



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin **October 2026**

October 2026 IDID Training Events

Unless otherwise noted, IDID trainings are intended for criminal defense team members only, including attorneys, investigators, social workers, paralegals, mitigation specialists, and defense office professionals.

10/7

Accessing the Right to Vote for System-Impacted People

CHELSEA BOND, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender
NICOLE D. PORTER, Senior Director of Advocacy, The Sentencing Project
ANGÉLICA SALCEDA, Director, Democracy, Speech & Technology Project, ACLU of Northern California

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

In partnership with The Sentencing Project and ACLU of Northern California.

As voter registration deadlines and midterm elections near, join Nicole D. Porter, The Sentencing Project, and Angélica Salceda, ACLU of Northern California, for a discussion on the history of felony disenfranchisement and the movement to increase voting rights for people with criminal convictions in California and across the country. Participants will also learn the current law in California regarding voting rights access for system-impacted people, how to advise clients about their right to vote as a collateral consequence of conviction, and practical tips for clients who want to vote while incarcerated in a county jail.

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

10/8

New Defense Tool: RJA Disparity Screener

BROOKE McCARTHY, Racial Justice Act Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender
ZOFIA STANLEY, Director of Research, QSIDE

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

Join us to learn about OSPD's RJA Disparity Screener! Developed in collaboration with QSIDE, the screener allows any individual to anonymously input a conviction and sentence to determine if publicly available CDCR data may support a disparity argument under the Racial Justice Act (RJA). The screener generates a plain language report intended to provide data that can assist defenders in assessing validity of claims, prioritizing cases, and supporting discovery requests. This webinar will provide an in-depth explanation of the underlying data set while walking you through how to use the

screeners in your everyday practice. Please join us to learn about this useful addition to the RJA litigation space!

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

10/19

Immigration Issues in CARE Court and Beyond

ANN BLOCK, Senior Staff Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center

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

Immigration activity continues to impact our clients, courts, and communities. Join this webinar to learn updated and practical immigration practice in CARE Court and beyond. While this session will focus on ongoing changes in immigration policy impacting CARE Court, the immigration information shared will benefit all defenders, equipping them to identify common immigration-related issues that arise across the CARE and criminal systems.

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

10/20

How Peer Support Strengthens Client-Centered Public Defense

CHARLES E. DREBING, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

What is peer support and how can it help our clients? Join us to learn more about this emerging role with defense teams, including peer support core principles, modalities utilized, and how peer support successes in other settings can translate to the defense field. Presenters will discuss the distinction between peer support, social work and case management, explore research validating the effectiveness of peer support in other fields, and share out how some defense teams in California have already integrated peer support into their practice.

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

10/23

Show Them: Visual Advocacy in the Defense Trial

LATOYA SIMONE WILLIAMS, ESQ., LL.M., Principal, TDE Criminal Defense Attorneys, P.C.

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

When jurors deliberate, they are much more likely to remember images than words. This dynamic presentation shows defenders how to harness tools, technology, and neuroscience to persuade the jury with visuals. Participants will learn how to assemble a free digital toolkit to turn their theory of the case into a powerful narrative the jury can see, remember, and believe.

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

10/29

New Laws Impacting Indigent Defense in 2027

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

12:15 AM - 1:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Designed for defense practitioners, this webinar will highlight legislation taking effect in January 2027 impacting DUIs, mental health diversion, 1050 continuances, juvenile transfer law, preliminary hearings, and more. In addition to the direct presentation, there will be time for Q&A, and participants will receive a handout on key law changes for 2027.

*** 0.75 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



Lessons from Capital Clemency Campaigns

Advancing Real Change Inc.

October 7, 2026

Zoom Webinar

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ethical Rules and Best Practices for Witness Interviews

California Public Defenders Association

October 15, 2026

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



CPDA Annual Mental Health and Civil Commitment Seminar

California Public Defenders Association

October 30, 2026

UC Berkeley - Clark Kerr Campus

[More Information and Registration](#)



Mental Health Diversion in Transition: Case Law, AB 46, and Strategies for 2027

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

October 22, 2026

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2026 Defending Modern Drug Cases Seminar

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

October 21 - 24, 2026

Las Vegas, NV

[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).
