



# Bureau of Administrative Hearings Newsletter

Governor Bruce Rauner

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Michael Hoffman, Acting Director  
Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director

## Deputy Director's Note

And so it begins ... the Bureau's training and professional development program kicked off on Friday, February 24, 2017. Cook County Chancery Judge Peter Flynn shared his view from the bench of administrative decisions. He also shared a number of tips for "surviving" administrative review. Judge Flynn was thoughtful and entertaining. Participants overwhelmingly praised his presentation. If you were unable to join us, the presentation was recorded for future viewing.

Agencies have weighed in on the Bureau's draft model rules. A committee of drafters is working to review and incorporate suggested edits before gathering feedback from the State's many and varied external stakeholders.

Earlier this month, the Bureau posted a PSA Opt 8L position to serve as a Springfield-based ALJ for numerous State agencies which have historically had to contract out for ALJ services. Instead, the Bureau will be able to serve that existing

## Committees Continue their Work

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

- **Rules Subcommittee** – The Bureau is reviewing suggestions from agency stakeholders and editing the Model Rules. **Next up:** taking a comprehensive look at the APA!
- **IT Subcommittee** – The Bureau continues to move forward with resources to make Illinois a leader in efficient and user-friendly administrative hearings through its integrated case management system. **Next up:** developing website content to make hearings more accessible to litigants
- **Professional Development Subcommittee** – The subcommittee is drafting a Bench Book incorporating best practices from across the State. **Next up:** continuing to coordinate monthly ALJ-specific CLEs and the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual IL Administrative Law Conference

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

***The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois  
Administrative Law Conference***

***June 9, 2017***

***Keynote Speaker: IL Supreme Court Justice  
Rita Garman***

If you have an idea for a dynamic speaker or a timely topic, please feel free to pass it along to me or to any Professional Development committee member, including co-chair Katy Straub.

need, while also gaining additional managerial support of the Bureau's many projects.

~Sarah Kerley

## FINAL FRIDAY CLEs Continue in March



The Bureau continues to address ALJ-identified training needs through its Final Friday CLEs. The last Friday of every month during the noon hour, the Bureau will offer a new ALJ-specific CLE. I hope you can join us!

During the lunch hour on March 31<sup>st</sup>, ALJ Mary C. Meehan will present *ALJs and Pro Se Litigants*. Mary has a wide-ranging experience adjudicating administrative law matters for DCFS, City of Chicago, and Cook County Board of Elections. Given her experience, like so many of our ALJs, she is familiar with the challenges unrepresented parties can pose to the hearing process. Join us and get some practical practice tips for managing this challenge and avoiding some very real ethical perils!

### Making Hearings User-Friendly

Do you have ideas about ways the State can make hearings more accessible for litigants? If so, join the IT Subcommittee, which is working to develop content available from the Bureau's website to assist litigants before the State's administrative hearings units.

Contact IT Subcommittee Chair CoreyAnne Gulkewicz or the Deputy Director to get started on this meaningful project.



**ALJ Stories:** each month learn about one of the State's amazing ALJs

*Jacksonville native Michelle Thielen currently serves as an ALJ at IDPH. Growing up on a hog farm, where she and her sister raised and sold hogs to finance their college educations (!), Michelle developed an inspiring work ethic. Today and for more than 17 years spent collectively with IDPH, AOIC, Ag, and DCFS, Michelle uses that work ethic in and around the State's administrative law practice. When she's not working, you can find her running her three kids (10 year old Anderson and 7 year old twins Millie and Addie) to sporting events, rocking out to classic country or 80's hard rock music, or playing games with the kids and her husband. Though Scandal and This is Us are faithfully DVR'd, Michelle promises to share no spoilers! Michelle has found a rewarding career as an adjudicator, and we are lucky she works so hard for the people of this great State.*

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

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