



PRESENTS:

2022 Holistic Defense & Leadership Conferences

June 14-15 – Community-Oriented Defender Network Conference

June 16-17 – Black Public Defender Association Conference

A Virtual Training Event

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This year's NLADA Holistic Defense & Leadership Conferences will be an all-virtual event. All sessions will take place live over the internet on our conference website. All sessions will be set up as Zoom Pro meetings to allow for full audience participation and small group discussion.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

It is a licensing requirement in most states that attorneys attend training each year. CLE state-specific-instructions and general information will be available on the live conference website.

Special daily codes will be provided during each session. You must record these special codes on your Certificate of Attendance form. The codes will be given during sessions and cannot be provided before or after a session is over.

EVALUATIONS

This year's evaluations are all online through the event app to save paper and improve participation. We want to hear your feedback on the overall conference and individual sessions you attend.

- Overall Conference Evaluation – click the “Overall Conference Evaluation” link on the conference home page.
- Individual Session Evaluations – click the “Feedback Survey” box at the top of each session's description in the conference platform.

Your input will help us improve the conference experience for everyone.

Community-Oriented Defender Network Conference



Tuesday, June 14

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. **COD Opening Plenary**

Conspiring Better Together: The Case for Collaborative Defense

As people who have chosen to lend their hearts and minds to the cause of public defense, we often see ourselves as our clients' most vital and fiercest champion. But when it comes to the daily life of practice, all too often the scope and urgency of our clients' needs can prove overwhelming, especially in an under-resourced and over-extended work environment. We want to do more, but it feels like we are forever doing more with less. This session will focus on how re-aligning our work through a client-led lens can open up new, adaptable, and innovative ways of fighting for our clients' needs both inside and outside the courtroom. We will outline a theory of collaborative defense, illustrating what successful interdisciplinary practice can look like, and showcasing some immediate things offices can do to strengthen their ability to operate as a client-led collaborative defender. We will conclude with a vision of what this new framework can do to expand how public defenders are valued and defined by both their governments and communities. We know we need to be doing more---so how can we start doing it and increase the support we get to grow?

Presenters:

Emily Galvin Almanza, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Partners for Justice

Vichal Kumar, Director of Capacity Building, Partners for Justice

Rebecca Solow, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Partners for Justice

1:15-1:30 p.m. **Break**

1:30-2:45 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

- **Recruiting and Retaining BIPOC Staff Part 2: Culture and Retention**

Culture change is happening all around us, and public defenders offices must continue to be on the leading edge of this transformation. Attend this session for proven tips and strategies on building and sustaining culture change through a racial equity lens. Topics will include the importance of leadership buy-in, teambuilding, and the importance of internal and external support networks.

Presenters:

Alaina Bloodworth, Deputy Director, Black Public Defender Association, Washington DC

Keri Nash, Director, Racial Equity Institute, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Washington DC

- **Sistas in Prison Reform: Community Advocacy for Second Look Laws**

Sistas in Prison Reform is a nonprofit started by three women who have a vision to change the perception of those sentenced to prison beyond 10 years and have been forgotten by lawmakers and society. They are advocating for second look sentencing laws in Virginia, which would allow courts to reevaluate a person's sentence after a specific period of time. In this workshop, participants will learn how to be an advocate, the impact their voices have on lawmakers, and also how to build relationships with lawmakers to advance policy and legislative action.

Presenters:

Juanita Belton, Co-Founder, Sistas in Prison Reform

Paulettra James, Co-Founder, Sistas in Prison Reform

Santia Nance, Co-Founder, Sistas in Prison Reform

- **Thou Shall Not Ration Justice: The Need for Civil Representation for Persons Involved in the Criminal Justice System as a Basic Requirement of Equal Justice**

The place and role of civil legal assistance in an indigent criminal defense model is a subject that should be at the forefront of any discussion of reimagining justice. This workshop is founded on the premise that equal justice demands that public defenders and civil legal services providers must understand the direct and immediate relationships entwined among the criminal legal system, race, poverty, and injustice, and the need to build into their respective practices models of representation that address client needs beyond liberty, guilt, and innocence. This workshop will include a discussion of how PDS's model of indigent defense has incorporated civil legal assistance, how it operates in practice, its strengths, its shortcomings, the various delivery models that are available, and a number of the unique issues that face the provision of civil representation to persons involved in the criminal justice system. We will explore what the constituent elements of such a civil practice anchored to an indigent defense model should include and provide thoughts on the importance of building cross-cultural/organizational relationships between indigent defense programs and civil legal services providers. We will share a few practice aid documents that are important to practicing at the intersection of criminal defense and civil representation and others that illustrate the contours of this advocacy.

