

November 2008 Team of the Month
Ins and Outs of the Litigation Process for the Non-Lawyer

Team Members:

Jennifer Bokankowitz

Michael Compagno

Ruth Holmes

Alison Kelly

Beth Lewis

Dough Mac Laughlin

Susan Martin

Jim Nutt

Maria Osonski

Robert Panse

Chris Pettit

Keith Williams

Liz Woods

As a part of the Office of Counsel's proactive endeavor to provide preventive law guidance, a team of individuals developed a training workshop to provide practical and useful information to District staff in order to provide a better understanding of the litigation process. The workshop covered topics such as: the importance of documentation; the litigation process – civil and administrative; what to do when you get a subpoena; depositions – how to avoid the tricks of opposing counsel; and the witness at trial.

Furthermore, in an effort to provide a realistic yet entertaining understanding of the issues, the team developed humorous skits intended to raise awareness that was also presented at the workshop. This involved writing the script, rehearsing the skit and coordinating with District staff in order to present a professional presentation. The final production offered a highly informative yet amusing workshop that was well received by the attendees.

This workshop provided District staff with helpful strategies and an insider's understanding of the litigation process, thereby helping District staff better understand their role in the litigation process. The team should be commended for their efforts, not only for their hard work but also because of the positive impact their workshop will have on future litigation cases.