



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
June 2025

Indigent Defense Updates

Unequal Scales: California's Investment Disparity Between Prosecution and Public Defense



Through a comprehensive analysis of available state and county budgets, grant documents, and stakeholder survey responses, IDID has identified and catalogued state-administered funding available to either prosecution or public defense in California. The findings demonstrate significant state investment in local prosecution without corresponding investment in local public defense, contributing to longstanding disparities in funding. Click [here](#) to access the report, and please share widely.

Free Defend-on-Demand Courses Perfect for Interns & New Hires

With interns starting soon and recent bar passers joining offices, IDID has two Defend-on-Demand courses that may assist their training needs— Fundamentals of Indigent Defense: Onboarding for all Defenders & Introduction to Preliminary Hearings. Click [here](#) for a flyer with more details.

NEW! OSPD MotionReady – A Different Kind of Motion Library

Find a free, curated, ever-growing selection of universal template motions important to indigent defense practice. These “plug and play” template motions are designed to be easy to use and are offered in Word or pdf fillable format for downloading and editing. And there’s more! Many template motions have a short Practice Note (pdf) with practical information you need to successfully utilize the motion. [Access MotionReady here](#) beginning June 2, 2025.

Scholarships to CPDA Basic Trial Skills Institute

****Application Deadline: June 11, 2025****

The Office of the State Public Defender, in partnership with the California Public Defenders Association (CPDA), is offering financial support to attend this year’s [CPDA Basic Trial Skills Institute](#) in the form of a scholarship. Although the number of scholarships is limited, the costs covered can include registration, travel, and lodging.

Scholarships will prioritize attorneys whose primary practice is indigent defense, those in their first five years of indigent defense practice, indigent defenders in counties without statutory public defender offices, and attorneys who have not previously attended this training. You do not have to meet all four criteria to receive a scholarship, nor do you have to be a CPDA member to attend. Applications will only be considered for individuals who commit to attend the entirety of the training from July 28-August 1, 2025, at the University of San Diego.

June 2025 IDID Training Events

Unless otherwise noted these trainings are intended for criminal defense team members only, including attorneys, investigators, social workers, paralegals, mitigation specialists, law office professionals, and other job roles on defense teams.

6/9

Lunch and Learn: OSPD MotionReady, a Different Kind of Motion Library

TERESA DEAMICIS, Deputy State Public Defender, Office of the State Public Defender

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

OSPD is excited to announce the launch of MotionReady, a different kind of motion library. Join creator and author Teresa DeAmicis for this Lunch and Learn, where she will walk us through MotionReady with a live demonstration, highlighting how to access this free resource, what it offers and how you can make the most of the universal template motions in your indigent defense practice.

NO MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

6/10

Working with Cellebrite Records

JOHN C. ELLIS, Attorney, Law Offices of John C. Ellis, Jr.

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Have you ever received a cell phone data extraction and wondered “what do I do with all of this information?” While these records can be numerous, it’s important for defenders to know how to best handle them when working up a case. In this webinar, attorney John C. Ellis will explain what Cellebrite extraction records are, the ways law enforcement uses these records, and how to work with them in your cases. At the end of this presentation, attendees will leave equipped with concrete steps for managing and effectively attacking these records in their cases.

1 hour of MCLE Credit in Technology in the Practice of Law is offered for this training

6/18

Engaging in Courageous Conversations in the Workplace

LORI JAMES, Executive Director, National Association of Public Defense

12:15 PM - 01:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

The ability to have open and honest dialogue about sensitive topics related to diversity, equity inclusion and belonging, even when uncomfortable, is a must to address issues of bias and discrimination in the workplace. In part four of IDID's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging on the workplace series, Lori James-Townes, the Executive Director of the National Association of Public Defense, will talk about the importance of using dialogue to address the uncomfortable truths around systemic inequalities, personal biases, and microaggressions marginalized groups face. At the end of this session, attendees will leave with an understanding of the importance of engaging in courageous conversations in the workplace through active listening, self-reflection, and open-minded dialogue.

