



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Ethically Dealing with the Media Guidelines for Prosecutors

**November 19, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
Advocacy Institute Conference Center
Fourth Floor, West Wing
25 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey***

*** This program will also be simulcast as a webinar.**

Program Summary

In the age of social media, there is immediate access to the news from anywhere in the world. While instant access has its benefits, it also causes a number of ethical complications for those who work in the legal profession, including the potential effects of immediate dissemination of pretrial statements. Pretrial statements, whether verbal or by formal press release, are a necessary part of prosecutors' jobs. Law enforcement is legally required to provide basic information to the public, both in routine cases and in cases with substantial public importance. In some instances, providing public information can lead to citizens assisting detectives in solving cases. However, failure to work properly with the media can result in an inaccurate and unnecessarily negative narrative.

This course will cover the Rules of Professional Conduct as they relate to press releases, social media, and press conferences. The presenters will examine the ethical considerations that attach to all pretrial statements made to or through the media by prosecutors and police officers and provide a framework for analyzing which statements can be released based upon the stage of the case. The presenters will also discuss applicable rules, directives and executive orders, present real-life examples of ethics mishaps, and provide tools to assist prosecutors in avoiding future mistakes.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the Division of Criminal Justice, the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and the Office of Public Integrity and

Accountability, county prosecutors and assistant county prosecutors, and those in the Office of the Attorney General invited to attend.

Faculty

AAG Erik Daab is a Deputy Director in the Division of Criminal Justice. He oversees DCJ's violent crime units and complex criminal litigation. He previously served as Chief of the Specialized Crimes Bureau, prosecuting multi-jurisdictional criminal cases, and cases referred by State agencies including the Division of Gaming Enforcement. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Chief of the Gangs and Organized Crime Bureau, prosecuting large-scale narcotics and weapons trafficking cases. He also served as Chief of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and in the Appellate and Corruption Bureaus. AAG Daab started his career prosecuting death penalty cases for the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General and was the State Witness for the execution of the first inmate executed in Tennessee in forty years. He is a graduate of Seton Hall University School Law School.

DAG Heather Hausleben is a member of the Division of Criminal Justice's Trial Bureau, where she oversees and participates in trials across the Division's bureaus and handles complex cases. She was previously the Deputy Chief of the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability's Corruption Bureau, where she oversaw the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed by and involving public officials. Before serving in OPIA, DAG Hausleben was assigned to the Gangs and Organized Crimes Bureau of the Division of Criminal Justice, handling cases involving racketeering, distribution of controlled dangerous substances, weapons offenses, and human trafficking. Following her graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk for Camden County Superior Court Judge Samuel Natal. DAG Hausleben holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Philosophy from the University of South Florida and a Juris Doctor from Seton Hall Law School.

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 total CLE credit. Of these, 2.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

PA CLE Credit: 1.5 ethics credits (\$3.00 mandatory registration fee required).

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.