

WTD CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM | *Opening Plenary Session*

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | *Break*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- The Power of Narrative: Writing Mitigation Reports that Matter – Chelsea Hawkins, Kristen Garrett (CEU Eligible)
- The Neuroscience of Sustainable Leadership: Building Resilient Public Defense Teams – Corey Smith (CEU Eligible)
- Finding What the Police Investigation Missed – Dyllan Leonard
- Mentorship, Advocacy, and Support in the Office – Renee Brodsky

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM | *Lunch Break*

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- AI for Court Social Workers & Staff: Ethical and Responsible Use – Marina Badillo-Diaz (CEU Eligible)
- Frictionless Defense: How to do your best work within an interdisciplinary team – Mara Hickey, Elizabeth Byrd
- The Client's Standard of Normal May Not Match Your Own -- Nicole Heisser
- Holding Space for Abolition and Law Enforcement in Your Home – Lisa Lamarre

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM | *Break*

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Building a Case of Trust: Engaging Black Men in Their Legal Defense – Maleeka Jihad, Chris Page (CEU Eligible)
- Wednesday is Website of the Week Day Recap – Jon Lyon
- Managing Up in Public Defense – Arlene Anderson

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM | *Break*

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | *Plenary Session*

- Leading From Within: A Strategic Approach to Non-Attorney Professional Growth in the Legal Field – Anana Johari Harris Parris (CEU Eligible)

Thursday, October 8, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | *Plenary Session*

- Building a Freer Future: Youth Defense Advocates Bridging to Community – Mary Ann Scali (CEU Eligible)

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | *Break*

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Fireside Chat with "Mitigating Gideon" Author – Donavan Bailey (CEU Eligible)
- Making the Most of the Interview – Marcia Dukes
- Developing Your Reputation as a Non-Attorney – Jeni Benavides
- Cod of Respect: Cultural Competence in the Trenches of Public Defense – Cassandra Washington
- Precision Prompting and Practical AI Strategies for the Defense -- Thomas Stevens and Morgan Dorais

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM | *Lunch Break*

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Narrative Therapy Techniques & Mitigation – Kelly Trujillo (CEU Eligible)
- Asked and answered... Or was it? Recognizing communication and cognitive red flags in your clients – Marty Brodsky, PhD, ScM, CCC-SLP, F-ASHA (CEU Eligible)
- Fearless Boundary Setting: A Framework for Burnout Prevention -- Megan Morgan

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM | *Break*

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- How Clients are Using AI: Implication for Court Social Workers and Staff – Marina Badillo-Diaz (CEU Eligible)
- Effectively Advocating for Muslim Clients – Safa Peera (CEU Eligible)
- OSINT in the Age of AI -- Maria Sapene
- Kaizen for Public Defenders – Jonathan Friley
- Built to Defend: Designing Sustainable Public Defense Organizations: Why organizational wellness is an operating system—not a wellness program -- Corey Smith

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM | *Break*

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | *Plenary Session*

- The Distance Between Survival and Stability – Nate Bustamante (CEU Eligible)

5:15 PM - 5:30 PM | *Break*

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Suicide Assessment and Intervention for Public Defender Teams – Daniel Potter-Engelskirger, Leila Morgan (CEU Eligible)
- Digital Forensics and Search Warrants -- Trey White
- Supporting Attorneys with Different Working Styles -- Mary Sainz & Alba Marron
- When Systems Collide: Lived Expertise at the Intersection of Child Welfare and Incarceration – Anthony Munoz, Tara Walker, and Moderated by Tracie Jones

Friday, October 9, 2026

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Shift the Lens – Tricia Reese

- Standards in Action: Strengthening Investigation, Collaboration, and Client Representation -- Kingston Farady and Archana Prakash
- Spoonful of Sugar: The Art of Effective Communication -- Jeni Benavides
- Rethinking Public Defense Work Through Community Engagement – Jheni Cruz, Rebecca Carter

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | *Break*

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | *Concurrent Breakout Sessions*

- Beyond the Courtroom: Indicators of Human Trafficking in Public Defense Cases -- Doniece Douglas
- Defense In Details: Why What We Find Matters -- Kasandra Washington
- Different Expertise, Shared Standards: Developing Effective Interdisciplinary Team Culture – Terri Collins-Green (CEU Eligible)
- Sustainable Defender: Building Personal Well-Being Through the NAPD 10 Principles -- Corey Smith
- Building Trust and Bridging Perspectives in Child Welfare Cases – Tracie Jones, Tanna Townsend, Camille Frazire, Jody Fountain (CEU Eligible)

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | *Transition Break*

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM | *Closing Session*

- Closing Plenary– Dr. Lori James