

Expanded Offerings for Law Enforcement Training

In recent months, LGIT has seen an increase in the number and cost of payouts in matters involving law enforcement officers. There is no singular explanation as to why this has occurred, and it is likely the result of numerous factors. In response, LGIT has committed itself to expanding the number and scope of trainings available for law enforcement officers. This will not only reduce risk, but will also help member agencies and their officers better serve their communities. As part of LGIT's renewed commitment to law enforcement training, we are offering new classroom trainings and have expanded our Online Campus to include new offerings dedicated to law enforcement.

First among the new offerings is a class entitled "Reducing Liability in Law Enforcement." This class has been designed specifically for LGIT based upon our claims history by nationally renowned police expert and lecturer Jack Ryan. Mr. Ryan is an attorney and worked as a police officer with

the Providence Police Department, Providence, Rhode Island for twenty years. His background provides him with a unique perspective on the legal issues that impact law enforcement agencies and officers.

Mr. Ryan's class will cover several topics, including: use of force, interacting with mentally ill individuals, vehicle pursuits, SWAT operations, and First Amendment issues, as well as supervisory and municipal liability. The class is open to any law enforcement officer with supervisory responsibilities.

The class is approved for 7 credit hours by the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC). It will be offered on June 10 in Cambridge, June 11 in New Carrollton, and June 12 in Hagerstown. For additional information or to register for the class, please go to our website: www.lgit.org.

As part of its overall commitment to training, LGIT has, since 2015, provided free online classes to members through its

Online Campus. Currently, there are approximately 1300 online courses available, many of which are written specifically for local governments, their agencies, and police departments. Over 1100 of the classes are designed for law enforcement. The classes are available online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to meet the needs of our members and their employees.

Until recently, none of the law enforcement classes on the Online Campus were approved for credit by the MPTC. LGIT, in conjunction with PoliceOne, a leader in online training and policy development, has obtained approval from the MPTC to award annual in-service credits for 39 law enforcement classes through the Online Campus. The trainings cover a broad range of topics, including: Arrest, Search & Seizure; Racial Profiling; Officer Wellness & Mental Health Awareness; and Presenting Effective Testimony in a Courtroom. Each course is approved for 1 or 2 credits by the MPTC.

LGIT also continues to partner with Kris Marsh, Ph. D, to provide Implicit Bias training to law enforcement officers. Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect an individual's understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. Stereotypes may be based upon things such as disability, gender, age, body size, or race/ethnicity.

The goal of the training is to help police officers understand and recognize biases that may affect their performance. The class includes: 1) Lectures and interactive exercises to establish understandings of prejudice and discrimination; 2) Computerized Implicit Association Tests to help officers uncover their potential biases; and 3) Virtual reality simulations to

assess behavior in real-life scenarios. The training is approved for 8 credit hours by the MPTC.

LGIT is also in the process of developing a new 2 hour class – “The Interactive Fourth Amendment” to be presented by in-house counsel. The class, which focuses on Fourth Amendment issues, will include in-depth discussions of recent cases decided by Maryland's Courts of Appeal, as well as claims and cases handled by LGIT's in-house counsel. Where possible, body camera and dash camera videos will be shown to enhance the discussion.

Moving forward, the Member Services Department will work with the Claims and Legal Departments to identify additional areas where trainings would be beneficial. Member Services will then develop and/or identify new trainings to reduce risk, improve services, and promote officer safety.

LGIT is also developing a Blue Ribbon Program which will recognize law enforcement agencies that stand out for their low loss ratios, their professional standards, use of body cameras, and participation in LGIT law enforcement related loss control offerings.

If you would like further information on the Reducing Liability in Law Enforcement or Implicit Bias trainings, please contact [Everett Sesker](mailto:EverettS@lgit.org): EverettS@lgit.org.

If you would like further information on LGIT's Online Campus please contact [Michele Keplinger](mailto:michelek@lgit.org): michelek@lgit.org.