



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

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| 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 *Break*
- 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 *Lunch*
- 12:30-1:45 pm **WORKSHOP: Motions to Suppress and Evidence Blocking** (75 min.)
- 1:45-2:00 pm *Break*
- 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 *Break*
- 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 *Adjourn*



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 Doby & Griffis, Attorneys at Law, Graham, 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