Presenters:

Monica Douglas, Staff Attorney, Civil Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

Robert Hornstein, Chief, Civil Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

2:45-3:00 p.m. Break

3:00-4:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

- **The Power of Visual Storytelling: How Video Mitigation Can Transform Your Advocacy**

Mitigation videos humanize and add depth and nuance to those being represented within a system that strips them of their humanity at every step. They bring to life people's personalities, backgrounds, and complex lives in a way that the written word cannot. The viewer, whether it's a judge or a prosecutor, gets to know the person's family, surroundings,

traumas, and issues in a way that a few paragraphs or photographs cannot accomplish. The video also presents the future - where the person standing before them will live, who will support them, what treatment and/or community support they will engage in, and why the person should receive a more just outcome than prison.

The workshop will be in a participatory format to enable participants to gain a thorough understanding of what video mitigation is and how the participant could employ this strategy in their own practice to gain justice for their clients.

The workshop will be in two parts: The first will present the concept of video mitigation, how it concretely works, the method a smaller public defense organization could implement, and how a solo and a law firm could utilize video mitigation. We will also present video clips from actual cases where our clients have provided releases.

The remaining 30-60 minutes will be divided into four breakout rooms where our team members will work with one to two participants to develop a plan for a mitigation video. The case may be a hypothetical case, or it can be an actual case the participant brings to the presentation. We will develop the video using a workflow we have created, covering theories of a case, story arcs, potential interviewees, pre-production, production, and distribution strategies.

The participants will leave the presentation with the theoretical framework of video mitigation and concrete tools to use this model in their practice to achieve justice for their clients.

Presenters:

Nicole Mull, Public Defender, Legal Aid Society of New York, New York NY

David Simpson, Filmmaker & Creative Producer, Video Mitigation Project/Courthouse Documentaries

Jackie Zammuto, Senior Program Manager, United States, WITNESS

- **Transforming Siloed Data into Actionable Data to Advance Racial Justice**

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, is one of the nation's leaders in pursuing evidence-based justice policy and practice. Over the past few years, the County has implemented a series of sweeping pretrial reforms to help inform the courts' decisions about pretrial release. The County also has an Equity Action Plan goal that all residents live in a more just and equitable community, along with a primary strategy of reducing racial disparities and disproportionality within the criminal justice system.

To monitor and evaluate the pretrial and equity reforms, the County partnered with Luminosity, Inc., to transform siloed data from independent justice system agencies into usable, accessible, interpretable, and actionable data. The interactive dashboards tell the story of how people are processed through the pretrial justice system, from law enforcement contact until case resolution. There are a set of dashboards designed to view the pretrial justice system through an equity lens. The dashboards are intended to be used to monitor system performance in real time; empower strategic and data driven decisions; increase transparency and accountability; and illuminate actionable insights.

Presenters:

Catie Clark, Criminal Justice Services Research and Planning Manager, Mecklenburg County
 Criminal Justice Services, Charlotte NC

Shannon Messer, Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services, Charlotte NC

Marie VanNostrand, Director of Data Analytics, Luminosity Inc., St. Petersburg FL

- **Wildflowers Growing Through the Cracks**

Parole hearing representation is an opportunity for our clients to show the growth they've done in the most difficult of places – prison. Our workshop will explore how we can work together with our clients to best prepare for this important time in their lives. We will talk about how, and why, to have the hard conversations around the harm that has been done (both to them and by them), healing that has taken place, and how to prepare to share this information before the board. We will also cover how to engage in restorative practices during parole preparation. Though it is not possible to have control over what a parole board does, as a holistic representation team, we can make the parole hearing preparation process one that is valuable to our clients.

Presenters:

Eva Buchwald, Social Worker/Mitigation Specialist, Albuquerque NM

Denali Wilson, Legal Fellow, ACLU of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM

4:15-4:30 p.m. Break

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Plenary Session

The Power of Storytelling

Storytelling is a skill that each of the attendees needs in each of their respective roles. As clients, as advocates, as social workers, as community leaders, we all can use the power of storytelling. Storytelling also centers the client since the story we are telling is theirs. Mr. Conway will give us tools on how to listen and uncover our client's story and how to use the story respectfully, in partnership with our clients. He will also offer tools that clients and community advocates can use to have more agency over that story. He will highlight the theme of solidarity and working as mutual partners for freedom—as opposed to us (lawyers/social workers/etc.) seeing ourselves as “saviors.”

Presenter:

Lewis Conway Jr., Communities and Coalition Storyteller, American Civil Liberties Union,
 Union City NJ

Wednesday, June 15

12:00-1:15 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

- **Elevating the Role of Defense in a Presentence Report**

We often fail to see the powerful ways we can defend, protect, and proactively help our clients through a presentence report. Presentence report errors, characterizations, social histories, and health information, for example, directly affect how a client will serve their sentence, be considered for release, and be treated on supervision. This workshop will educate and prepare defense attorneys and community partners on ways to positively influence a client's presentence report for the purposes of sentencing, prison conditions, release, supervision, and other collateral consequences. Let's reimagine and implement a presentence report defense practice that makes it a beneficial tool for clients!

