family law firm in Cherry Hill, N.J. In addition to his legal work, Peter is currently serving his third term as a member of the New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners where he has written 18 questions on various topics that have appeared on the New Jersey bar exam. Prior to becoming an attorney, he was a journalist for the Associated Press and an editor for the Camden Courier Post.

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BASIC ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

Summary: Estate Administration can be defined as the process of distributing property of a deceased individual to the persons who are designated by the decedent or the application of law as the recipients of such property. It can involve court-supervised processes, such as formal probate and administration, as well as informal processes, such as the filing of beneficiary claims forms or changing the registration on joint accounts. The focus of this intriguing presentation will be on the more formal aspects of estate administration.

Presenter: **Fiona Van Dyck, Esq.** is in private practice in Princeton, New Jersey as the founding partner of the firm Van Dyck Law, LLC where she concentrates her practice in estate planning, including: wills, trusts and asset protection planning, estate administration, elder law and guardianships. Admitted to practice in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, Ms. Van Dyck is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Mercer County Estate Planning Council, Wealth Counsel, Elder Counsel and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). Ms. Van Dyck lectures on estate planning, asset protection and elder law issues to various private and public groups and has written on various estate planning issues. Ms. Van Dyck received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey and her law degree from Rutgers School of Law – Camden. She has also received an LL.M. from the University of London with a concentration in business law.

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LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Summary: Achieving success as a lawyer in many ways depends upon the success of your law firm. This program shares insights into the structure and management of law offices as well as how to succeed in such an environment. Topics include: the legal structure of a law firm, the bona fide office rule, fee agreements, attorney trust accounts, and ethical considerations. Communication with clients, calendar and tickler systems and conflicts will also be discussed.

Presenter: **AAG Peter Wint** is an Assistant Attorney General with the Department of Law and Public Safety. During his tenure with the Department, he has served in a number of positions, including: Section Chief of the Education, Health and Human Services Section of the Division of Law, Special Assistant to the Attorney General and Deputy Chief of Staff. Prior to his employment with the Department of Law and Public Safety, Mr. Wint was an attorney in private practice, with firms in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mr. Wint received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and he graduated from Rutgers School of Law.

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REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Summary: Closings on commercial and residential properties occur every day. This engaging presentation will provide a basic overview of the real estate closing process in New Jersey. Among the topics addressed will be: the attorney's role in preparing for and participating in a closing, the common documents needed to ensure a closing can occur, the various adjustments to which parties are entitled, and the proper recordation of the closing documents. Participants will leave this presentation with a clearer understanding of a common, yet sometimes complicated, process.

Presenter: **Deputy Attorney General, Deborah Shane-Held** has worked for the State of New Jersey for the past ten years as a Deputy in the Division of Law and as a Regulatory Analyst at the Division of Consumer Affairs. DAG Shane-Held is Assistant Section Chief of the Department of Health & Human Services Section. Prior to joining the Division of Law, she was

in private practice in Mountainside, New Jersey where she specialized in all phases of residential real estate transactions. She was also the closing attorney for Capital Home Mortgage Corporation in Clark, New Jersey where she handled refinance transactions. DAG Shane-Held graduated from Seton Hall Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1990. She then completed a judicial clerkship in 1991 with the Hon. Marilyn Loftus, J.S.C., in the Criminal Division of Essex County.

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