



Bureau of Administrative Hearings Newsletter

Governor Bruce Rauner

August 2, 2017

Michael Hoffman, Acting Director

Sarah Kerley, Deputy Director

Deputy Director's Note

As we can see the end of summer just around the corner, I have exciting news to share! Today, August 2, 2017, Governor Rauner issued Executive Order 2017-04, which continues the operation of the Bureau of Administrative Hearings, expands the Bureau's reach to up to twenty-five agencies, and continues the focus on improving customer service through increased training, promoting shared resources, tracking and eliminating backlogs, implementing technology solutions, and improve administrative regulations governing hearings.

*Read the new
Executive Order
[HERE.](#)*

Governor Rauner pointed to successes achieved during the pilot period as the basis for continuing the Bureau's work. These successes include the demonstrated efficiencies of case sharing between IDOL and IDPH and IDOR, implementation of the ALJ Code of Professional Conduct, draft model hearings

rules to standardize regulations, among others.

Of course, these successes would have never come to fruition without the work and support of so many of you. The Bureau will continue to work to solve the problems facing our administrative hearings units and explore future consolidation to drive ALJ independence and process efficiency, and fairness.

A huge "thank you" to all who attended the **8TH ANNUAL ILLINOIS ADMINISTRATIVE LAW CONFERENCE**, and especially to the speakers and all who helped make the conference happen! In all, the Bureau provided nearly 900 hours of CLE credit to more than 140 attorneys!

Fun Fact: Since February 24, 2017, the Bureau has coordinated more than 1,110 hours of free CLE credit!

~Sarah Kerley

FINAL CALL!



If there is a topic you would like to see addressed in the **Bureau's bench book**, a comprehensive resource intended for all State ALJs, let us know! We are in the final review stage, but it is not too late to add topics on which you'd like guidance!

YOU ASKED; THE BUREAU ANSWERS!

In response to the conference survey, several ALJs requested writing training. The Bureau's Final Friday programs in August and September do just that!

Join us Friday, August 25th and September 29th, 12:00-1:00, for, not one, but TWO different writing trainings. The August session will be live in Chicago before Justice Garman's clerk Janice Pea brings her vast knowledge live in Springfield in September.



Training at Your Fingertips! – The Bureau Joins Forces with West LegalEdcenter



Do you work at a satellite office? Does your hearing caseload making attending training in person impracticable? The answer to these challenges is on its way!

The Bureau has teamed up with the West, a Thomson Reuters company, which holds the State master contract for CLE services to bring the Bureau's programming to you via West's LegalEdcenter. West is in the process of making every Final Friday presentation and each session of the 8th Annual IL Administrative Law Conference available as onDemand video for full CLE credit. I expect to have Final Fridays simulcast through the West LegalEdcenter live starting with the August 25th program. STAY TUNED!

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



Jose Brenes took an atypical path to the role of State adjudicator as a Technical Advisor I at DHS. He's spent 30 years with DHS, and has handled public assistance matters from every stage - from citizens walking in the door for help through adjudicating the last stage of appeals. Brenes calls on his experience serving the public to ensure that he treats everyone with respect, "like you'd want your mother treated," and gives primary focus to fairness and due process.

The colleague who nominated Brenes applauded that after all these years, he has maintained his humor, compassion, and dedication. Apt praise, to be sure. The key to Brenes's happiness is rooted in his optimistic perspective - "always counting my blessings." Among those blessings are his wonderful and colleagues at DHS, his five children, and 11 grandchildren. He is looking forward to a new adventure in 2018 - retirement! DHS and the customers it serves will certainly miss his positivity and professionalism.

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

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