



2025 Misdemeanor Defender Training

November 12-14, 2025 / Chapel Hill, NC

*Cosponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government
& Office of Indigent Defense Services*

Wednesday, November 12

8:45-9:00 am	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
9:00-10:15 am	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
10:15-10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:30 am	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
11:30-12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30-1:15 pm	Negotiating Effectively (45 min.) Derek Brown, Attorney The Derek K. Brown Law Firm, PC, Greenville, NC
1:15-2:45 pm	Negotiation Workshops (90 min.)
2:45-3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:00 pm	Ethical Issues in District Court (ETHICS) (60 min.) Whitney Fairbanks, Assistant Director & General Counsel North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
4:00-5:00 pm	Crimmigration (60 min.) Barbara Lagemann, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, Durham, NC
5:00 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>

Optional Dinner/Drinks at Haw River Tap & Table, Carrboro – 6:00 pm



Thursday, November 13

9:00-9:45 am	Theory of Defense/Emotional Themes (45 min.) Tucker Charns, Chief Regional Defender Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
9:45-10:30 am	Cross-Examination (45 min.) Phil Dixon, Jr., Director of Public Defense Education UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:30-10:45 am	<i>Break</i>
10:45-12:00 pm	Cross-Examination Workshops (75 min.)
12:00-1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00-1:45 pm	Direct Examination (45 min.) Timothy Heinle, Assistant Teaching Professor UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
1:45-2:45 pm	Direct Examination Workshops (60 min.)
2:45-3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:15 pm	Suppressing Evidence in District Court (75 min.) Phil Dixon, Jr., Director of Public Defense Education UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
4:15-5:15 pm	Pretrial Release Advocacy (60 min.) Elana Fogel, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law & Director, Criminal Defense Clinic Duke Law School, Durham, NC
5:15 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>



Friday, November 14

9:00-10:30 am	Introduction to Structured Sentencing (90 min.) Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:30-10:45 am	<i>Break</i>
10:45-11:45 am	Probation Violations (60 min.) Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
11:45-12:45 pm	Optional Working Lunch (60 min.): <i>Q and A session with panel of experienced District Court practitioners</i> Rebecca Chappell, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, District 39- Cleveland County Rena Spellman, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, District 7- Bertie/Hertford Counties Cassandra Tilley, Assistant Public Defender Office of the Public Defender, District 16- Durham County
12:45-1:45 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
1:45-2:45 pm	Client Interviewing and Rapport (60 min.) Tucker Charns, Chief Regional Defender Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
2:45-3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:00 pm	Common Evidence Issues (60 min.) Danny Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
4:00 pm	<i>Final Wrap-Up and Adjourn</i>

CLE HOURS: 19.75

Includes 1 hour of ethics/professional responsibility
