



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
September 2025

Public Defense Grant Opportunity

Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant

The 2025-2026 Budget Act (AB 102) allocated funding for a grant program to expand public defense services in California, specifically to establish or expand holistic defense practices.

The Office of the State Public Defender is administering this grant. Eligible grantees include public defender offices and qualified entities providing indigent defense. Additional details can be found in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA, application, and other materials are here: [Expanded Public Defense \(Holistic Defense\) Grant](#)

The application is now open, and deadline for submission is October 28 at 5pm PT.

Any questions related to the grant should be directed to: OSPD.Grant@ospd.ca.gov

Defender Tools

Toolkit for Representing Clients with Disabilities

Activating Change released a free, four-piece toolkit providing step-by-step processes for public defense, legal aid, and other attorneys to secure accommodations and provide modifications in the courtroom and beyond for clients who have disabilities and those who are Deaf. [Access toolkit here.](#)

Challenging Parole Denials Handbook

UnCommon Law launched **Challenging Your Parole Denial in California State Court**, a step-by-step resource designed to help people challenge their parole denials in court, even if they cannot afford a lawyer. [Download here.](#)

Police Records Database Now Available

The [Police Records Access Project](#), a database containing internal affairs records from nearly 500 law enforcement agencies across California and nearly 12,000 cases, has been made searchable for the public. The database shares how law enforcement agencies throughout the state handle misconduct allegations, police shootings, and other uses of police force that result in death or serious injury. [Access the database here.](#)

SB 1437/775: A Snapshot of Impact (Jan 2019 – June 2025)

The OSPD Indigent Defense Improvement Division just released an update on the impact of SB 1437 and SB 775. The information sheet documents how these reforms have led to over 1200 resentencings, returning individuals to their communities and saving the state significant incarceration costs. Access the information sheet [here](#).

OSPD Meetups and Defend-On-Demand Courses

California Public Defender Trainers September Virtual Meetup

Tues 9/23/25 from 12:00pm-1:00pm [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Topic: Building Accessible Content

Guest: Abi Resendiz-Zuniga, MSW, Staff Services Manager, Indigent Defense Improvement Division

Discussion: How can trainers plan online content for accessibility? What tools can we use to design training that can be easily consumed by people of all abilities? Bring your questions, challenges, and thoughts. As always, there will be time at the end of the presentation for a discussion of your own topics.

CARE Court Meetup

Wed 9/24/2025 1:30pm – 2:30pm [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Description: These meetups are designed as open spaces for individuals working within the CARE Court system to connect, share, and learn from one another. Held in a meeting format, they offer an opportunity to discuss your experiences and hear about the challenges others are facing as we all navigate the CARE Act proceedings together. We'll highlight available resources for CARE Court personnel, work collectively to identify and track emerging issues across the state, and try to address your questions and concerns.

Registration is required—you'll receive a calendar invite and reminder upon registering. You may also click through to register and join the meeting when it begins.

Sustaining and Supporting Well-Being in Public Defense

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.

Free Defend-On-Demand Online Courses

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.

September 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.

9/2

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

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

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

9/24

Empowering Youth: “Know Your Rights” Programs for High School & College Students

CLAUDIA BAUTISTA, Public Defender, Ventura County Public Defender

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

ASHANTI MITCHELL, Deputy State Public Defender, Office of the State Public Defender

SUMMER SHAFER, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego County Primary Public Defender

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

Equipping young people with knowledge about their rights, and how to navigate interactions with law enforcement, can change lives. Public defenders can be important messengers in educating high school and college students on how to safely interact with police officers while asserting their constitutional rights. In this session, you’ll hear from three successful “Know Your Rights” programs from different regions of the state. Learn how these initiatives are planned, the impact they’ve had, and the powerful benefits of getting involved. Whether you’re looking to launch a program or strengthen an existing one, you’ll walk away with ideas and tools to inform, engage, and empower your community.

No MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Mind the Bias: Defense Counsel’s Approach to Just Outcomes

Webinar presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

9/10/2025, 2:00:00 PM to 9/10/2025, 3:30:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 E-Discovery Institute

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

9/12/2025 to 9/12/2025

New York, NY

[More Information and Registration](#)



CPDA's Annual Homicide Defense Practice Institute

Live Training presented by California Public Defenders Association

9/12/2025 to 9/13/2025

Sacramento, CA

[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](#)



2025 White Collar Seminar & Fall Board Meeting

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

9/17/2025 to 9/20/2025

Washington, DC

[More Information and Registration](#)



Richard Hutton's Rules of the Road XXVIII Seminar 2025

Live Training presented by California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

9/19/2025 to 9/20/2025

Palm Springs, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



NASAMS Fundamentals of Mitigation Certificate Program

Webinar presented by National Legal Aid & Defender Association

10/15/2025 to 10/17/2025

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Defending Modern Drug Cases Seminar

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

10/22/2025 to 10/25/2025

Sahara Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 DWI Means Defend with Ingenuity Seminar

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

10/22/2025 to 10/25/2025

Sahara Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

[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).