Presenter:

Tara Chen, Staff Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

- **Thoughts on the Core Elements of Civil Practice in an Indigent Defense Program and How They Operate**

The workshop is focused on the types of substantive civil needs of clients involved in the criminal legal system and how these types of practices operate within the context of an indigent defense program. The panel members will discuss how their practice areas fit into an indigent defense program and how they carry out their representation in this context.

Presenters:

Katie D'Adamo, Immigration Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

Veronica Guerrero, Immigration Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

Nina Isaacson, Staff Attorney, Civil Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

Cristina Meneses, Staff Attorney, Civil Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

Nakisha Winston, Special Education Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington DC

- **“Thriving” Beyond the Courtroom: A Web Application for the Justice Involved and Community**

Thrive SBC is an application geared toward connecting justice-involved individuals with resources ranging from treatment programs to public benefits and food services. Thrive SBC can assist those who are pre-entry, actively involved, and re-entering by supplying access to services that could help reintegrate them back into the community. This app serves as a one-stop shop for those who need access to services and for providers to better assist those receiving services. In this workshop, we will talk about how we have helped our community, clients, and staff through our web application.

Presenters:

Deepak Budwani, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Santa Barbara County Public Defender, Santa Barbara CA

Bryan Burzon, AmeriCorps VISTA, Santa Barbara County Public Defender, Santa Barbara CA

1:15-1:30 p.m. Break

1:30-3:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

- **Culturally Responsive Representation: A Case Study**

Description to come.

Presenters:

Barbara Creel, Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque NM

Megan Leschak, Mitigation Specialist, Context Mitigation, Albuquerque NM

- **Organizational Innovations: Visionary Ways the WI SPD Is Using Technology to Meet Client Needs**

Leaders from the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office will share how they are using innovations in technology and management to increase their services for clients and their staff. Come hear about:

- Texting clients - Google Voice
- Remote work innovations
- Discovery management, including in-custody clients viewing discovery from kiosks
- Journey to electronic files: challenges and solutions
- Roving attorney/paralegal units to solve staffing challenges
- Data-informed budgeting and more!

Presenters:

Joe Keuler, IT Director, Wisconsin State Public Defender Office, Madison WI

Adam Plotkin, Legislative Liaison, Wisconsin State Public Defender Office, Madison WI

- **Raising Race: How to Talk about Race with Your Clients and the Court**

This session will focus on ways to begin conversations around race and difference and, more importantly, how to keep those conversations moving forward in a productive way. We will address the differences between dialogue and debate, identify questions we can ask to move conversations forward, and concentrate on various techniques that are effective in addressing pushback.

Presenters:

Gina Pruski, Director of Training & Development, Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, Madison WI

Others TBD

3:00-3:15 p.m. Break

3:15-4:45 p.m. COD Closing Plenary

Telling Stories of Systemic Harm: Working with Clients and Community to Reframe Mitigation and Investigation

In this session, you will learn how to use our privilege as mitigators and investigators to tell how systemic racism and poverty are significant factors in why our clients find themselves in the criminal legal system. Elijah Burt will talk about his experience as a person who was accused of and pled guilty to a federal gang conspiracy charge and what assumptions were made about his life and conduct. He will share how he and his team examined where he came from in order to create a systems-based mitigation defense.

Presenters:

Elijah Burt, Bronx NY

Katie Carter, Investigator, Mitigation Specialist, and Sentencing Filmmaker, Doug Passon
Law, Scottsdale AZ

Jarrell E. Daniels, Student, Columbia University, New York NY

Black Public Defender Association Conference, June 16-17



Thursday, June 16

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. BPDA Opening Plenary

We will open the conference with keynote remarks from Derecka Purnell, author of *Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom*.

Derecka Purnell is a lawyer, organizer, and author. She works to end police and prison violence by providing legal assistance, research, and training in grassroots organizations through an abolitionist framework.

As this year's conference theme is "Reimagining Justice," we invite our attendees to consider and imagine new approaches to safety.

Presenter:

Derecka Purnell, Lawyer, Organizer, and Author

1:00-1:15 p.m. Break

1:15-2:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

- **The Jury Box, Batson, and Black Liberation**

This panel will discuss the importance of jury service, Batson, and nullification as a tool for Black Liberation.

Presenters:

Will Snowden, Founder, The Juror Project, New Orleans LA

Porsha-Shaf'on Venable, Supervising Attorney, The Bronx Defenders, Bronx NY

Brendon Woods, Chief, Alameda County Public Defenders, Oakland CA

- **Repairing the Harm of the Family Regulation System**

The family regulation (aka "child welfare") system disproportionately surveils and criminalizes Black families for their parenting. As public defenders and advocates who work with families navigating through this harmful system, we must ensure that we are not colluding with the system and instead that we are supporting families. This session will discuss how public defenders can work with families to mitigate the harm of the family regulation system in the courtroom and with family advocates at the policy table.

Presenters:

Angela Burton,

Anntionetta Rountree,

Shrounda Selivanoff, Director of Public Policy, Children's Home Society of Washington, Seattle WA

- **Social Media for Black Public Defenders**

Every public defender with a Twitter account has the ability to help shift and change perceptions about the criminal legal system. This session will take a deep dive into the ways in which social media has been used to drive systems change. Attendees will leave with practical

tips on ways to use communications and social media to elevate the voice and work of Black public defenders.

Presenters:

Rabiah Burks, Vice President of Communications & Team Building, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Washington DC

Alexis Mitchell, Senior Social Media & Community Manager, FAMM Foundation, Washington DC

Janicia Moore, Director of Communications, Black Public Defender Association, Washington DC

2:15-2:30 p.m. Break

2:30-4:00 p.m. Plenary Session

Re-imagining Resistance and Freedom Fighting in Defense of Black People

This session is designed to assist attendees in re-imagining radical approaches toward racial justice, systemic change, and healing. Using an African-centered organizational approach, attendees will gain tools for preventing, identifying, and addressing secondary trauma and public defender fatigue at the individual and organizational levels.

Presenter:

Dr. Ifetayo Ojelade, Executive Director, A Healing Paradigm Wellness Center, Atlanta GA

Friday, June 17

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Plenary Session

Complexities of Violence: Exploring Alternative Responses to Harm

Across the country, we see renewed calls for carceral policies that propose police and prisons as solutions to violence and harm. But, as public defenders, we know that violence is complex, especially in Black communities, and mass incarceration does not deliver safety. This panel of public defenders, community and policy advocates, and criminologists will engage in a conversation about alternative responses to harm.

Moderator:

Chiquisha Robinson, Director of Social Policy & Advocacy, Black Public Defender Association, Washington D.C.

Panelists:

Qiana Johnson, Co-Founder, Harriet's Wildest Dreams, Washington D.C.

Olayemi Olurin, Public Defender & Political Commentator, The Legal Aid Society, New York NY

1:15-1:30 p.m. Break

1:30-2:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

- **Healing the Traumas of Black Youth: The Resilience of Black Community and Identity**

In this workshop, attendees will recognize the impact of racial trauma on Black, justice-involved boys (13-17 year olds) and adverse childhood experiences on Black emerging adults (18-29 year olds). Attendees will consider how racial identity, ethnic identity, and community belonging serve as protective factors for mental health of youth who have experienced adversity. Attendees will also become familiar with evidence-based and culturally affirming interventions used to support Black youth.

Presenters:

Evan Auguste, Ph D., Incoming Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston MA

J. Robina Onwong'a, Ph.D., Social & Behavioral Scientist, The Association of Black Psychologists, Lanham MD

- **Lawyering Outside of the Courtroom: The Power of Community**

In 2020, Alaina Bloodworth, then a public defender, partnered with Eugene Collins of the Baton Rouge NAACP to demand the dismissal of more than 640 criminal cases that were tied to corrupt police practices. Using their successful advocacy as a case study, Alaina and Eugene will discuss how public defenders can partner with the community to drive systemic change. The workshop will examine public defenders' role in social movements and the impact of movement lawyering. We will discuss and identify tools to help public defenders find balance and stay focused while addressing issues inside and outside the courtroom. We also will analyze approaches to building trust with the community and providing the expertise needed.

Presenters:

Alaina Bloodworth, Deputy Director, Black Public Defender Association, Baton Rouge LA

Eugene Collins, President, NAACP Baton Rouge Branch, Baton Rouge LA

2:30-2:45 p.m. Break
2:45-4:00 p.m. Conference Closing: Plenary Discussion and Virtual Reception
You Can't Keep a Black Woman Down: A Conversation with Keisha Hudson and Ilham Askia

Join us as we close out the conference with a riveting conversation between Keisha Hudson and Ilham Askia, exploring Keisha's career journey, her transition into Chief Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, and the challenges of being a Black woman leader in public defense.

A virtual reception will follow the discussion.

Presenters:

Ilham Askia, Executive Director, Gideon's Promise, Atlanta GA

Keisha Hudson, Chief Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA

Conference Ends



NLADA

National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

Join us in Arlington, Virginia, on October 26-29, 2022!

IN-PERSON

2022 NLADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE