



2026 Felony Defender Training

February 4-6, 2026 / Chapel Hill, NC

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

Wednesday, February 4

9:00-9:15 am	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
9:15-10:15 am	Felony Case Preparation – What’s Different in Superior Court (60 min.) Danny Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:15-10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-12:00 pm	Sentencing in Superior Court (90 min.) Jamie Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
12:00-1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00-2:15 pm	Discovery and Investigation in Felony Cases (75 min.) Keith Williams, Attorney Law Offices of Keith Williams, Greenville, NC
2:15-3:45 pm	WORKSHOP: Developing an Investigative and Discovery Strategy (90 min.)
3:45-4:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
4:00-4:45 pm	Confidential Informants and Defense Investigation: A Case Study (45 min.) Jackie Willingham, Attorney Willingham Law, Raleigh, NC
4:45 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>
5:30 pm	<i>Optional Social Gathering – Location TBD</i>



Thursday, February 5

9:00-10:15 am	Motions to Suppress: Statements, Property, and Identification (75 min.) Phil Dixon, Teaching Associate Professor of Public Law and Government Director, Public Defense Education UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
10:15-10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:30 am	Ethics for Felony Defenders (60 min.) Kelley DeAngelus, Deputy Counsel Cameron Lee, Deputy Counsel North Carolina State Bar, Raleigh, NC
11:30-12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30-1:45 pm	WORKSHOP: Motions to Suppress and Evidence Blocking (75 min.)
1:45-2:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:00-3:00 pm	Preservation Essentials (60 min.) Amanda Zimmer, Assistant Appellate Defender Director of Training, Outreach, and Special Litigation Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC
3:00-3:15 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-4:15 pm	Motion Practice to Advance Your Theory of the Case (60 min.) Jonathan Broun, Attorney Law Offices of Jonathan E. Broun, Carrboro, NC
4:15-5:15 pm	A View from the Bench (60 min.) Hon. Bryan Collins, Resident Superior Court Judge Judicial District 10, Wake County, NC
5:15 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>



Friday, February 6

9:00-10:00 am	Pretrial Release Advocacy in Superior Court (60 min.) Idrissa Smith, Assistant Public Defender Durham County Office of the Public Defender, Durham, NC
10:00-10:15 am	<i>Break</i>
10:15-11:15 am	Lab Reports and Legal Issues (60 min.) Sarah R. Olson, Forensic Resource Counsel Office of Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
11:15-11:30 am	<i>Break</i>
11:30-12:30 pm	Negotiating in Superior Court (60 min.) Derek Brown, Attorney The Derek K. Brown Law Firm, PC, Greenville, NC
12:30-1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30-2:30 pm	Pleading Guilty in Superior Court (60 min.) Ray Griffis, Attorney Law Office of Matthew Charles Suczynski, Chapel Hill, NC
2:30-2:45 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:45-4:00 pm	Voir Dire and Demonstration (75 min.) Kathy Simmons, Assistant Public Defender Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office, Charlotte, NC
4:00 pm	<i>Final Wrap-Up and Adjourn</i>

CLE HOURS: 17.75

Includes 1 hour of ethics/professional responsibility
