



Bureau of Administrative Hearings Newsletter

Governor Bruce Rauner

October 31, 2017

Michael Hoffman, Acting Director
Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director

Deputy Director's Note

Happy Halloween, all! I hope your day was more treat than trick.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to meet with leaders of centralized hearing panels from 18 of the nearly 30 central panels in the country in Des Moines, Iowa, at the 2017 Central Panel Directors' Conference. The conference gives central panel directors the opportunity to share successes and challenges and seek advice from others who are more closely situated to them than many others in their own states.

Every year I am fascinated by both the differences and the similarities between these agencies. For example, Georgia employs 11 ALJs, who wear robes, ride circuits, and rule from the bench on more than 3,700 cases per year per ALJ! South Dakota has two ALJs who each hear approximately 125 cases per year. Across the board, these agencies struggle with case management,

training and evaluation of ALJs, security concerns, and improving processes.

Illinois is considered the newest central panel in that the CMS Bureau hears cases for a number of agencies (and, in fact, none from within CMS). As such, Illinois was given an hour to present on our progress, ask questions, and seek input from these leaders in the industry.

*The Illinois presentation is **HERE!***

To a one, the central panel directors were impressed by the work of the Bureau's hard-working committees. A number asked for copies of the Bench Book to use as a model for reworking existing materials or developing some from scratch.

In short, I got to do my favorite thing – brag on Illinois! Thank you for giving me such great material.

~Sarah Kerley

MORE FABULOUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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*“Online Dispute Resolution:
An Overview & Exploration
of its Application”*

November 8, 2017

Daley Center, Room 2005

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Panelists from Resolution
Systems Institute

Moderated by Hon. Allen
Goldberg (Ret.)

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Join us Friday, November 17th, 12:00-1:00 p.m., for a fabulous training on maintaining security in our administrative hearings. ISP Inspector John Mack shared his expertise with us.

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REMINDER: All Bureau trainings are free and available on West's LegalEdcenter.

Chief ALJs to meet for the first time this month -

The Bureau continues to look for ways to improve administrative justice for all litigants in Illinois. One component of this endeavor is the compilation of data relating to hearings held, decisions rendered, and staffing levels. Under Executive Order 17-04, I will be gathering this data on a quarterly basis.

Executive Order 17-04 also tasks the Bureau with looking for opportunities for agencies to work better together, to share resources to accomplish efficiencies, and reduce redundancy of processes. To that end, on November 17, 2017, I will be meeting with the Chief ALJs from each agency in the State that has a hearings unit. For agencies that do not employ a Chief ALJ, the General Counsel will send a designee to this first of many meetings. Together, the Chiefs will discuss hearings types, process challenges, and other issues related to the important work of administrative justice.

If you have a suggestion for better coordination or resource sharing, please reach out to your Chief ALJs so they can bring those suggestions to the meeting. If you prefer, you can also forward them to the Bureau at AdministrativeHearings@Illinois.gov.

ALJ Stories: *another of the State's amazing ALJs*

For the last 24 years, ALJ Michael Robinson has adjudicated matters for the Human Rights Comm'n after honing his research skills in the research unit for the Illinois Supreme Court and his litigation skills in private practice at Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen. After more than two decades hearing HRC cases, Michael still finds labor law fascinating and feels blessed to have been faced with many interesting fact patterns over the years. Though he wishes the Human Rights Act allowed for cases to move more quickly, he is proud of the HRC's continued efforts to put out well-researched decisions. Because his cases are so fact-specific, hearings are always engaging -the outcome can change on a dime.

*When he's not at work, you can find Michael writing 7th Circuit blurbs for the ISBA, cheering on his (undergrad) alma mater at Fighting Illini football and basketball games or in the pool. That's right! He swims **A. MILE.** four times a week and even shared a lane with Olympic gold medalist Ryan Held at the Y pool (yes, Held is crazy fast(!) and very nice). And if we ever turn the Bureau's work into a musical, I'm calling on Michael to share his expert singing and dancing!*



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

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