

Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
April 2026

Public Defense Updates

New Resource Page - Mental Health Diversion

Introducing a continually growing set of resources on mental health diversion, Pen. Code 1001.36, now live on the Training SharePoint. Resources include recent mental health diversion case summaries, copies of pretrial writ appellate briefing in *People v. Superior Court (Taylor)* (issue: undue risk of danger to public safety) and *Jones v. Superior Court* (issue: wrongful termination of diversion), and a one-pager overview of the published *Taylor* opinion, including arguments prosecutors may raise and potential defense responses. Access to the Training SharePoint is limited to indigent defense practitioners. Access is free, but prior registration is required: <https://bit.ly/OSPDReg>. Click [here to access the Mental Health Diversion resource page](#).

IDID Connection Hours

Monday 4/13/2026 3pm-4pm [Join Meeting](#)

Monday 4/27/2026 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!

California Public Defender Trainers - April Meetup (New Time!)

Tues 4/28/26 from 1:30pm-2:30pm [REGISTER HERE](#)

Our group of California Public Defender 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.

Empowering Team Defense

May 19th, 2026 - In Person Convening

Ontario Airport Hotel and Convention Center

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OSPD is hosting this live, in-person convening meant for all members of interdisciplinary defense teams including attorneys, investigators, social workers, mitigation specialists, administrative professionals, service coordinators, supervisors, and all others who work on or with a defense team. We will explore how defense teams can collaborate to better support clients, improve outcomes, and demonstrate their impact with data-driven narratives.

This summit is **free** to attend. Lawyer attendees can also earn MCLE credit for attendance. Advance [registration](#) is required and space may be limited. Our goals are to equip participants to:

- Center the person we represent within the defense team.
 - Communicate and collaborate effectively to utilize the many skill sets of interdisciplinary teams.
 - Build sustained support for holistic programs through data and client stories.
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April 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.

4/2
-4/3

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

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [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

4/8 **The Role of the Victim Offender Dialogue in Restorative Justice**

GUADELUPE ANGULO, Facilitator, Mend Collaborative
MIGUEL QUEZADA, Co-Director, Mend Collaborative

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

Defenders will learn more about 'Victim Offender Dialogues,' what client participation can entail, and how such restorative justice practices may impact resentencing efforts. The webinar will also discuss restorative justice frameworks, more generally, and the shift from a focus on punishment to a emphasis on healing from trauma.

1 hour of MCLE and is offered for this training

4/14 **Challenging Mandatory LWOP as Cruel or Unusual Punishment: New Ideas and Strategies for Youthful LWOP Cases at Trial and Post-Conviction**

KYLE BARRY, Director, State Law Research Initiative
REBECCA BRACKMAN, Assistant Public Defender, Contra Costa County Public Defender

JENNIFER HANSEN, Senior Staff Attorney, CAP-LA
BESS STIFFELMAN, Attorney, Law Office of Bess Stiffelman

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

This webinar will introduce litigation strategies aimed at challenging the imposition of mandatory LWOP for young adults, under 26, with a focus on 18-20 year old clients. Three other states have extended the protections of Miller v. Alabama to this group under their state constitutions. Join us for a discussion on how to advance similar arguments in California courts, pulling from juvenile brain development science and the premise that evolving standards of decency in California no longer tolerate racially disparate sentencing. You will leave with an understanding of the law and policy behind the arguments, a sample motion to use at your next sentencing or in post-conviction habeas proceedings, and the tools for setting your client's claim up on appeal if denied.

1.25 hours of MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit is offered for this training

4/14 **Part 3 - Culture, Role, and Well-Being for Interdisciplinary Defense Teams (Part 3 of a 3 Part Series)**

SYLVIA GRIBBELL, Psychotherapist, Descanso Therapy
JESSICA MUNOZ, Psychotherapist, Private Practice

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part 3: Sustaining the Work

This session focuses on practitioner well-being for CARE Court and general defender teams. Participants will examine role-specific stressors across defense teams, explore the impact of systemic limitations and moral distress/injury, and develop practical strategies to support team members' own capacity, strengthen team functioning, and bolster client-centered advocacy.

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

4/28

The ALPR Surveillance Boom: Understanding and Challenging Automated License Plate Readers in Criminal Investigations

LISA FEMIA, Staff Attorney, Electronic Frontier Foundation

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

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems are rapidly expanding across California and nationwide. These surveillance networks scan and store location data and other information on every passing vehicle, creating vast databases that track the movements of millions of drivers over time. This training will explain how ALPR technology works, examine its increasing use in criminal investigations, and discuss challenges to ALPR evidence on Fourth Amendment and other legal grounds.

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

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



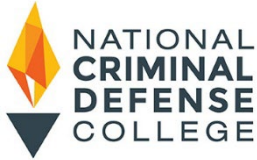
2026 Jacksonville Summit for Change: Advocacy with Impact

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).
