



OSPD & MPDA 2025 Fall Public Defender Conference  
October 22-24, 2025  
MSU Riley Center  
Meridian, Mississippi



## AGENDA

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### Wednesday, October 22, 2025

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00am – 12:00pm<br>Boardroom 3A       | <b>MPDA Board Meeting (Lunch Provided)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:00am – 12:45pm<br>Exhibit Hall Foyer | <b>Conference Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12:45pm – 12:50pm<br>Exhibit Hall       | <b>Welcome</b><br>André de Gruy, <i>State Public Defender</i><br>Lenderrick Taylor, <i>MPDA President</i><br>Justin Cook, <i>Indigent Appeals Director</i><br><i>Office of State Public Defender</i><br><i>Jackson, Mississippi</i> |
| 12:50pm – 12:55pm                       | <b>Spotlight:</b> Department of Mental Health                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12:55pm- 1:00pm                         | <b>Spotlight:</b> Defend Mississippi                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1:00pm - 2:00pm (1.0hr)                 | <b>PDs and Police Misconduct: Identifying and Preserving Client's Civil Rights Claims</b><br>Michelle Dahl, <i>Legal Fellow</i><br><i>National Police Accountability Project</i><br><i>Brooklyn, New York</i>                       |
| 2:00pm – 2:05pm                         | <b>Evaluations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2:05pm-3:20pm(1.25hr)                   | <b>Fall 2025 Appellate Law Update</b><br>Justin Cook, <i>Indigent Appeals Director</i><br><i>Office of State Public Defender</i><br><i>Jackson, Mississippi</i>                                                                     |
| 3:20pm – 3:30pm                         | <b>Evaluations and Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3:30pm- 5:00pm (1.5hr)                  | <b>Evidence Refresher for Busy Defenders</b><br>Franklin Rosenblatt, <i>Associate Professor</i><br><i>Mississippi College School of Law</i><br><i>Jackson, Mississippi</i>                                                          |
| 5:10pm – 5:15pm                         | <b>Evaluations and Announcements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 5:15pm – 6:00pm                         | <b>MPDA Business Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



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6:00pm – 9:00pm

The Boxcar – ThreeFoot Hotel

**MPDA Welcome Reception**

**Thursday, October 23, 2025**

7:30am – 8:45am

Studio Theatre

**Breakfast**

7:30am – 8:30am

Exhibit Hall Foyer

**Registration**

8:30am-9:30am

Exhibit Hall

**Judicial Commitments in Circuit Court: Balancing Rights, Responsibilities, and Reform**

*Tameika Bennett, Staff Attorney*

*MS Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel*

*Jackson, Mississippi*

9:35am – 9:40am

**Evaluations**

9:40am – 9:45am

**Resource Spotlight:** Harbour House

9:45am – 10:45am (1hr)

**ETHICS: Ethical Use of Generative AI for Criminal Defense Lawyers**

*Ben Cooper, Frank Montague, Jr. Professor of Legal Studies & Professionalism, The University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, Mississippi*

10:45am – 11:00am

**Evaluations and Break**

11:00am-11:05am

**Resource Spotlight:** Catholic Charities

11:05am – 12:05pm (1hr)

**The Holistic Defense Project**

*Attorney Alice Stamps, Attorney Andrew Williams, Marstonya Butler, PhD, Hannah Williams, and Shanai Watson*

*Hinds County Public Defender Office*

*Jackson, Mississippi*

12:05pm – 1:05pm

Studio Theatre

**Evaluations & Lunch Break**

1:05pm – 2:05pm (1hr)

Exhibit Hall

**Vertical Representation**

*Pam Metzger, Exec. Dir., Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center and Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law*

*Dallas, Texas*



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2:05pm – 2:10pm

**Evaluations**

2:10pm – 3:40pm (1.5hr)

Exhibit Hall

**Digital Forensic Evidence: An Overview of the Available Technologies and How They Appear in Cases**

Alice Frontier, *Legal Aid Society of New York and the National Association for Public Defense*  
New York, New York

3:40pm – 3:55pm

**Evaluations and Break**

3:55pm – 4:55pm (1hr)

**Parole Eligibility, ERS, Trusty Time, and MET**

Jake Howard, *McArthur Justice Center*  
Jackson, Mississippi

4:55pm

**Evaluations and Announcements**

**Friday, October 24, 2025**

7:30am-8:30am

Studio Theatre

**Breakfast**

8:30am – 8:45am (.25hr)

Exhibit Hall

**Youth Court Forms**

Jennifer Morgan, *Family Defense Program Manager*  
*Office of State Public Defender*  
Jackson, Mississippi

8:45am – 8:50am

**Evaluations**

8:50am – 10:05am (1.25hr)

**Utilizing the Science of False Confessions to Litigate Confession Cases**

Lauren Gottesman, *Senior Staff Attorney, Innocence Project -Strategic Litigation, New York, New York*

10:05am – 10:20am

**Evaluations and Break**

10:20am – 11:20am (1hr)

**Civil Rights and Homelessness**

Joshua Toms, *Legal Director, ACLU Mississippi*  
Jackson, Mississippi

11:20am

**Evaluations and Closing Announcements**