



SPOTLIGHT ON

ERIC MARTIN BERNSTEIN



One constant element of the Center's programming for Elected Officials over the past twenty years has been the ongoing presence of Eric Martin Bernstein. Eric has been a significant contributor to the program, and his involvement has extended beyond the tenures of long-term CGS staff members such as Ray Bodnar, Peter Yeager, and Margorie Saari.

Eric's contributions to the Center for Government Services are numerous and varied. He is the author of the chapter on the Open Public Meetings Act contained in the publication *Powers and Duties of the Municipal Governing Body*, the primer for the elected officials overview course. Eric participates, as in instructor, in the planning and implementing of the Elected Officials program. He has instructed thousands of public officials since the early 1980's. In addition to teaching the fifteen-hour "Powers and Duties" course, he instructs the core seminar "Labor Relations for Elected Officials" as well as elective seminars on "Ethics" and "Conducting Effective Meetings."

Eric's visibility around the Center is most evident throughout the annual League of Municipalities Conference. He can be seen frequenting the Center's booth, engaging elected officials with the value of the Center's programs. He is often available at the Center's consulting table, providing additional information to municipal officials who stop by to learn more about the Center's programming.

Eric has been in the practice of law nearly twenty years with significant experience in the fields of labor and employment law, educational law, municipal and governmental law/affairs. He handles matters on a wide range of subjects within the labor law field, including general advice and assistance, contract negotiations, interest and grievance arbitrations, fact-finding and mediation, and disciplinary matters involving public safety and non-public safety employees. In his capacity as a board of education attorney, Eric has handled such diverse issues as special education, teacher/student discipline and budget appeals. In his capacity as a municipal attorney, he has handled such diverse issues as land use matters, ethics issues, municipal construction, local public contracts law issues, tax appeals, open space acquisition and government affairs. He represents public and private entities in various litigation matters before federal and state courts' regulatory agencies, state and federal administrative law courts and quasi-judicial boards/bodies/commissions. He has been involved in many precedent setting and high profile cases in these fields over his years of practice.

In addition to his practice, Eric is a regular and frequently requested speaker at state and national organizations on a plethora of issues. He has written articles for publication and serves as a Director of the New Jersey State Bar Association Local Government Law Section, where he was previously Vice President and Editor of its newsletter. Eric also serves as General Counsel to the New Jersey Municipal Managers Association.

Eric has worked for several law firms concentrating in the fields of labor/employment law, municipal/government law and education, both as a partner and associate. He received his B.A. degree, magna cum laude with honors, from Drew University in 1979. He received his J.D. degree in 1982 from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he received the International Trial Lawyers Award. Eric also received an M.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University/Baruch College in 1985. He has been named several times to Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in the United States. Eric also serves as counsel and a member of the Board of Directors to Kids Bridge, a children's museum/cultural center in Trenton. He is a member of the Bars of New Jersey and the District of Columbia, as well as the Third Circuit (Federal) Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Eric is the Principal of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., located in Warren, New Jersey. The law firm's members offer over 55 years of experience in Government and Municipal Law, Election Law, Labor and Employment Law, Land Use and Environmental Law, Sports Law, Corporate Law, Litigation and Internet Law.

The Center has been served well by Eric's many invaluable contributions. His expertise has influenced almost every municipality in the State of New Jersey. The Center is fortunate to have benefited from his vast experience, and his commitment to share this experience and knowledge with those who govern. ■

conspectus is published quarterly by
the Center for Government Services
Edward J. Bloustein School of
Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Avenue • Suite 200
Civic Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1979

732/932-3640, Fax: 732/932-3586
www.policy.rutgers.edu/cgs