



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin
April 2025

Indigent Defense Updates

Career Opportunities with OSPD

Racial Justice Act (RJA) Specialist Attorney, Indigent Defense Improvement Division

[View Job Posting](#)

OSPD is hiring a Racial Justice Act (RJA) Specialist Attorney! This attorney will serve as a statewide expert on RJA issues, providing resources, tools, and training to support defenders litigating RJA claims across California. The role also involves strategic technical assistance, amicus drafting, and legal research and writing to advance the RJA. Click on the job posting above or see attached flyer. Applications must be received by April 17, 2024

Guide to Family Courts for Defenders and Their Clients

Partners for Justice (PFJ) offers [this guide](#) to assist California parents who face family separation related to arrest, charges, or conviction. The guide is intended for distribution to public defender office clients and also provides guidance to public defenders on engaging with clients around their family law cases. Through a PFJ and OSPD collaboration, any California public defender may reach out to the guide's author, Mary Anne Mendenhall, at Maryanne.Mendenhall@ospd.ca.gov, for direct support around family law issues.

Parole Practice Resources

Uncommon Law has developed the following guides for navigating EDD and restitution issues at parole hearings.

[How to Navigate EDD/Restitution in Your Parole Hearing](#)

[AB 1186 and Restitution Fines](#)

Flat Fee Contracts in California Indigent Defense

The Wren Collective, ACLU, ACLU of Northern California, ACLU of Southern California, and the UC Berkeley Law Criminal Law & Justice Center jointly released [Contracted to Fail: How Flat-Fee Contracts Undermine the Right to Counsel in California](#). The report analyzes the flat fee contracts used by 24 California counties as their primary means of indigent defense delivery, finding significant deficiencies in these systems' ability to ensure effective representation.

Bills Worth Watching

These bills are currently pending before the California legislature and are being highlighted here for your information.

Bill No.	Summary	Author
SB 672	Increases the maximum age for Youthful Offender Parole to 25 years of age for all sentence lengths, including LWOP	Rubio

We encourage you to review OSPD’s full [Legislative Tracking page](#), which covers over 250 pending bills that could have an impact on public defense and individuals experiencing the criminal legal system or incarceration. Access to the IDID Training SharePoint is required. [Register here](#).

Job Posting

Title of Position	Assistant Public Defender -
Location	Modesto
Employer	Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office
Position Type	Leadership: this position is 2 nd to the Chief Public Defender
Salary Range	\$154,190.40 - \$231,275.20 Annually
Link to apply/website for more information	Click here for more information
Supplemental Materials Required	Resume and Cover letter optional in addition to completed application
Minimum Qualifications:	See link above for full listing of minimum qualifications
Brief description of the position	The Stanislaus County Public Defender is dedicated to treating clients with dignity and humanity, seeking alternatives to incarceration, zealously fighting for clients' rights and effectuating systemic change. We aim to drastically reduce the harms of the criminal legal system for our clients by using all existing litigation tools and constitutional protections. The Public Defender's Office is recruiting for an attorney with excellent litigation skills and experience in bail motions, preliminary hearings and trials. We are seeking a dedicated and passionate leader to inspire and guide our team in our work. With a strong commitment to justice and a vision for success, this leader will empower our team, drive impactful results and contribute to lasting positive change in our community.

April 2025 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.

4/4

Effectively Using the Circumstantial Evidence Instructions Throughout the Entire Trial

TERESA DEAMICIS, Deputy State Public Defender, Office of the State Public Defender – Indigent Defense Improvement Division

GABY GURAIIB, Defense Attorney, San Mateo Private Defender Program

AVI SINGH, Deputy Public Defender, Santa Clara Public Defender

CARLIE WARE HORNE, Lecturer and Clinical Supervising Attorney, Stanford Law School Criminal Defense Clinic

