

# Virtual NLADA & PDC Leadership Forum

## Schedule of Events

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

All Times are in Mountain Time (MT)

**9:30 - 10:00 AM (MT)**

**Welcome and Opening: Client-Centered Leadership**

**10:00- 11:00 AM (MT)**

**From Public Defender to Public Defender Leader**

Why are we called to leadership and what changes happen when we take the leap to supervisor, or from supervisor to manager? Georgia Simms will facilitate an interactive discussion to identify what motivates us to become leaders, the differences between leading and supervising, and she will share some tools for navigating this transition.

**Presenter: Georgia Sims**

Georgia Sims currently serves as Assistant Deputy Public Defender in the Metropolitan Davidson County Public Defenders' Office where she works closely with the elected Chief Public Defender and the Deputy Public Defender to manage the day-to-day operations, as well as long term visioning and planning. She also serves as the Training Director and Intern Program Coordinator for the office. Sims has been part of the Metropolitan Davidson County Public Defenders' Office since 2014, beginning as Division I Criminal Court Team Leader, moving to Assistant Public Defender from 2009-2019.

**11:00-11:15 AM (MT)**

**Break**

**11:15 AM - 12:15 PM (MT)**

**Developing and Sustaining Healthy Organizational Culture**

How do we create and sustain healthy organizational culture? This presentation will introduce the process of identifying the current culture in your office/system; developing a vision for the culture you are working to develop; and using adaptive leadership to shift culture when necessary.

**Presenter: Cherise Fanno Burdeen**

Cherise is the Senior Organizational Fellow at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Prior to joining NLADA, Cherise spent fifteen years at the Pretrial Justice Institute, where she initiated internal race equity work that transformed the organization's structure and culture. She has extensive experience with strategic planning, initiative management, and change efforts across both organizations and within the criminal justice system. Her commitments are to advancing laws and policies that center equity and well-being, operationalizing the vision of those closest to problems, and unlearning white supremacy culture.



## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**12:15 - 2:00 PM (MT)**

**Lunch Break**

**2:00 - 3:30 PM (MT)**

**Small Group**

**3:45 - 4:45 PM (MT)**

**Culturally Responsive Leadership**

Culturally responsive leadership can improve organizational outcomes, such as promoting workforce retention and satisfaction, greater workplace productivity, and mobilization for change. But it also can improve outcomes for our clients. This session will introduce us to culturally responsive leadership tools and how to use them.

**Presenter: Byron Conway**

Byron L. Conway Jr. is the current Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion for the Office of Respondent Parent Counsel in Denver, CO. Prior to his current position, Byron was a trial attorney with the Federal Defender Program, Inc. in Atlanta, GA. Byron started his legal career as a staff attorney in the trial division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where he tried complex felonies before the D.C. Superior Court. Byron is a proud alumnus of the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Boston University School of Law.

**4:45 - 5:00 PM (MT)**

**Day one wrap-up and announcements**

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28

**9:30 - 9:45 (MT)**

**Day Two Welcome**

**9:45 - 10:45 (MT)**

**Performance Management for Better Client Outcomes: Building and Supporting Your Team**

What does performance management look like in public defense? How do we measure outcomes? This workshop will introduce performance management principles and tools that support staff and improve client outcomes.

**Presenter: Ali Bloomquist**

Alison Bloomquist is the VP of Strategic Alliances and Innovation at NLADA where she oversees staff working at Defender Legal Services, Race Equity Institute, as well as the myriad of NLADA defender affiliate sections. Alison also consults with public defender offices across the country as part of various educational and research projects. Before joining NLADA, Alison was on the executive team at the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services where she served as Director of Training and Education for six years. Alison began her career in Massachusetts where she served for over a decade, including as Attorney-in-Charge of the Norfolk Superior Court office at the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She is an executive member of the National Alliance of Indigent Defense Educators, and a certified trainer by the Black Public Defender Association.

**10:45 - 11:00 (MT)**

**Break**



## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28

**11:00 - 12:30 (MT)**  
**Small Group**

**12:30 - 2:00 (MT)**  
**Lunch**

**2:00 - 2:45 (MT)**  
**Wellness for Leaders: Sustaining the Work by Sustaining Ourselves and Our Teams**

***Presenter: Gina Pruski***

As Training Director and a member of the Wisconsin State Public Defender leadership team, Gina brought mindfulness to WSPD staff in 2014 after completing a mindfulness certification program and obtaining grant funding to bring mindfulness training to public defenders around the state. Since 2014, Gina and the SPD training team have developed a variety of programs focused on public defender wellness and are instrumental in integrating wellness principles and practices into the culture of SPD. Gina serves on the newly formed Task Force on Wisconsin Lawyer Well-Being and is a volunteer for the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) and a member of the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) Wellness Group. She conducts training related to mindfulness and self-care to public defender offices around the country.

**2:45 - 4:00 (MT)**  
**Small group work**

**4:15 - 5:00 (MT)**  
**Leading Outside of the Box!**

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

**9:30 - 10:00 (MT)**  
**Day Three Welcome and Debrief**

**10:00 - 11:30 (MT)**  
**Coaching and Critical Conversations: Taking it to the next level**

This presentation will examine the importance of good communication (both interpersonal through critical conversations, and through office culture) and share specific tools for communicating clearly and effectively, even when we face challenges.

***Presenter: Elizabeth Miller***

Elizabeth Miller is the Assistant Director of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender (OPD). She has dedicated her legal career to ensuring the most vulnerable individuals in our society are afforded quality legal representation. As Assistant Director of the OPD, Elizabeth is responsible for the development and operations of OPD's central office in Columbus, and four county offices. Elizabeth directly supervises and mentors the agency's four deputy directors and helps oversee the more than 140 staff who provide representation to capital, adult, and juvenile clients.



**11:15 – 11:30 (MT)**

**Break**

**11:30 – 12:15 (MT)**

**Community Engagement**

How can we better engage the communities we serve in order to create better outcomes? This session will share examples of effective collaboration across the country between defender offices and community organizations in order to maximize capacity and resources to accomplish shared goals.

***Presenter: Tina Luongo***

Tina Luongo has served as the Chief Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at the Legal Aid Society of New York since 2014. As Chief they are responsible for the daily operation of all of the practice's trial, appellate, post-conviction, law reform and parole defense work conducted on behalf of over 200,000 clients. They lead a citywide team of 12 senior managers who, in turn, manage the practice's over 1100 staff. Prior to the appointment as the organization's chief defender, they served as the Deputy Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice. They began their Legal Aid career in September 2002 as a staff attorney in the New York County trial office of the Criminal Defense Practice and was promoted to Supervising Attorney in the same office in 2007 where they continued to directly represent clients, as well as train and manage their team of attorneys, paralegals and investigators.

**12:15 – 12:30 (MT)**

**Wrap up.**