Writing Your “Strategic Challenge”

Prior to arriving at the New Leadership conference the faculty requests that each participant write a one-page description of a "Strategic Challenge."

This is an opportunity to reflect on your work and consider something you want to change or improve upon in your office, program or criminal justice system. This leadership opportunity should require collaborative efforts both inside and outside the defender program. In other words, it should be a challenge that will involve people, conversations, attitude-shifts and actions both inside and outside your office. Try to think of a leadership opportunity for which you want to develop an effective action plan with the help of other defender leaders during the upcoming conference.

Two-Part Structure of the Strategic Challenge Write-up

1) As you think about your "Strategic Challenge" exercise, several challenges or leadership opportunities may come to mind. In the first part of this short description we want you to describe your most pressing "Strategic Challenge."

2) In the second part, imagine this challenge has been met in the future. If it were absolutely successful beyond your wildest dreams, what would a successful outcome look like? Describe what people both internally and externally would be doing to achieve this successful outcome.

Time Limit

Please note that we do not expect (or want) you to spend hours on this pre-conference assignment. We want you to spend some time thinking about your “Strategic Challenge” and then spend about 20 minutes writing it down. This assignment should only be one to two pages long.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cait Clarke, the conference director, at c.clarke@nlada.org or 202-452-0620 ext 226.

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PLEASE BRING TEN (10) COPIES WITH YOU TO THE TRAINING CONFERENCE. YOU WILL DISTRIBUTE THESE COPIES TO YOUR COLLEAGUES IN YOUR CORE LEARNING GROUP.

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National Defender Leadership Institute

National Legal Aid & Defender Association