02:00 PM - 03:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Circumstantial evidence can be a defense attorney's best friend at trial. In this webinar, three experienced trial attorneys - Gaby Guraiib, Carlie Ware Horne, and Avi Singh - will share their experiences and strategies for using the circumstantial evidence instructions. Attendees will develop the tools to effectively weave these instructions from jury selection through closing argument.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

4/7

Defending Civil Contempt Charges

JACOB GLUCKSMAN, Criminal Defense Attorney, The Law Offices of Jacob Glucksman

12:15 PM - 01:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Civil contempt charges can intersect with criminal defense work, such as when a client fails to pay child or spousal support. Since many public defenders are now tasked with contempt appointments in their counties, it is crucial defenders understand how to litigate these cases. In this webinar, attorney Jacob Glucksman will give you a deeper understanding of civil contempt standards and concrete tools to use to defend in these proceedings. At the end of this webinar, attendees will be able to identify the codes that govern contempt charges, the elements of contempt, and the stages of contempt.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

4/8

Talking About Race During Jury Selection

JANE BROWN, Assistant Public Defender/Racial Justice Act Unit Head, Alameda County Public Defender Office

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Talking about race during jury selection is something all trial level public defenders need to be able to do, especially since the enactment of the Racial Justice Act. In this session, Assistant Public Defender Jane Brown will educate trial level attorneys on how to make race salient from the beginning of the trial. At the end of this webinar, attendees will develop the skills to talk about race during jury selection and effectively tie race to the theme and theory of the case.

1 hour MCLE Credit in Recognition and Elimination of Bias is offered for this training

4/15

Suppressing Coerced Confessions: Utilizing the Social Science of False Confessions and Working with the New "Deception Ban" Legislation Part 1

LAUREN GOTTESMAN, Staff Attorney, Innocence Project

JASMIN HARRIS, Director of Policy and Development, The Innocence Center

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This training aims to provide defense attorneys with new tools with which to litigate suppression of their clients' custodial statements. The first segment of this two-part training will address strategies for strengthening suppression arguments by using relevant social science to highlight the psychological coercion involved in clients' interrogations and/or clients' vulnerabilities to coercive interrogation tactics. The training will also include a brief discussion on the social science of Miranda comprehension and how to incorporate such science into pre-trial Miranda arguments, as well as tips for working with confession experts and proffering such expert testimony in both pre-trial hearings and at trial.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

4/16

Suppressing Coerced Confessions: Utilizing the Social Science of False Confessions and Working with the New "Deception Ban" Legislation Part 2

LAUREN GOTTESMAN, Staff Attorney, Innocence Project

JASMIN HARRIS, Director of Policy and Development, The Innocence Center

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This training will provide defense attorneys with new tools to litigate suppression of their clients' custodial statements. In part 2 of the training, we will take a deep dive into the recent deception ban law, Assembly Bill 2644, which went into effect on July 1, 2024, and prohibits law enforcement from using threats, physical harm, deception, or psychologically manipulative interrogation techniques during a custodial interrogation of a person 17 years of age or younger. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 625.7.) The training will include strategies for: urging courts to expansively interpret the definitions of deception and false statements regarding leniency; responding to the State's opposition to suppression of statements; and opposing the admission of confessions elicited in response to polygraphs or other lie-detection tests, as well as statements elicited via deceptive Perkins operations.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

4/30

Countering Bias

TATIANA KLINE, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

12:15 PM - 01:30 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

IDID is proud to present a five part webinar series on fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the public defender workplace. In the first presentation of the series, attorney Tatiana Kline will invite attendees to recognize how unintentionally learned biases harm marginally oppressed coworkers and how in order to positively evolve, we must all take steps to actively unlearn and counter these biases. At the end of this session attendees will leave with an understanding of the various forms of implicit bias, the nuanced ways it permeates the workplace, and how to take steps to actively unlearn bias.

1.25 hour MCLE Credit in Implicit Bias is offered for this training

May 2025 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.

5/8

Sevilla on Civility

CHARLES SEVILLA, Lawyer

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

Civility is part and parcel of our ethical obligation toward the courts, parties, clients and witnesses. It is also an MCLE requirement (1 hour) starting this year. This webinar focuses on why civility can work for the benefit of the clients we represent and how (giving examples) attorneys uncivil conduct not only undermined their cases but drew disciplinary actions both in court and with the State Bar. We all take an oath to uphold the dignity and integrity of the law. One way to do that is to be aware of the various rules and guidelines for civility.

1 hour MCLE Credit in Civility in the Legal Profession is offered for this training

5/14

What Defenders Need to Know About Restraining Orders

MARY ANNE MENDENHALL, Director of Family Defense Initiatives, Office of the State Public Defender & Partners for Justice

12:15 PM - 01:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Defenders are often tasked with making arguments and objections to restraining orders at arraignment or sentencing. This presentation will provide a window into what happens in the family /civil courts when intrafamilial restraining orders are issued by the criminal court. Defenders will learn the differences and standards for different types of civil restraining orders, from emergency, to temporary, to permanent, and walk away with tools on how to argue against these orders to ensure that clients who are parents can minimize separation from their children.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

5/15

Practicing Cultural Humility

ERIN ELIZABETH BRIGGS, Director of Training, Mississippi Office of State Public Defender

12:15 PM - 01:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

The practice of cultural humility in the workplace invites employees to actively acknowledge their limitations in understanding different cultures and demonstrate a willingness to learn and ask questions. In part two of IDID's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging on the workplace series, Erin Elizabeth Briggs, the Director of Training for the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender will discuss the key aspects and benefits of cultural humility in the workplace. At the end of this session, attendees will leave with an understanding of what cultural humility is why, now more than ever, it's important to add this practice into their daily lives through self-reflection, openness to learning, and respectful communication.

1 hour MCLE Credit is offered for this training

5/20

How Racial Bias within Defense Teams Can Impact Effective Assistance of Counsel

ALEXIS HOAG-FORDJOUR, Associate Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School

12:15 PM - 01:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Does a client's race or ethnicity impact whether they receive effective assistance of counsel? In this webinar, Professor Alexis Hoag-Fordjour, the author of *White is Right: The Racial Construction of Effective Assistance of Counsel*, will unpack this question and explore related issues in a thoughtful discussion on racial bias within defense teams. At the end of the webinar, attendees will leave with an understanding of how their own racial bias can impact representation.

1 hour MCLE Credit in Recognition of Bias is offered for this training

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



Federal Government Information: How to Locate and Access Online Resources

presented by California State Library, Government Publications Section

4/3/2025, 12:00 - 1:15 pm

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Virtual Train the Trainer

presented by National Legal Aid & Defender Association

4/2/2025 – 4/4/2025

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Blunt Force Trauma: Just because we can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there

presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

4/4/2025, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



AB 1186 Implementation for Juvenile Defenders

presented by Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

4/7/2025, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Jacksonville Conference Reducing Harm Through Mitigation: Strength in Unity

presented by Advancing Real Change

4/9/2025 – 4/11/2025

Jacksonville, Florida

[More Information and Registration](#)



Lunch and Learn: Defending Women and Gender Diverse Clients

presented by Advancing Real Change

4/15/2025, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



The ABC's of BFT: Abrasions, Bruises, and Contusions Demystified

presented by Godoy Medical Forensics

4/16/2025, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ask a Mitigation Specialist

presented by Advancing Real Change

4/16/2025, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Forensic Science & Technology Seminar

presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

4/24/2025 – 4/26/2025

Las Vegas, Nevada

[More Information and Registration](#)



From Disposition to Discharge: Practical Tips to Navigate and Advocate at IRP Hearings and 6-Month Reviews

presented by Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

4/24/2025, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



LAPD/CPDA 43rd Annual Youth Defender & Advocate Training Seminar

presented by California Public Defenders Association

5/3/2025

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



WIC 625.7 and Juvenile Defense: Post-Training Discussion on Deception Bans

presented by Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

5/8/2025, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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).
