



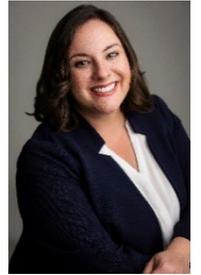
Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
March 2026

Public Defense Updates

IDID Welcomes Two New Team Members

Hayley E. Dewey has over twelve years of experience as a California defender, ranging from private practice to supervising deputy public defender. She has extensive experience representing indigent clients in all types of criminal cases including the most serious felonies, juvenile adjudications, post-conviction litigation, and appeals in state and federal court. Hayley is honored to use her skills, values, and experience to empower and support defenders in the relentless pursuit of client-centered legal excellence.



Chelsea Bond has spent the past 15 years advancing meaningful change in the criminal legal system as both a community organizer and public defender. As a trial attorney at the Solano County Public Defender's Office, she zealously represented indigent clients facing charges ranging from misdemeanors to serious felonies, as well as civil commitments and appeals. She is deeply committed to holistic, client-centered defense and to ensuring that indigent defenders have the resources and support necessary to advocate effectively for their clients.

Public Defense Opportunities

Chief Public Defender - Nevada County

The county of Nevada is seeking an experienced and collaborative public defender to lead the Public Defender's Office and advance integrated approaches connecting legal advocacy with services and support for vulnerable community members.

[More Information](#) and [Link to Apply](#)

County Public Defender - Del Norte County

Del Norte County is seeking an experienced criminal defense attorney to serve as the County's first Public Defender, responsible for overseeing and developing the County's indigent defense program.

[More Information](#) and [Link to Apply](#)

RJA and Habeas Appointed Panel - Riverside County

Riverside Superior Court urgently seeks qualified attorneys to represent indigent clients in habeas and post-conviction Racial Justice Act (RJA) claims. Experienced defenders from across the state are encouraged to apply; the rate for appointed work is \$150/hour, travel time is compensated, and lodging costs will be reimbursed.

For more information, please see attached flyer.

March 2026 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.

3/16

Not Their Tools, Not Their Rules: An Ethical AI Selection Toolkit

JEFF SHERR, Consultant, Reduct Video

12:00 PM - 1:00PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This program equips criminal defense attorneys and decision makers with practical strategies to navigate the ethical challenges of using AI in legal practice. The goal is to equip participants to: protect client confidentiality and the attorney-client privilege when adopting AI tools; assess and mitigate vendor risks through informed vetting of technology partners; examine critical considerations including automated analysis, conflicts of interest, data breaches, and access control safeguards; and understand the ethical pitfalls of choosing vendors that support law enforcement/prosecutors.

****1 hour of MCLE credit including sub-fields of Legal Ethics and Technology in the practice of law is offered for this training****

3/25

Mental Health Diversion: Emerging Law and Strategies for Success

TERESA DEAMICIS, Resource Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

MICHAEL SCHENSUL, Los Angeles Alternate Public Defender

AIMEE SOLWAY, Criminal Defense Attorney, Private Practice

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

Mental Health Diversion (Pen. Code §1001.36) can be a powerful tool to divert clients with diagnosed mental disorders away from incarceration and towards treatment and dismissal of their case. This webinar will give a quick overview of mental health diversion, and then do a deeper dive into emerging issues, specifically public safety, expert opinions, and unsatisfactory termination of diversion. Join us to hear from counsel who authored the pretrial writ briefing in Taylor (B346062, Second Dist.) and Jones (H053911, Sixth Dist.) as they share experiences and strategies litigating these issues. The webinar will conclude with information about other, recent appellate decisions related to mental health diversion. Time will be reserved for attendee questions at the end of the presentations.

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

3/26

CARE Court and Immigration Concerns in 2026

ANN BLOCK, Senior Staff Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center

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

With increased DHS activity deeply impacting our clients, courts, and communities, join us for this webinar assisting defense teams in deepening their practical immigration knowledge and understanding of how these issues interplay with CARE Court proceedings. This session will cover recent and ongoing changes in immigration policy impacting CARE Court and other proceedings, equip defenders to identify common immigration-related issues that arise in CARE Court cases, and identify additional immigration-related considerations relevant to CARE Court practice.

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

April 2026 IDID Training Events

4/2 Cross Examination Primer (And Workshop)

JENNY ANDREWS, Director of Training, Office of the State Public Defender

CHELSEA BOND, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

HAYLEY DEWEY, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

RAY IBARRA, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

12:00pm - 1:00pm [Register for the Webinar](#) (Open to All Defenders)

[Register for the 4/2 Workshop](#) (limited space, webinar attendance required)

[Register for the 4/3 Workshop](#) (limited space, webinar attendance required)

(If we reach capacity, you can [join the waitlist for a workshop space here](#)).

Cross-examination is one of the most frequently used—and most critical—trial skills in defense practice. This online training offers a focused, practical approach to strengthening that skill through a two-part program that combines instruction with hands-on application. The opening webinar provides a clear framework for effective cross-examination, covering question form, strategic substance, and how to organize questions into coherent chapters that enhance clarity and persuasion before a jury.

Following the lecture, participants continue into a small-group workshop designed to translate theory into practice. Workshop participants will work from a provided hypothetical case problem to develop and perform cross-examination questions, receiving targeted feedback from experienced coaches in a supportive, skills-focused setting. Advance registration is required so participants can review the case materials and prepare in advance. Although trial skills are best practiced in person, we offer this engagement with the critical skill of cross examination for defenders unable to attend in a live trial skills workshop or for those looking to brush up or sharpen skills.

The training is in two parts. The first is the webinar, which runs from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00pm on Thursday 4/2/26. All defenders are welcome to attend. Then participants can register either for the 4/2 or 4/3 session of the Workshop, which will run from 1:30pm - 4:00pm.

Space will be limited based on available coaches, so we encourage all interested defenders to register in advance using the links above.

****1 hour of MCLE is offered for this training for the webinar portion only****

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



The Next Frontier for Public Defense: Integrating Deportation Defense

The Vera Institute of Justice

March 5, 2025

Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



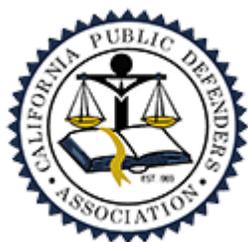
NCDC Forensic Cross-Examination Workshop

National Criminal Defense College

March 8, 2026 - March 10, 2026

Texas State Capitol - Austin, TX

[More Information and Registration](#)



They Didn't Burn Witches, They Burned Women:

Gendered Criminalization, Moral Panic, and Defending Women and Gender-Diverse Clients Today

California Public Defenders Association

March 9 - 13, 2026

Live Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



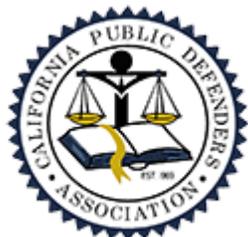
2026 Lifer School

Uncommon Law, UCLA Prison Law & Policy Program, UCLA Criminal Law & Policy Consortium

March 14, 2026

UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

[More Information and Registration](#)



A Webinar Week Devoted to Using the Racial Justice Act In Your Cases

California Public Defenders Association

March 23 - March 27, 2026

Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



WAIS-IV vs. WAIS-V: What Defense Teams Should Know

Advancing Real Change, Inc.

March 31, 2026

Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



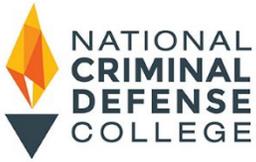
2026 Jacksonville Summit for Change: Advocacy with Impact

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).
