



Appellate Advocacy

October 21-23, 2026 / Chapel Hill, NC

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

Wednesday, October 21

- 8:15-8:45 a.m. *Check-in*
- 8:45-9:00 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements**
Phil Dixon, Teaching Associate Professor, UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
Glenn Gerding, Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC
Bob Burke, Indigent Defense Consultant and Trainer, Longmont, CO
- 9:00-9:45 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Brainstorming/Factbusting the Case**
(work on fact problem) (45 min)
John Rubin, Professor of Public Law and Government,
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
At the conclusion of the plenary and workshop, participants will:
a. Know the elements of effective brainstorming/fact-busting.
b. Understand the importance of effective brainstorming/fact busting to the creation of a rich pool of facts from which to develop a persuasive theory of the case or defense story.
c. Be able to effectively brainstorm/fact-bust an appellate case.
- 9:45-10:00 a.m. *Break*
- 10:00-11:30 a.m. **WORKSHOPS: Brainstorming the Facts of Your Case**
(work on own cases) (90 min)
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. *Lunch (provided)**
- 12:30-2:15 p.m. **WORKSHOPS: Brainstorming the Facts of Your Case (continued) (105 min)**
- 2:15-2:30 p.m. *Break*
- 2:30-4:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Transforming Your Facts and Legal Issues into a Persuasive Story on Appeal** *(work on fact problem) (90 min)*
Ira Mickenberg, Attorney & Consultant, Saratoga Springs, NY
At the conclusion of the plenary and breakout, the participants will:
a. Know and understand the definition of a defense theory or story, as well as the elements of a story.
b. Know techniques for development of a case or persuasive story.
c. Be able to develop a persuasive appellate theory or story.



4:00-4:15 p.m.

Break

4:15-4:45 p.m.

WORKSHOPS: Developing a Persuasive Story on Appeal
(discuss homework) (30 min)

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Dinner at Carolina Brewery (*individual pay*)



Thursday, October 22

9:00-11:00 a.m.	WORKSHOPS: Developing a Persuasive Story on Appeal <i>(work on own cases)</i> (120 min)
11:00-11:15 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
11:15-12:30 p.m.	WORKSHOPS: Developing a Persuasive Story on Appeal <i>(continued)</i> (75 min)
12:30-1:15 p.m.	<i>Lunch (provided)*</i>
1:15-2:00 p.m.	PLENARY SESSION: Writing a Persuasive Brief: Statement of Facts <i>(work on fact problem)</i> (45 min) Faculty TBD <i>After the plenary and breakout, participants will:</i> a. Know and understand elements of persuasive writing, including but not limited to, the use of storytelling elements, primacy and recency, appropriate use of repetition, the use of fact-based, evocative and image-creating language and/or graphics, clarity, effective transitions, and the effective use of juxtaposition. b. Be able to effectively write a persuasive defense story in their statement of the facts.
2:00-2:15 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2:15-3:45 p.m.	WORKSHOPS: Outlining Your Statement of Facts and Reviews of Outlines <i>(work on own cases)</i> (90 min)
3:45-4:00 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
4:00-5:00 p.m.	WORKSHOPS: Writing a Persuasive Brief: Statement of Facts <i>(participants write first several paragraphs of their statement of facts; statements saved for printing and review)</i> (60 min)
5:00 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>

*IDS employees may not claim reimbursement for lunch



Friday, October 23

- 8:30-10:30 a.m. **WORKSHOPS: Writing a Persuasive Brief: Statement of Facts**
(review and revise statement of facts) (120 min)
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. *Break*
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Persuasive Brief Writing: Legal Argument**
(work on fact problem) (45 min)
Ira Mickenberg, Attorney & Consultant, Saratoga Springs, NY
After the plenary and breakout, participants will:
a. Know and understand elements of persuasive writing, including but not limited to, the use of storytelling elements, primacy and recency, appropriate use of repetition, the use of fact-based, evocative and image-creating language and/or graphics, clarity, effective transitions, and the effective use of juxtaposition.
b. Be able to effectively write a legal argument that persuasively meshes the fact-based defense story with the governing legal principles.
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. **WORKSHOPS: Persuasive Brief Writing: Legal Argument**
(participants write first few paragraphs of their legal argument; statements saved for printing and review) (60 min)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. *Lunch (provided)**
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **WORKSHOPS: Persuasive Brief Writing: Legal Argument****
(review and revise legal argument) (90 min)
- 3:00-3:10 p.m. *Closing and Adjourn*

*IDS employees may not claim reimbursement for lunch

**Private counsel may bill up to 4 hours for work done on their cases during this program

CLE HOURS: 17.75
(pending State Bar approval)



Small Group Facilitators

Bob Burke, Indigent Defense Trainer and Consultant, Longmont, CO

John Carella, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

Emily Davis, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

Glenn Gerding, Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

Julie Ramseur Lewis, Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, Dist. 26, Charlotte, NC

Ira Mickenberg, Attorney & Consultant, Saratoga Springs, NY

Lauren Miller, Staff Attorney, North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Raleigh, NC

Heidi Reiner, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

Daniel Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, Procedure and Evidence, UNC-SOG, Chapel Hill, NC

Kathy VandenBerg, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

Amanda Zimmer, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC