



Office of the State Public Defender Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin August 2025

Indigent Defense Updates

Defense Panel Opportunity

Want to represent clients in the Bay Area? Alameda County's Court Appointed Attorneys Program (CAAP) is currently accepting [applications](#)! CAAP attorneys represent individuals and youth in cases where the public defender has a conflict. Rates range from \$127- \$236 an hour, depending on the type of case. For more details, visit our [website](#) and review the [FAQ](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact CAAP Director, Andrea Zambrana, at andrea@acbanet.org or 510.302.2202.

Free Defend-On-Demand Online Courses

Once a year, OSPD offers the instructor led ten-week version of the Sustaining and Supporting Well-Being in Public Defense. Participants in this course will develop individual strategies to sustain well-being, community care strategies to create public defense culture supportive of well-being, and strategies to advocate for system transformation. This course is available anytime on demand, to complete on your own schedule, or as an instructor-led weekly course that begins September 15, 2025. The instructor led course fills quickly, so [register at this link](#) if you'd like to participate.

IDID is pleased to provide you with a [catalog of the FREE courses](#) we offer. These courses are self-paced, and most are eligible for self-study MCLE credit.

August 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.

8/11

Persuasively Using the Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Instruction Throughout the Entire Trial

ALLEN CAVE, Assistant Felony Supervisor, Santa Cruz County Office of the Public Defender

TERESA DEAMICIS, Deputy State Public Defender, Office of the State Public Defender – Indigent Defense Improvement Division

DANA RAE GROSS, Deputy Public Defender, Sonoma County Public Defender

TATIANA KLINE, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co.

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

Every criminal defense trial attorney must be prepared to persuasively and effectively argue CalCrim 220, the Reasonable Doubt instruction, during a jury trial. During this webinar moderated

by Teresa DeAmicis, public defender attorneys Allen Cave, Dana Gross, and Tatiana Kline will provide different perspectives on the ways they have intertwined this instruction from motion in limines to closing arguments. At the end of this webinar, attendees will leave with a multitude of ways they can eloquently weave this powerful instruction throughout the trial.

1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training

8/14

Required Reporting and Client Trust Accounts: An Ethical Inquiry

MICHAEL CROWLEY, Founder and Lead Attorney, Crowley Law Group

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

Rules of Professional Conduct are in place to ensure ethical behavior in the legal community and to protect the public from unethical conduct. Rule 8.3, Required Reporting and Rule 9.8.5, State Bar Client Trust Account Protection Program, are two rules that serve those purposes. In this webinar, attorney Michael Crowley will outline his take on how these two rules impact the legal profession and the ways that attorneys can find themselves in violation of them. At the end of this webinar, attendees will be able to describe what the rules are and identify how they might impact their practice.

1 hour of MCLE Credit in Legal Ethics is offered for this training

8/18

Building Trauma-Informed Defense Teams

MEGAN LESCHAK, LMSW, Investigator, Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California

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

Public defense social workers are exposed to the trauma due to the nature of the work. Because of this, it's important that social workers and their teams strive to be trauma informed. During this webinar, Megan Leschak, LMSW, will discuss common causes and symptoms of psychological trauma including interpersonal, environmental, and social engineered forms of stress.

Additionally, Megan will invite attendees to explore ways to gather trauma histories to reduce harm to selves and promote healing on teams. At the end of this webinar, attendees will be able to identify the types of trauma that show up in their work and will develop tools to sustain in the public defense forensic social workspace.

There is NO MCLE or Legal Specialization Credit offered for this training

8/19

Building Rapport and Reducing Stigma: Supporting Clients with Psychosis in CARE Court and Other Settings

SAMANTHA RUIZ, LMSW

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Learn how to better connect with clients experiencing psychosis - especially those in the CARE Court system. We will break down how schizophrenia shows up in real life, how to build trust, and why the words we use matter. Expect real examples, practical tips, and a focus on empathy, communication and person first care.

There is NO MCLE or Legal Specialization Credit offered for this training

8/20

The False Promise of Bail: Understanding the Relationship Between Pretrial Release and Court Appearance

TARA WATFORD, Ph.D., Chief Data and Program Innovation Officer, The Bail Project

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

We have been misled about cash bail. The prevailing belief is that without financial payment, individuals will fail to appear in court. However, a recent study by researchers at The Bail Project dispels this myth, demonstrating that support—not money—promotes accountability. This webinar will explore the key findings of the study and examine how pretrial release mechanisms affect case processing and outcomes for individuals. Attendees will leave with actionable recommendations for enhancing pretrial release policies and decision-making at the courtroom, community, and state levels.

1 hour of MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

8/21

C.A.R.E. Proceedings: Why all defenders should care about C.A.R.E.

JENNIFER BENDER, Supervising Deputy Public Defender, Riverside County Public Defender's Office

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

This webinar offers a practical introduction to CARE Court for public defenders not directly involved in the process. Participants will gain a clear understanding of what CARE Court is—and isn't—particularly in contrast to mental health diversion programs and other judicial behavioral health interventions. The session will cover how CARE Court intersects with other court proceedings, including criminal competency issues and LPS conservatorship step-downs. We will highlight key risks such as potential conservatorship and immigration consequences. Attendees will also explore how to maintain confidentiality, recognize waiver risks, and navigate communication between attorneys when clients are served by different branches or offices. Through legal overview and real-world discussion, defenders will be better equipped to advise clients and collaborate effectively with CARE Court counsel.

