2024 Spring Youth Defender Certification Training
Mississippi State University Riley Center
Meridian, Mississippi
March 20-21, 2024

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

11:00a.m. – 12:45 p.m.   **Registration**

12:45 am. – 1:00 p.m.   **Welcome**
Andre' de Gruy, State Public Defender
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi

Erin E. Briggs, Training Director
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.   **View From the Bench (1hr)**
Sumeka Thomas, Youth Court Referee
Chickasaw County, Mississippi

2:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.   **Evaluation**

2:05 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.   **ETHICS: The Role of Youth Defenders (1hr)**
Gary L. "Gar" Blume, Co-Founder
Blume & Blume Attorneys At Law, PC

3:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.   **Evaluation and Break**

3:20 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.   **Juvenile Mental Health in Mississippi (1.5 hr)**
Dwayne Nelson, Program Specialist
Division of Children and Youth Services – MS Department of Mental Health

4:50 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.   **Evaluation** and Announcements

Thursday, March 21, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.   **Breakfast**

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.   **Issues and Conditions of Youth Confinement (1.25hr)**
Elizabeth Jones, Civil Law Attorney
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights

10:30 a.m. – 11:00am   **Evaluation** and Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   ******Joint Session with Parent Defenders*
Civil Rights Protections for Persons with Disabilities Involved in the Child Welfare System (1hr)
Carla Carter, Associate Deputy Director for Civil Rights,
Beatriz Romero – Escobar, Senior Investigator
HHS, Office for Civil Rights

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.   **Evaluations** and Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.   ***** *Joint Session with Parent Defenders*
Civil Rights Protections for Persons with Disabilities Involved in the Child Welfare System (1hr)
Carla Carter, Associate Deputy Director for Civil Rights,
Beatriz Romero – Escobar, Senior Investigator
HHS, Office for Civil Rights

1:30 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.   **Evaluation** and Closing Announcements