



**2021 Fall Conference  
November 9-12, 2021  
Savannah, Georgia**

**Tuesday, November 9**

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|-------------------|--|
| 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Executive Committee Meeting  |
| 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Registration   |
| 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Reception for New Members/First-Time Attendees                         |
| 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Welcome Reception (hors d'oeuvres, cash bar)<br><i>Business Casual</i> |

**Wednesday, November 10**

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| 7:30 AM – 12:15 PM | Registration   |
| 7:30 AM – 12:15 PM | Vendor Exhibits and Coffee Service   |
| 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM  | State Representatives Meeting  |
| 8:45 AM – 9:00 AM  | Welcome Remarks and introduction of new members and first-time attendees<br>Brenda Hull Thompson, NCPJ President   |
| 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Educational Session<br>Speaker: Prof. Clare Norins, University of Georgia Law School<br>Director, UGA Law School First Amendment Clinic<br>Topic: <b>Sticks and Stones: Ethical Limits on How Probate Judges Can Respond to Public Criticism</b><br><i>In the digital age, anyone can publish their opinion about a particular case, ruling, or judge. Probate judges are especially susceptible to public criticism because of the highly personal and sensitive nature of the cases they handle. Despite the temptation to respond, judicial ethics rules prevent probate judges from coming to their own defense. This presentation will address those ethical rules and the First Amendment doctrine that protects false statements and criticism of public officials, as well as explore probate judges' options for redress.</i> |

- 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM Vendor Exhibits and Coffee Break
- 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Vendor Presentation (TBD)
- 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Educational Session  
 Speaker: Kenneth J. Lackey, Esq., Law Office of Kenneth J. Lackey, LLC  
 Sea Girt, New Jersey  
 Topic: **The Special Peril Doctrine**  
 Catastrophic events requiring a finding of death and the protection of the decedent's dependents.  
*A variety of problems can arise for a family when a loved one is presumed dead but the deceased's body cannot be located. Typically, an application to the probate court will be required. This program will explore the various bases – both statutory and common law – for relief in those unique circumstances.*

### **Thursday, November 11**

- 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 AM – 12:15 PM Vendor Exhibits and Coffee Service
- 8:15 AM - 8:45 AM Annual Business Meeting
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Educational Session  
 Speaker: Col. Linda Murnane, of Counsel with Dave Cusack Law Office, LLC,  
 Beavercreek, Ohio  
 Past Chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division  
 Topic: **“Don’t Say It! Do Not Hit Send!” or Judges Behaving Badly and Other Ways to Leave the Bench Earlier than Planned - Ethics for Probate Court Judges**  
*Colonel Murnane is a frequent speaker in the area of judicial ethics. In today's world, judges face many opportunities to step on an ethical landmine when interacting with the communities they serve. During this session, the ABA Rules governing judges and their conduct will be discussed. The session will include real life examples of judges who stepped over the line and the consequences they faced.*
- 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM Vendor Exhibits and Coffee Break

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	<p>Educational Session  Judge Steven Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge  Miami-Dade County Court, Florida  Topic: <b>Alternative competency program – ending the criminalization of mental illness</b>  <i>Judge Leifman is a nationally known speaker who has pioneered innovative programs to reduce the incarceration of those suffering from mental illness.</i></p>
12:30 PM -4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Reception (cash bar)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Banquet Dinner, <i>Business Casual*</i>

\*No jacket or tie required; no jeans.

## **Friday, November 12**

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Coffee Service
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>Educational Session  Speaker: Prof. Emerita Mary F. Radford, George State University College of Law  Atlanta, Georgia  Topic: <b>Recognizing, Confronting, and Combatting Elder Financial Abuse</b>  <i>This session will examine the more common forms of elder financial abuse. There will be a particular focus on the “red flags” that probate judges should look for and how they may help to protect these potential victims without unnecessarily trampling on their rights to self-determination.</i></p>
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM – 11:15 PM	<p>Educational Session  Bonnie J. Olsen Ph.D., Lori Mars and Theresa Sivers-Teixeira, Keck School of  Medicine, University of Southern California, Alhambra, California  Topic: <b>AIM Judicial Guardianship Evaluation Worksheet</b>  <i>This session will present a project sponsored by the Keck School of Medicine that seeks to create a judicial worksheet that supports judges in their determinations of the appropriateness of establishing protective arrangements.</i></p>