




Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
November 2026

Defense News

CARE Funding Opportunity

The Budget Act of 2026 provides $3.5 million statewide for public defender offices to increase CARE Act petitions and referrals. This funding is administered by the State Bar of California; all county public defender offices, or equivalent county administrative offices providing contract-based indigent defense, are eligible to apply.

The State Bar will hold a webinar on Friday, November 6, 2026, from 12-1pm (PST) to provide an overview of the funding requirements, timeline, and next steps. To access the webinar and submit questions in advance, register here. The session will be recorded for those unable to attend live; any questions should be directed to Lana Martin, Lana.martin@calbar.ca.gov.

OSPD Job Opportunities

Non-Capital Training Attorney

ATTORNEY IV

The Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) is seeking a Non-Capital Training Attorney with extensive appellate criminal defense experience who is committed to mentoring and developing attorneys handling non-capital appeals and postconviction matters in order to meet the qualifications to be lead counsel in death penalty cases. The Non-Capital Training Attorney will provide comprehensive guidance on non-capital appellate practice and will work closely with individual attorneys on all aspects of their non-capital cases, focusing on high quality, client-centered representation. The Non-Capital Training Attorney will also assist the Director of Non-Capital Appellate Representation with managing OSPD's Non-Capital Appellate Representation Program and work collaboratively with OSPD staff to identify and address the program's training needs.

Apply here by 11/11/26.

November 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.

IDID Connection Hours

Monday 11/09/2026 3pm-4pm Join Meeting
Monday 11/23/2026 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!

11/5

Autism-Informed Advocacy Part 1: Understanding How Autism Spectrum Disorder Impacts Clients in the Criminal Legal System
DR. MICHELLE GARCIA, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Michelle Garcia, Psy.D. & Associates
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Zoom Registration Link

One in every 31 children and one in every 45 adults in the United States have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); the behavioral and cognitive differences of some adults with ASD may increase their risk of contact with the criminal legal system. In this two-part series led by Dr. Michelle Garcia, a psychologist with expertise in ASD and the criminal legal system, advocates will learn core characteristics of ASD and how to be an effective advocate for clients with ASD. Part 1 of this webinar series will provide defense team members with foundational knowledge of ASD. Participants will get an introduction to behaviors, communication styles, masking, and other ASD characteristics, and how these factors can impact an individual's involvement in the criminal legal system. Part 2 of this series will be held on December 10th, 2026, and will focus on effective communication and advocacy for clients with ASD. This webinar is intended for all defense team members, including social workers, attorneys, and investigators.

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

11/17

From Survival Mode to Sustainability: Preventing Burnout and Building Healthy Coping Skills
LISA SMITH, Recovery Coach & Author, Former Law Firm Executive
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM Zoom Registration Link

A 2026 ABA study found that lawyers continue to experience high levels of stress, depression and anxiety. These conditions result in work-life conflict, burnout, and reliance on coping mechanisms that involve alcohol or other substances. Join Lisa Smith, lawyer, recovery coach, and author of the memoir *Girl Walks Out of A Bar*, to discuss the latest findings and what they mean for indigent defenders practicing in high-stress situations. Lisa will share her personal story of addiction and recovery as a practicing attorney and discuss how to spot and support someone who might be struggling, foster well-being in the workplace, and navigate stress in ways that support long-term health.

****1 hour of MCLE Credit in Prevention and Detection Competence is offered for this training****

11/19

Turning Back the Clock: AB 1959 and Retroactive Transfer Hearings
EMILY ROSE-WEBER, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego Public Defender's Office
BESS STIFFELMAN, Defense Attorney, Law Office of Bess Stiffelman
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM **Zoom Registration Link**

Taking effect January 1, 2027, AB 1959 will allow DAs to pursue transfer of former-minors returned to juvenile court after a PC 1170(d)(1) recall, even for offenses committed at ages 14 or 15. This training will review this newly created exception to SB 1391, discuss practice tips in light of the impending change to transfer law, and share best practices on retroactive transfer hearings more generally. Presenters will share lessons and insights from two different counties on transfer hearings for former minors returning to juvenile court after decades in prison.

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

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD

Defending Immigrant Defendants in Criminal Court: How to Meet Your Sixth Amendment Obligations Under *Padilla v. Kentucky*
Immigration Legal Resource Center
November 4, 2026
Virtual
More Information and Registration

Defending Sexual Assault Cases Training Seminar
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
November 11 – 13, 2026
Las Vegas, NV
More Information and Registration

CPDA's Felony Trial Defense Practice
California Public Defenders Association
November 13 - 14, 2026
Yosemite National Park or via Livestream
More Information and Registration

Two Systems, One Defense: Part Two: Crimmigration Fundamentals: Spotting Immigration Issues
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
November 17, 2026
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).