



Federal Public Defender  
Northern & Southern Districts of Mississippi



**OSPD, MPDA, and Federal Public Defender  
FALL PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE**  
Cadence Bank Arena and Conference Center ♦  
Tupelo, Mississippi  
October 26 - 28, 2022

**AGENDA**

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**Sex, Lies, Drugs (and Guns) Conference**

**Wednesday, October 26, 2022**

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| 10:00am – 12:00pm       | <b>MPDA Board Meeting (Lunch Provided)</b>  |
| 11:00am – 12:45pm       | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 12:45pm – 1:00pm        | <b>Welcome</b><br><i><a href="#">André de Gruy</a>, State Public Defender</i><br><i><a href="#">Justin Cook</a>, MPDA President</i><br><i><a href="#">Erin Briggs</a>, Training Director</i><br><i>Office of State Public Defender</i><br><i>Jackson, Mississippi</i>   |
| 1:00pm - 2:30pm (1.5hr) | <b>Appellate Update and IAD Roundtable</b><br><i><a href="#">Zakia Butler-Chamberlain</a>, <a href="#">Justin Cook</a>, <a href="#">George Holmes</a>, &amp;<br/><a href="#">Mollie McMillin</a> - Indigent Appeals Division Staff</i><br><i>Office of State Public Defender</i><br><i>Jackson, Mississippi</i> |
| 2:30pm – 2:35pm         | <b>Evaluations</b>  |
| 2:35pm - 3:35pm (1hr)   | <b>Medical Marijuana Primer for Public Defenders</b><br><i><a href="#">Amanda Meadows</a>,</i><br><i>Meadows Law Group, LLC</i><br><i>Columbus, Mississippi</i>   |
| 3:35pm – 3:50pm         | <b>Evaluations and Break</b>  |

- 3:50pm – 4:50pm (1hr)      **Cross Examination in Child Sex Cases**  
[\*Kathleen B. Stilling\*](#)  
*Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C.*  
*Brookfield, Wisconsin*
- 4:50pm – 4:55pm              **Evaluations**
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm              **MPDA Business Meeting & Elections**
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm              **MPDA Karaoke Night**

**Thursday, October 27, 2022**  
**Joint Training for Federal and State Criminal Defense Attorneys**

- 7:00am – 8:45am              **Breakfast**
- 7:45am – 8:15am              **Registration**
- 8:15am – 8:30am              **Welcome – MS Joint Federal and State Public Defender Working Group**  
[\*Andre’ de Gruy\*](#), *State Public Defender*  
[\*Omodare Jupiter\*](#), *Federal Public Defender*  
[\*Erin Briggs\*](#), *Training Director*
- 8:35am – 9:35am (1hr)      **Discovery Requests Relating to Forensic Evidence**  
[\*Leilani Tynes\*](#), *Asst. Federal Public Defender*
- Attorney Leilani Tynes will explore the different types of records, data, reports, and documents that you should have in any case that involves forensic testing, expert testimony, or scientific analysis.
- 9:35am – 9:40am              **Evaluations**
- 9:40am – 10:40am (1hr)      **Stay in Your Lane: Litigating Daubert Challenges to Expert Testimony**  
[\*Emily Prokesch\*](#), *Office of the Georgia Capital Defender*
- In this session, Attorney Prokesch will provide useful strategies to successfully limit the scope of an expert’s testimony.
- 10:40am – 10:55 am        **Evaluations and Break**

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|------------------------|--|
| 10:55am- 11:55am (1hr) | <p><b>The Hero’s Journey: Storytelling at the Sentencing Hearing</b><br/> <a href="#"><i>Jerilyn Bell</i></a>, <i>Supervising Attorney, Office of the Georgia Capital Defender</i></p> <p>It is hard to hate someone when you know their story. Jerilyn Bell will share the storytelling methods her office uses to tell the client’s life story. The session will also identify mitigation tools that can be useful in persuading the sentencing judge to impose a lower sentence.</p>  |
| 11:55am – 12:00pm      | <b>Evaluations</b>   |
| 12:00pm – 1:00pm       | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 1:00pm – 2:00pm (1hr)  | <p><b>Constitutional Challenges to Firearm Offenses after Bruen</b><br/> <a href="#"><i>Francisco Celedonio</i></a>, <i>CJA Resource Counsel for the Federal Public Defender, District of Hawaii</i></p> <p>The United States Supreme Court’s recent decision in <i>United States v. Bruen</i> provides ammunition to challenge the constitutional validity of federal prosecutions for gun offenses. Attorney Celedonio will explain the reasoning in <i>Bruen</i> and how attorneys around the country are litigating the issue.</p> |
| 2:00pm- 2:05pm         | <b>Evaluations</b>   |
| 2:05pm – 3:05pm (1hr)  | <p><b>Cross Examination and Impeachment in Drug Cases – Part One</b><br/> <a href="#"><i>John Lentine</i></a>, <i>Sheffield and Lentine, PC</i><br/> <a href="#"><i>Sam Dennis</i></a>, <i>Sam Dennis Law</i></p> <p>John Lentine and Sam Dennis have lectured together for many years on the fundamentals of cross examination and impeachment. The two will join forces to focus on common areas of cross and impeachment in drug cases.</p>   |
| 3:05pm – 3:20pm        | <b>Evaluations and Break</b>   |
| 3:20pm – 4:20pm (1hr)  | <p><b>Cross Examination and Impeachment in Drug Cases – Part Two</b><br/> <a href="#"><i>John Lentine</i></a>, <i>Sheffield and Lentine, PC</i><br/> <a href="#"><i>Sam Dennis</i></a>, <i>Sam Dennis Law</i></p>  |
| 4:20pm – 4:25pm        | <b>Evaluations</b>   |
| 4:25pm – 4:35pm        | <b>Evaluations and Concluding Remarks</b>  |
| 5:30pm - 8:30pm        | <b>MPDA Reception</b>  |

## **Friday, October 28, 2022**

- 7:00am – 8:30am                    **Breakfast**
- 8:30am – 9:30am (1hr)            **The Criminalization of Fetal Loss**  
*[Dana Sussman](#), Acting Executive Director  
National Advocates for Pregnant Women – NAPW  
New York, New York*
- 9:30am – 9:35am                    **Evaluations**
- 9:35am – 10:35am (1hr)          **Rural Recovery Houses – Alternatives to Incarceration**  
*[Kathy Taylor](#)  
The Fletcher Group  
London, Kentucky*                    &                    *[Cole Bryan](#)  
Dream Center Golden  
Triangle/The Mission  
West Point, Mississippi*
- 10:35am – 10: 50am                **Evaluations and Break**
- 10:50am – 11:50am (1hr)        **Self-Care in the Face of Layered Trauma – Part Two (Ethics)**  
*[Anana Harris Parris](#)  
The Self Care Agency, LLC  
Atlanta, Georgia*
- 11:50am – 12:00pm                **Evaluations and Concluding Remarks**