



Defending Sexual Assault Cases

April 16-17, 2026 / Chapel Hill, NC

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

Thursday, April 16

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| 9:00-9:15 am | Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Daniel Spiegel, Assistant Professor
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC |
| 9:15-10:45 am | Introduction to Defending Sexual Assault Cases:
Pretrial Investigation and Motions Practice (90 min.)
Susan Weigand, Former Assistant Public Defender
Melani McIntosh, Former Investigator
Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office, Charlotte, NC |
| 10:45-11:00 am | <i>Break</i> |
| 11:00-12:15 pm | Interviews at the Children Advocacy Center (and Elsewhere) (75 min.)
Dr. Amy James, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist
New Bern, NC |
| 12:15-1:15 pm | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 1:15-2:15 pm | Theme and Theory in Child Sexual Assault Cases (60 min.)
Missy Owen, Attorney
Tin, Fulton, Walker, & Owen, Charlotte, NC |
| 2:15-3:15 pm | The SANE Exam (60 min.)
Lana Pearce, BSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P
UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill, NC |
| 3:15-3:30 pm | <i>Break</i> |
| 3:30-4:30 pm | Common Legal Issues in Child Sexual Assault Cases (60 min.)
JD Xerri, Attorney
The Law Office of Joshua D. Xerri, Chapel Hill, NC |
| 4:30 pm | <i>Adjourn</i> |



Friday, April 17

- 9:00-10:30 am **Satellite-Based Monitoring, the Sex Offender Registry, and Sentencing**
(90 min.)
Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
- 10:30-10:45 am *Break*
- 10:45-12:00 pm **Challenging the State's Expert and Working with Defense Experts**
(with Demonstration of Cross-Examination) (75 min.)
Jason St. Aubin, Attorney
St. Aubin Law, Davidson, NC
- 12:00-1:00 pm *Lunch*
- 1:00-2:30 pm **Workshop- Handling Child Sexual Assault Cases** (90 min.)
- 2:30-2:45 pm *Break*
- 2:45-3:45 pm **Consent** (60 min.)
Emilia Beskind, Attorney
Thomas, Ferguson, & Beskind, Durham, NC
- 3:45-4:45 pm **Psychosexual Evaluation** (60 min.)
Jan Tate, LCSW, MEd, CSOTP
Tate Psychological Services, Mebane, NC
- 4:45 pm *Adjourn*