



---

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **An Introduction to Operation Helping Hand**

**October 21, 2020  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

## **WEBINAR**

### *Program Summary*

Operation Helping Hand (OHH) is innovative prosecutor-led program developed in 2016 by then Bergen County Prosecutor Gurbir Grewal. Through OHH, law enforcement actively links individuals with substance use disorders to treatment and/or recovery services. Under the original OHH model, law enforcement officers who arrested users purchasing heroin or other narcotics at open-air drug markets would immediately offer to connect those individuals to care. The charges were not dropped if the user accepted help, but every effort was made to place the user on the path to recovery. OHH also includes models that involve outreach and connection to services without any arrest component. In 2018, under the direction of Attorney General Grewal, the Department of Law & Public Safety widened OHH to Union, Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties. Funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allowed OHH to expand to 17 counties and a combination of 2.2 million dollars of State funding and an additional one million dollars from the CDC expanded OHH to all New Jersey counties in 2019.

This panel of prosecutors and OHH partners will offer an introduction to the Operation Helping Hand Program, including its origin, expansion, and shifts in thinking about how law enforcement and the criminal justice system interact with individuals suffering from substance use issues.

### *Eligibility*

Registration for this program is limited to LPS attorneys in the Division of Criminal Justice, the Division of Law, and the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, assistant prosecutors, and selected attorneys in the Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Health who have been invited to attend.

### *Faculty*

**Ellen Elias** is the Senior Vice President of Prevention and Community Services for Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc., where she oversees its Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources. Ellen led a countywide effort to bring recovery support services to Bergen County, developing innovative partnerships between law enforcement, government, and service providers. Her research on assessing the behavioral health needs of female inmates in the Bergen County Jail led

to the establishment of a women's drug rehabilitation program. Ellen is a graduate of the NYU master's program in counseling and is a Certified Prevention Specialist. Ellen is also an adjunct professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey where she provides undergraduate students with an introduction to the field of prevention, addiction and recovery support services.

**Elizabeth R. Rebein** is an Assistant Prosecutor, Public Information Officer, and Chief of the Community Affairs Unit for the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. Prior to those assignments, she was a member of the BCPO's Appellate Section and served as its Community Outreach Coordinator. Liz is a member of the Bergen County Bar Association's Criminal Practice and Municipal Practice Committees and Chair of its Mental Health Committee. She serves on the Bergen County Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, its County Alliance Steering Subcommittee, and as Chair of the Bergen County Human Relations Commission. She has taught in-service and continuing legal education classes on ethics, media and public relations, search and seizure, HIPAA, screening laws, and appellate practice. Liz was an associate at Manson & Karbank, P.A. in Overland Park, Kansas and clerked for Kansas Supreme Court Justice Lawton R. Nuss. She holds an undergraduate degree from Washburn University and a J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

**Bradford Seabury** is the Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Special Operations Division of the Morris County Prosecutors Office. The division includes the Special Enforcement (Narcotics Task Force), Intelligence, Fugitive, High-Tech Crimes, Forfeiture and Homeland Security Units. Brad carries out the office's dual mission of investigating and prosecuting dangerous, for-profit, drug distributors while ensuring that drug users receive treatment for their addiction. He serves as the Morris County Coordinator for Narcan and is the county's Operation Helping Hand Project Lead. He was also involved in Morris County's implementation of a law enforcement Narcan program. Brad has led numerous wiretap investigations and narcotics prosecutions, which have resulted in significant convictions and state prison sentences for organized drug traffickers and other violent offenders. He started with the MCPO as a legal intern and previously served as a Special Police Officer for the Borough of Avalon. He is a frequent lecturer on the opiate epidemic.

### ***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 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 must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.**

To download Zoom, LPS employees should search for Zoom Meeting Software in the LPS software center and click install.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.