



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin February 2026

Public Defense Updates

***Sellers v. Superior Court* (\$287164)**

Last week, in *Sellers v. Superior Court* (2026) --- Cal.5th --- (2026 WL 236327) the California Supreme Court held that a small amount of loose marijuana in a car does not constitute probable cause to search the vehicle.

A deeper analysis of the holding can be found on the [IDID Library](#) on the Training SharePoint. Access to the Training SharePoint is limited to indigent defense practitioners. Access is free, but prior registration is required: <https://bit.ly/OSPDRReg>.

New Template Mental Health Diversion Motion on OSPD MotionReady

MotionReady has a new template motion and companion Practice Notes: Mental Health Diversion Petition (PC 1001.36). [Access MotionReady](#) to view and download these documents.

MotionReady provides an ever-growing selection of universal template motions and briefing presented in a “plug and play” Word format designed for easy download and use. Access to the IDID Training SharePoint is required. [Register here](#).

California Public Defender Trainers February Virtual Meetup

Our group of California Trainers meets monthly to share information and hear from a trainer or presenter on a rotating topic raised by someone in the group. We look forward to seeing you there. As always, this meetup will have time for trainer questions and networking, so bring your ideas, or email them in advance to ray.ibarra@ospd.ca.gov.

Topic: Teaching Performance Skills

Tues 2/24/26 from 12:00pm-1:00pm [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Discussion: This month we are thinking creatively about how to teach performance skills (cross, direct, opening, closing, motion argument, etc). This open ended discussion will cover big and small suggestions for how to improve staff skill and make honing these skills a priority in daily practice.

IDID Connection Hours

Monday 2/8/2026 3pm-4pm [Join Meeting](#)

Monday 2/23/2026 3pm-4pm [Join Meeting](#)

These connection hours happen on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 3-4pm. They are an open 'drop-in/drop-out' space where defenders can come to learn about IDID defense training and ask questions about connecting with our resources. Technical questions about getting on the IDID Training SharePoint and registering for online resources are welcome, and you can get guidance in real time as you complete your enrollment. Bring your questions, suggestions, and ideas!

February 2026 IDID Training Events

2/3 **Advocating for Transgender Incarcerated People in Release Proceedings**

ANASTASIA FRANCO, National Prisoner Correspondence Coordinator, Critical Resistance

AMANDA GOAD, Audrey Irmas Director of the Gender, Sexuality, & Reproductive Justice Project, ACLU of Southern California

COLBY LENZ, Deputy Director of Policy and Community Research, UCLA Center for the Study of Women

A.D. SEAN LEWIS, Senior Attorney, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

JEN ORTHWEIN, Civil Rights Attorney and Licensed Psychologist, Orthwein Law

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Incarcerated transgender people face acute hardships in carceral settings and encounter unique barriers to release from confinement. To address these barriers, presenters recently published, "Transgender, Nonbinary, & Intersex Decarceration: A Guide for Practitioners & Advocates in California." The Guide and this webinar are designed to support attorneys and other advocates representing transgender, nonbinary, and intersex (TNI) individuals in California resentencing proceedings, parole proceedings, clemency petitions, and pretrial release proceedings. Attendees will learn strategies to mitigate and explain TNI clients' prison records, including disciplinary reports, programming, work and mental health histories, and interactions with the criminal legal system.

****1.25 hours of MCLE is offered for this training****

2/10 **Universal Clemency for People Sentenced to Death**

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

Sponsored by OSPD and CAP-SF

Learn more about the Universal Clemency Campaign, which urges Governor Newsom to commute all death sentences in California. Presenters Natasha Minsker and Bob Bacon will provide information about the campaign's objectives, strategy, and opportunities for legal practitioners to stay informed or get involved.

****This webinar is specifically intended for attorneys and legal team members currently working on death penalty cases.****

****No MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training****

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Skynet at the Sidebar: Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Defense in Criminal Cases

Advancing Real Change, Inc.

2/10/26

Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



2026 Capital Case Defense Seminar

California Public Defenders Association and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

2/13/26 - 2/16/26

San Diego, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



NCDC Forensic Cross-Examination Workshop

National Criminal Defense College

3/8/2026-3/10/2026

Texas State Capitol - Austin, TX

[More Information and Registration](#)



2026 Jacksonville Summit for Change: Advocacy with Impact

Advancing Real Change, Inc.

April 15 - April 17, 2026

Jacksonville, FL

[More Information and Registration](#)



The Deryl Dantzler Trial Practice Institute

National Criminal Defense College

Session I - June 14 - June 26, 2026

Session II - July 19 - 31, 2026

Located in Iowa City, IA at the University of Iowa School of Law

[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).