1 hour of MCLE Credit in Recognition and Elimination of Bias is offered for this training

6/23

Criminalizing Special Needs: How to Identify and Argue Special Needs at all Phases of the Criminal Process

DR. WIZDOM POWELL, PHD, MPH, Director of the Health Disparities Institute and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, UConn Health

SHANNON WENTWORTH, Director of the BREN Clinic, San Joaquin College of Law

03:30 PM - 04:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are overrepresented in the criminal system. Because of this, defenders must know how to advocate for this vulnerable population. In this webinar, attorney Shannon Wentworth and Dr. Wizdom Powell will outline how and why people with special needs are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and how to address special needs in adult and youth cases. At the end of the webinar, attendees will be able to identify and use records to support their representation of persons with special needs.

1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training

6/25

Being Your Whole Self: Fitting in vs. Belonging

TATIANA KLINE, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

12:15 PM - 01:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Recognizing and understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) concepts is important to public defense work. But what is DEI without belonging? According to researcher Brene Brown's, the opposite of fitting in is belonging. In part five of IDID's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the public defender workplace series, attorney Tatiana Kline will discuss how persons from marginalized communities often try to fit in to the office culture in order to be accepted and how this act of fitting in negatively impacts their sense of belonging. At the end of this session, attendees will leave with an understanding of why feeling a sense of belonging at work matters to their overall well-being and how it contributes to a positive culture in the workplace.

1.25 hour of MCLE Credit in Recognition and Elimination of Bias is offered for this training

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Listening Between the Lines: The Skill and Sensitivity of Child Forensic Interviewing

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

6/10/2025, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Virtual

[More information and Registration](#)



JustFundIt: A National Briefing on the Importance of Federal Funding to Safeguard Equal Justice

Presented by National Legal Aid and Defenders Association

6/12/2025, 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Washington, DC

[More Information and Registration](#)



DIA Annual Seminar 2025

Presented by Defense Investigators Association

6/12/2025 to 6/13/2025

Pismo Beach, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



CPDA 16th Annual DUI Defense Practice Institute

Presented by California Public Defenders Association

6/13/2025 to 6/14/2025

San Francisco, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



Guilty by Association: Train the Trainers

Presented by Loyola Marymount University

6/13/2025 to 6/14/2025

Los Angeles, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



DUI or TBI? When Concussions and Head Trauma Complicate Criminal Cases

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

6/17/2025, 01:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Freedom of Information Act

Presented by Advancing Real Change

6/17/2025, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Truth or Tech - Navigating AI-Generated Evidence in the Courtroom

Presented by California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

6/18/2025, 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



CJR Workshop: Misdemeanor Waivers of Counsel

Presented by Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

6/18/2025, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ask a Mitigation Specialist

Presented by Advancing Real Change

6/18/2025, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



BPDA 2025 Annual Conference: Rooted in Resistance, Rising with Purpose

Presented by Black Public Defender Association

6/19/2025 to 6/21/2025

Washington, DC

[More Information and Registration](#)



American Council of Chief Defenders 2025 Convening: Innovators & Strategists Trailblazing the Future of Public Defense

Presented by American Council of Chief Defenders

6/20/2025 to 6/21/2025

Washington, DC

[More Information and Registration](#)



Reviewing Minor Records: Was it Child Maltreatment?

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

6/25/2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



THC/Cannabis Toxicology: Recognizing Impairment

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

6/26/2025, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)

The Office of the State Public Defender is a state agency founded in 1976 to represent indigent criminal defendants on appeal. Today, the agency has two divisions. The Appellate Division provides high quality appellate representation for those convicted of capital offenses. The Indigent Defense Improvement Division supports trial level indigent defense systems across California by providing defense attorney training and assistance to counties with public defense systems. See Gov. Code Section 15420(b).
