



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin November 2025

Defender Tools

New Template Motions on OSPD MotionReady

MotionReady has two new template motions and companion Practice Notes: (1) Motion to Dismiss Strike Prior (*Romero*) and (2) Motion in Limine: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Standard in Defense Closing. [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](#).

Guide to Building Data Capacity in Rural Defense Systems

The Center for Justice Innovation, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, and the Office of the State Public Defender collaborated on the recently released [A Guide to Building Data Capacity in Rural Defense Systems](#). Drawing on direct experience working with three rural California counties and best practices from organizations that have successfully implemented defense data collection, this guide offers recommendations for building sustainable indigent defense data systems within the unique challenges faced by rural jurisdictions.

Counsel at First Appearance: An Object Lesson in Policy Implementation

The Center for Justice Innovation has published a policy brief focusing on implementation challenges in efforts to secure early counsel, including practical advice on ensuring the push for counsel at first appearance is transformed into change on the ground. Find the brief [here](#).

Legislative Updates

Bills Worth Watching

Learn about 40 bills that have been signed into law that may have an impact on public defense and individuals experiencing the criminal legal system or incarceration. A new, comprehensive, four page flyer summarizing these bills and the day each one takes effect has been added to the [Legislative Tracking page](#) on the IDID Training SharePoint. The bills highlighted include new crimes and aggravating factors, new trial counsel file retention policies, clarifications to the RJA, and “fire camp” resentencing, among other relevant topics. Access to the IDID Training SharePoint is required. [Register here](#).

Defender Events and Meetups

CARE Act Convening: Reflections from One Year of Full Implementation

11/17/25 ALL DAY [Registration Link](#)

The Judicial Council is holding a daylong event, **CARE Act Convening: Reflections from One Year of Full Implementation**, on November 17th in Los Angeles. Participation is open to all county teams and justice partners involved in CARE Act implementation, including county behavioral health teams, county counsel, respondents' counsel, public guardians/conservators, and other active stakeholders. Participants will share best practices and learn from innovations in other jurisdictions.

RJA Data and Research Consortium (DRC) Ready Response Office Hours

November Dates: 11/6 and 11/20 [Registration Form](#)

The Ready Response office hours are an accessible, informal way for defense lawyers developing an RJA claim to ask preliminary questions about social science research and statistical best practices. These office hours are meant to help with early questions or building foundational understanding before engaging a case-specific expert.

All questions are welcomed - and breakout rooms will be available for 1:1 consultations.

November 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.

11/4

Service Delivery Perspectives: Working with Unhoused Individuals Experiencing Psychosis

MARISOL LARA, Director, Care of Coordination Services, PATH Orange County

MELANIE MCQUEEN, Regional Director, PATH Orange County

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

PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) of Orange County will present on services available to unhoused community members, needs and barriers unhoused folks living with psychosis face, and evidence-based practices for serving these individuals, including streets to housing workflow and CARE Court services.

No MCLE is offered for this training

11/5

Latest RJA Legislative Changes: AB 1071 Recap

BROOKE MCCARTHY, Racial Justice Act Attorney, OSPD

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

Join us for a nuts and bolts overview of recent legislative changes to the Racial Justice Act (RJA). AB 1071 clarifies RJA discovery provisions, the need to impose a remedy, and multiple post-conviction procedural components. During this session, we will walk through the statutory changes, its impact on pending litigation, and provide practical tips for defenders moving forward, including time for Q&A.

****1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training****

11/14

Conservatorship Defense Primer: LPS 101

ELIZABETH MADSEN, Supervising Attorney, Placer County

DESIRAE SANDERS, Supervising Attorney, San Diego Public Defender's Office

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

This introductory webinar offers a practical overview of the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and the conservatorship process for individuals experiencing serious mental health disorders in California. Participants will learn how LPS conservatorships differ from probate and limited conservatorships, the key legal standards that govern eligibility for conservatorship, and the procedural steps from detention and evaluation through petitions, trials, and rehearings. The session also covers the roles of defenders, county counsel, and conservators; as well as client rights and disabilities under LPS.

****1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training****

11/20

Turning Data Into Second Chances: Using Policy Lab's Findings to Strengthen Resentencing Advocacy

ALISSA SKOG, Researcher, California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley

JOHANNA LACOE, Research Director, California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley

JENNIFER HANSEN, Attorney, California Appellate Project - Los Angeles

AGAVNI TULEKYAN, Attorney, Tulekian Law

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

Join us for a practical discussion on how defenders can leverage the latest findings from the California Policy Lab to support resentencing efforts and advocate for clients more effectively. Policy Lab researchers Alissa Skog and Johanna Lacoe will walk through key takeaways from their recent report, highlighting encouraging outcomes from resentencing hearings and the low rates of recidivism among those granted relief. Defense practitioners Agavni Tulekian and Jennifer Hansen will share real-world strategies for using this data in motions, hearings, and exceptional conduct referrals. You'll come away with: Actionable insights on how to introduce this data in court, a clearer understanding of how rare exceptional conduct findings truly are, and tools to support your advocacy for second chances.

****1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training****

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



2025 Trial Skills Update Seminar

California Lawyers Association

11/8/2025, 7:30AM - 5:30PM

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ineffective Assistance of Counsel: Investigative Strategies

Webinar presented by Advancing Real Change, Inc.

12/9/2025 10:00 am

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).
