



# Bureau of Administrative Hearings Newsletter

Governor Bruce Rauner

January 2017

Michael Hoffman, Acting Director  
Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director

## Deputy Director's Note

The Bureau has taken its show on the road! Over the last couple months, I have had an opportunity to meet with staff involved with the State's hearings processes. Time and again, I am impressed by the engagement and valuable insight our employees exhibit. Additional roundtables will be scheduled in coming months, with the next one scheduled in Springfield.

I continue to meet with external stakeholders as well. The ISBA created a workgroup to work with the Bureau as we

many agency hearings processed is increasingly important as the Pilot Period continues.

A big THANK YOU to those who responded to the survey related to your professional development needs. The Bureau will begin to provide training identified by ALJs next month.

I am due to submit the Bureau's end-of-the year report to the Governor's office in coming weeks. A copy of the report will be posted on the Bureau's website.

*The Bureau's website is LIVE! Visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/administrativehearings> to see what we're working on and to learn more about a few of the agencies that hold hearings in the State.*

*Email the Bureau at [AdministrativeHearings@Illinois.gov](mailto:AdministrativeHearings@Illinois.gov).*

consider recommendations for the future. I first met with members of this workgroup at the ISBA mid-year meeting. We extended the invitation to others, and we met again on January 4, 2017. Hearing from practitioners that interact with the State's

Earlier this month, General Counsels received the draft Model Rules for their comment and suggestion. The Bureau will compile responses for further consideration.

~Sarah Kerley

## Committees Continue their Work

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The Bureau's three subcommittees, with their hardworking members, continue their work.

- **Rules Subcommittee** – The Bureau has completed a draft Model Rules for administrative hearings. **Next up:** considering suggestions from agencies and external stakeholders
- **IT Subcommittee** – Having completed the evaluation of existing IT platforms, up next is looking forward to the process of procuring resources to make Illinois a leader in efficient and user-friendly administrative hearings. **Next up:** developing website content to make hearings more accessible to litigants
- **Professional Development Subcommittee** – A proposed Code of Conduct for State adjudicators is complete! **Next up:** creation of a Bench Book incorporating best practices from across the State and offering ALJ-specific CLEs

## Join us for the Initial "FINAL FRIDAY" CLE

The Bureau is listening to the training needs identified by ALJs. The last Friday of every month during the noon hour, the Bureau will offer a new ALJ-specific CLE. Hence, the name Final Friday! Mark your calendars now.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, please join us 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for *The Good, the Not so Good, and the How's that Again? Views of Administrative Decisions from the Bench*, offered by the Honorable Peter J. Flynn, Cook County Circuit Judge, Chancery Division. Judge Flynn is a dynamic speaker with vast experience reviewing administrative decisions. Please plan to join us! More details will be forthcoming.



## The Committees need YOU!

As the Bureau transitions into new projects for each of its subcommittees, it is a great time to get involved. Email the Bureau or reach out directly to Dep. Dir. Kerley or the Bureau's subcommittee co-chairs: ICC Commissioner Sadzi Oliva, DHS GC CoreyAnne Gulkewicz, or IDFPF Associate General Counsel Katy Straub.



## ALJ Stories:

each month learn about one of the State's amazing ALJs

*A Hometown native, Emily Meehan currently serves as an ALJ at DHS, where since 2012 she has been issuing approximately 150 decisions per year relating to DHS' Home Services and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. Before joining DHS, she served as a staff attorney for the Workers' Compensation Commission. Law is her second career, having worked as a librarian for more than a decade. A fine cook, Emily often entertains members of the large family she adores (she has 8 siblings!). She devours the New Yorker each week and knits while enjoying movies and TV series (Mozart in the Jungle gets two thumbs up). Her passion is palpable and includes a 1985 arrest for chaining herself to the doors of the South African consulate to protest apartheid! The State is lucky to have her passion and talent!*

**Let me know what the Pilot Bureau should explore or  
nominate a co-worker for next month's ALJ Stories!**

Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director  
Bureau of Administrative Hearings  
Department of Central Management Services  
704 Stratton Office Building  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Office: (217) 524-5322  
Cell: (312) 718-1317  
[Sarah.Kerley@Illinois.gov](mailto:Sarah.Kerley@Illinois.gov)