



OSPD & MPDA 2026 Spring Public Defender Conference
April 22-24, 2026
Centennial Plaza
Gulfport, Mississippi



Thursday, April 23, 2026

1:15pm – 2:15pm (1hr)

The Chapel

Clubhouse

Speedy Trial in Mississippi -Let's Resurrect the Right

Joseph Hemleben, *Indigent Appeals Staff Attorney*
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi

Breakout: *Investigators*

Kasandra Washington, *Founder and CEO,*
FFO Investigation, New Orleans, LA

2:15pm – 2:20pm

Evaluations

2:20pm – 3:50pm (1.5hr)

The Chapel

De-escalation and Communication with Client

Melody Madaris, Ph.D., LCPC
Executive Director, Communicare
Oxford, Mississippi

3:50pm – 4:00pm

Evaluations & Break

4:00pm - 5:00pm (1hr)

**Major Updates in Immigration Law & Overview of
Immigration Habeas**

CJ Sandley, *Senior Staff Attorney*
Jessica Vosburgh, *Senior Staff Attorney*
Kayla Vinson, *Staff Attorney*
Korbin Felder, *Justice Fellow, Southern Region*
Center for Constitutional Rights

5:00pm – 5:05pm

Evaluations & Announcements

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:00am - 8:30am

Club House

Breakfast

8:30am – 9:30am (1hr)

The Chapel

***Running on Empty: Recognizing and Addressing
Compassion Fatigue in Public Defense***

Alissa Hebert-Wallace, DSW, LCSW
Healing Spaces
Jackson, Mississippi

9:30am – 9:35am

Evaluations



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- 9:35am – 10:35am (1hr) ***Redeeming Justice: From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System***
Jarrett Adams, Founder
The Law Office of Jarrett Adams, PLLC
Chicago, Illinois
- 10:35am - 10:55am **Evaluations & Break**
- 10:55am – 11:55am (1hr) ***Five Stones – the Underdog’s Toolkit: Practical AI for Public Defense***
Graeme Lowry, Owner
GLxLabs
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- 11:55am **Evaluations & Closing Announcements**