



## Maintaining Neutrality Under Difficult Circumstances: How Secondary Trauma Impacts Decision Making (M)

**Thursday,  
March 21st  
(60 minutes)**

1:00 p.m. Eastern  
12:00 p.m. Central  
11:00 a.m. Mountain  
10:00 a.m. Pacific  
9:00 a.m. Alaska  
8:00 a.m. Hawaii

**Attendance  
is free of  
charge for  
NAHO  
members.**

**\$30 fee for  
non-members**

**Advance  
Registration  
Required**

It has been said that "dispassionate judges" are "mythical beings" like "Santa Claus or Uncle Sam or Easter bunnies." Our ethics codes acknowledge we're emotional beings by requiring us to recuse from presiding over hearings involving friends or relatives. But what about hearings involving evidence of elder abuse, animal cruelty, and maltreatment or extreme neglect of children? When we receive this type of evidence, we must regulate our emotions to maintain the neutrality necessary to reach an objective decision. Justice Sotomayor says "[I]t's not the heart that compels conclusions in cases, it's the law"...but we can't help feeling what we feel. This class examines our duty to remain impartial, the impact that receiving traumatic evidence has on our ability to make objective decisions, and how neutrality can best be achieved under these difficult circumstances.

**To register for this class, click [HERE](#).**

### **Katherine MacDonald, Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge California Public Utility Commission**

Katherine Kwan MacDonald joined the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as an Administrative Law Judge in 2009, primarily presiding over telecommunications, energy, and transportation matters. Before joining the PUC, she heard tax appeals as a hearing officer for the California State Board of Equalization. Judge MacDonald chaired the judicial training program of the PUC's Administrative Law Judge Division, designing and delivering training to law clerks, judges, and Commission Staff. She has a BA from UCLA, an LLM in Taxation from Golden Gate University School of Law, and a JD from Whittier Law School. Judge MacDonald is an alumna of the National Judicial College and joined its faculty in 2018. She is currently the Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge at the California Public Utilities Commission.