1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training

8/26

Identifying and Preserving Civil Rights Claims

DALE GALIPO, Civil Rights Attorney, Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo

MICHELLE DAHL, Justice Catalyst Legal Fellow, National Police Accountability Project

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Public defenders frequently represent clients whose criminal cases involve potential civil rights violations. This webinar offers a practical framework for identifying and preserving those claims to support greater police accountability. Presenters will outline key distinctions between civil and criminal practice, discuss how procedural hurdles—such as plea agreements and statutes of limitations—can impact civil rights claims, and share strategies for navigating the criminal case in ways that help protect a client's ability to seek justice in the civil arena. This training is presented in partnership with the National Police Accountability Project, which works alongside defense practitioners to provide support and guidance in this critical area of the law.

1.25 hour of MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit in Other Subjects Related to Criminal Law is offered for this training

September 2025 IDID Training Events

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9/2

Person-First Language: Why it Matters in Indigent Defense in CARE Court

SAMANTHA RUIZ, LCSW

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This session explores how person-first language can improve communication, build trust, and reduce stigma in CARE Court. Attendees will learn practical strategies to center client dignity, challenge harmful stereotypes, and promote inclusive advocacy. Ideal for legal and support teams, this training offers real-world tools for respectful, person-centered communication.

NO MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

9/3

Removing Sex Work Related Convictions: Relief and Record Clearance (SB 357 and PC 653.29)

ASHLEY MADNESS, Steering Committee, Decriminalize Sex Work California

JAKE RHODES, Deputy Public Defender, Santa Clara County Public Defender

ONYX STARRETT, Deputy Public Defender, Santa Barbara Public Defender

STEPHANIE RICHARD, Director/Visiting Associate Clinical Professor, Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This webinar will explore the mechanisms of the relief granted by the Safer Streets for All Act (SB 357), which decriminalized “loitering for the purpose of prostitution” and other prostitution related activities. Attendees will gain understanding of the decriminalization of sex work through SB 357, learn models used by public defender offices that have successfully pursued mass relief under PC 653.29, and review the motion process. The session will also address the immigration consequences of convictions for “loitering for the purpose of prostitution” (PC 653.22) and discuss more effective relief methods for non-citizen clients. Finally, the webinar highlights additional forms of relief available for individuals whose convictions may be connected to human trafficking.

1 hour of MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit in Other Subjects Related to Criminal Law is offered for this training

9/17

Crisis Debriefings for Public Defenders

CAITLIN BECKER, Social Work Director of Complex Advocacy, The Bronx Defenders

MARISA BECKLEY, Director of Safety and Wellness, The Bronx Defenders

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

Defenders in all job roles are invited to join this session to learn about debriefing as a tool to process defense experiences. As public defenders, we work with people at some of the most difficult times of their lives. Our work involves navigating moments of crisis, such as: difficult case outcomes and harm to the people we represent; traumatic experiences of ourselves and our colleagues; and larger crises such as wildfire, flood or pandemic. As social worker and trauma exposure researcher Laura van Dernoot Lipsky reminds us, it is critical to “metabolize all that we

are experiencing" in the course of our work. In this session, social workers Marisa Beckley and Caitlin Becker will discuss a model for holding structured "crisis debriefings" in public defender offices. Attendees will increase their awareness and understanding of the debriefing model as one way to help all defense teams metabolize experiences of crisis.

1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training

9/23

Working Title - From Bias to Belonging: Strengths - Based Approaches for Engaging CARE Court Clients and Other Settings

CHERYL STAMPLEY, PhD, LCSW, RN, University of Tennessee

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This workshop will assist you to better understand self in relation to other people (especially CARE Court clients) by recognizing how our society creates a culture that perpetuates a disconnect with each other. Workshop materials will provide awareness at the personal and professional levels with how to recognize the trauma our biases create. This workshop concludes with a guide to connect with each other more effectively. The works of Sue (2015), Hardy (2023), and Lynch & Hanson (2011) provide the theoretical foundation to workshop content.

NO MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Advocating for Queer Clients

Presented by Advancing Real Change

8/5/2025, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Pediatric Failure to Thrive: When is it Child Neglect?

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

8/6/2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Enhancing Fairness and Improving Outcomes at Initial Appearances

Presented by National Legal Aid and Defenders Association

8/7/2025, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Piecing Together the Puzzle: Understanding SANE Exams, Trauma, and Evidence Collection

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

8/12/2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



The Lawyer's Growth and Exit Blueprint: Planning Your Practice and Your Future

presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

8/14/2025, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Reviewing Minor Records: Was it Child Maltreatment?

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

8/20/2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ask a Mitigation Specialist

Presented by Advancing Real Change

8/20/2025, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Making the Case for Life Seminar

presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

8/27/2025 - 8/29/2025

Las Vegas, NV

[More Information and Registration](#)



Reviewing Minor Records: Was it Child Maltreatment?

Presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

8/29/2025, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PDT

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Reclaiming Expertise: Community, Culture, and Credibility in Youth Defense

Presented by California Youth Defender Center (formerly PJDC)

9/12/2025 - 9/13/2025, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Live at UC Law San Francisco (Hastings)

[More Information and Registration](#)



Culturally Competent Experts

Presented by Advancing Real Change, Inc.

9/16/2025, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET

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).
