



Bureau of Administrative Hearings Newsletter

Governor Bruce Rauner

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Michael Hoffman, Acting Director
Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director

Deputy Director's Note

Spring is a time of change when we look back at the difficulties of winter and anxiously await all that summer has to offer. Similarly, the Bureau is looking back at all its hard work of the past months and seeing the fruits of that labor while looking in anticipation for the developments of the coming months.

Pilot Bureau ALJs have racked up 325 IDOL hearings since they began file-sharing. The diligent professionalism has and continues to work to reduce

The ALJ Code of Professional Conduct, which was authored through the painstaking work and analysis of the Professional Development Subcommittee members is scheduled for implementation on April 17th.

March 31st at noon, like every month's final Friday, another dynamic speaker is set to carry out the Bureau's mission to provide ALJ-specific training. Come learn some tips and pitfalls in dealing with pro se litigants.

[Free Online Webinar by NAALJ](#)

**May 12, 2017 – Topics include:
Bonehead Grammar for Judges,
Social Media Pitfalls in Adjudication, &
The Nature of the Judicial Process**
Click [here](#) for more info

the time to decision for IDOL hour and wage claims. The Pilot ALJs could not have the success they do without the tireless work of the Chief ALJs at each agency and the dedicated support staff. Keep up the good work!

Interviews are complete for the Bureau's first ALJ position. The successful candidate is expected to be hearing cases by the end of April/first of May.

~Sarah Kerley

Committees Continue their Work

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

- **Rules Subcommittee** – Agency stakeholder input has been considered and the Model Rules have been finalized. **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 8th Annual IL Administrative Law Conference

FINAL FRIDAY CLEs – What's on tap for April?



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!

On April 28th, join with colleagues from around the State to learn more about special considerations when corporations are parties to administrative hearings. Liquor Commissioner Robert Emmett Nolan with the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection will join Assistant Attorney General John

Schmidt to present: *Corporate Litigants, LLC: Stone Street and Beyond*. Join us and get some practical practice tips for handling issues that arise in hearing with corporate litigants.

Working to Make Your Job Easier

Do you ever wish you had legal resources at your fingertips? Do you hate fishing around for a good example to review when writing? If so, join the Professional Development Subcommittee, which is working to create a bench book full of resources, guides, and tips to make the life of an ALJ less cumbersome.

Contact Subcommittee Chair Katy Straub or the Deputy Director to help complete this valuable tool.



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

A longtime resident of the Chicagoland area, Commissioner Joshua Luskin currently serves as a Commissioner on the Workers' Compensation Commission. Joshua began this appellate practice after having served 3½ years as an Arbitrator for WCC, a trial-level, fact finding position, and 8 years in a private workers' comp law practice. Joshua completed a tour with the Navy JAG corps from 2000-2003. He carries that physical discipline with him still, as he makes time to weight train four days a week. When he's not working cases or his muscles, Joshua is devouring books, primarily mystery, sci-fi, and history (he currently recommends Anthony Beevor's Stalingrad), or working on ridiculously difficult math/logic KenKen puzzles (think Sudoku on steroids). That sharp mind serves the State well both at WCC and as part of the Professional Development Subcommittee!

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

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