



Misdemeanor Defender

December 1-4, 2026 / Chapel Hill, NC

*Co-sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government
& the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services*

Tuesday, December 1

12:30-12:45 pm	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
12:45-2:00 pm	Basics of Driving While Impaired: Elements, Sentencing, and Motions Practice (75 min.) Belal Elrahal, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
2:00-2:15 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:15-3:15 pm	Basics of Driving While Impaired, cont'd. (60 min.) Belal Elrahal, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
3:15-3:30 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:30-4:15 pm	Challenging Field Sobriety Tests (45 min.) Belal Elrahal, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
4:15-5:00 pm	IDS Policies and Procedures (45 min.) Becky Whitaker, Defender Policy and Planning Attorney Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
5:00 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>



Wednesday, December 2

8:45-10:15 am	Introduction to Structured Sentencing (90 min.) Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:15-10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:30 am	Probation Violations (60 min.) Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
11:30-12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30-1:15 pm	Negotiating Effectively (45 min.) Daniel Meier, Regional Defender Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
1:15-3:00 pm	Negotiation Workshops (105 min.)
3:00-3:15 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-4:15 pm	Ethical Issues in District Court (ETHICS) (60 min.) Whitney Fairbanks, Executive Director North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
4:15 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>



Thursday, December 3

9:00-9:45 am	Theory of Defense/Emotional Themes (45 min.) Tucker Charns, Chief Regional Defender Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
9:45-10:00 am	<i>Break</i>
10:00-10:45 am	Cross-Examination (45 min.) Johnna Herron, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, Greensboro, NC
10:45-12:15 pm	Cross-Examination Workshops (90 min.)
12:15-1:15 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:15-2:00 pm	Direct Examination (45 min.) Timothy Heinle, Assistant Teaching Professor UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
2:00-3:00 pm	Direct Examination Workshops (60 min.)
3:00-3:15 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-4:15 pm	Driving Records and Getting Your Client Back on the Road (60 min.) Mike Paduchowski, Attorney Law Office of Matthew Charles Suczynski, Chapel Hill, NC
4:15-5:15 pm	Crimmigration (60 min.) Barbara Lagemann, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, Durham, NC
5:15 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>
6:00 pm	<i>Optional Happy Hour- Haw River Tap & Table</i>



Friday, December 4

9:00-10:00 am	Common Evidence Issues (60 min.) Danny Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:00-10:15 am	<i>Break</i>
10:15-11:30 am	Suppressing Evidence in District Court (75 min.) Danny Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
11:30-12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30-1:30 pm	Client Interviewing and Rapport (60 min.) Tucker Charns, Chief Regional Defender Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
1:30-2:45 pm	Pretrial Release Advocacy (75 min.) Elana Fogel, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law & Director, Criminal Defense Clinic Duke Law School, Durham, NC
2:45-3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:00 pm	Rules of Evidence in Practice (60 min.) Jonathan Broun, Senior Staff Attorney NC Prisoner Legal Services, Raleigh, NC
4:00 pm	<i>Final Wrap-Up and Adjourn</i>

CLE HOURS: 21.75

*including 1 hours of ethics/professional responsibility
(pending State Bar approval)*