



**OSPD Youth Defense Certification Training
Tupelo, Mississippi
March 19-20, 2026**

AGENDA

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
East Hall Foyer

Registration

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sweetgum

Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Magnolia

Welcome

*Andre' de Gruy, State Public Defender
Brenda Locke, Youth Defense Program Director
Erin Briggs, Training Director
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi*

1:15 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Spotlight: Oceans Behavioral Hospital

1:25 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. (1hr)

Imagine it Was YOU

*Joseph Holiday, Founder
No Greater Love Youth & Community Missions
Jackson, Mississippi*

2:25 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Evaluation and Break

2:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Spotlight

2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. (1hr)

What Happens After the Gavel Falls: Youth Court Appeals

*Stacy Farrero, Office of Indigent Appeals
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi*

*Brenda Locke, Youth Defense Program Director
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi*

3:50 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. (1hr)

Barrister's Battle III: Clash of the Advocates

*James Smallwood, Youth Public Defender
Harrison County Youth Court
Biloxi, Mississippi*

4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evaluation and Announcements

Friday, March 20, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Sweetgum

Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (1.5hr)
Magnolia

ETHICS: Advocating for Youth: Legal Duties, Ethical Boundaries, and Communicating Effectively with Children and Families in Mississippi Youth Courts
Denise Fondren
Hickman Fondren, PLLC
Oxford, Mississippi

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Evaluation and Break

10:15 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Spotlight

10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. (1hr)

Defending the Whole Child: Mental Health Services Available to Court-Involved Youth in Mississippi
Lynda Stewart, Director
Division of Children and Youth Services
Mississippi Department of Mental Health

11:20 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Evaluation

11:25 a.m. – 12:55 p.m. (1.5hr)

Evidentiary Considerations for Youth Defenders
Franklin Rosenblatt, Associate Professor
Mississippi College School of Law
Jackson, Mississippi

12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Evaluation & Closing