



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
August 2026

Public Defense Updates

Flat Fee Contracts in California Indigent Defense

The Wren Collective and the UC Berkeley Law Criminal Law & Justice Center jointly released Part 2 of [Contracted to Fail: How Flat-Fee Contracts Undermine the Right to Counsel in California](#). The second report in this series analyzes the impact of flat fee indigent defense contracts in several California counties, highlighting high caseloads and other areas of concern.

Job Opportunities

Clinical Supervising Staff Attorney - Loyola Project for the Innocent

The Supervising Staff Attorney will work with students to investigate, evaluate and litigate claims of wrongful conviction and/or innocence. This is a full-time staff position. The Supervising Staff Attorney will be responsible for case investigation and litigation, student supervision and mentorship, assisting with legislative advocacy and strategy, and public and professional education. [More Information and Link to Apply](#).

Staff Attorney - Loyola Project for the Innocent

Work on cases involving claims of wrongful conviction alongside post-conviction counsel at the Loyola Project for the Innocent. The Staff Attorney will supervise law students and interns on their assigned cases. [More Information and Link to Apply](#).

August 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, and law office professionals.

8/10

Statewide Summer Defender Series: Thinking Like a Trial Lawyer for Summer Defenders

(Originally scheduled for 8/3)

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

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

Learn how to think like a trial lawyer at every step of a case, from inception to conclusion. In this webinar, summer defenders will explore how to create a theory of the case, develop each brick of case information with an eye toward trial, and take concrete steps to build the trial strategy throughout the life of a case. Participants will gain skills to implement their theory of the case through client communication, investigation, discovery and litigation.

1 hour of MCLE is offered for this training

8/20

Key Updates on Mental Health Diversion, PC 1001.36

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

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

Mental health diversion, Penal Code section 1001.36, is an important tool for defenders. By diverting qualified clients away from incarceration and toward treatment, mental health diversion gives individuals a true opportunity for recovery. PC 1001.36 continues to evolve through case law and legislative amendments, requiring periodic refreshers for defenders to advance the most effective arguments for their clients. Join us to learn about recent updates to mental health diversion, as well as tips and tactics for your advocacy in trial court and beyond. There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation.

*** 1 hour of MCLE and Legal Specialization Credit in Substantive Criminal Law and Procedure is offered for this training***

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Compassionate Release Advocacy: Building Strong Cases for Relief

Advancing Real Change Inc.

August 11, 2026

Zoom Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



Stanford Trial Advocacy & New Defender Uplift Program (STANDUP) 2026

Stanford Law School's Criminal Defense Clinic

Tuesday Aug 11 - Friday Aug 14, 2026

Stanford, California

[More Information](#) or contact Carlie Ware Horne carlie@law.stanford.edu.



Appellate Practice Seminar 2026

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

August 21 - 22, 2026

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)

SVP for Defenders

California Public Defenders Association

August 25 - 26, 2026



Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2026 Making the Case for Life Seminar

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

August 26 - 28, 2026

New Orleans, LA

[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).
