2024 Higher-Level Felony Defense Training
September 10-12, 2024 / Chapel Hill, NC

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 10**

12:30-1:00 pm  
*Check-In*

1:00-1:15 pm  
*Welcome*

1:15-2:15 pm  
**Defending Eyewitness Identification Cases** (60 mins.)  
Laura Gibson, Assistant Public Defender  
Beaufort Co. Public Defender’s Office, Washington, NC

2:15-3:15 pm  
**Mitigation Investigation** (60 mins.)  
Josie Van Dyke, Mitigation Specialist  
Sentencing Solutions, Inc., Knightdale, NC

3:15-3:30 pm  
*Break*

3:30-4:15 pm  
**Preparing to Defend High Level Felonies** (45 mins.)  
Phil Dixon, Teaching Associate Professor  
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

4:15-5:00 pm  
**Self-Defense Update** (45 mins.)  
John Rubin, Professor of Public Law and Government  
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

5:00 pm  
*Adjourn*
**Wednesday, Sept. 11**

9:00-10:15 am  **The Law of Sentencing Serious Felonies** (75 mins.)
Jamie Markham, Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

10:15-10:30 am  *Break*

10:30-11:15 am  **Storytelling and Visual Aides at Sentencing** (45 mins.)
Sophorn Avitan and Susan Weigand, Assistant Public Defenders
Mecklenburg Co. Public Defender’s Office, Charlotte, NC

11:15-12:00 pm  **Preventing Low Level Felonies from Becoming High Level Habitual Felonies** (45 mins.)
Jason St. Aubin, Assistant Public Defender
Marcilliat & Mills, PLLC, Charlotte, NC

12:00-1:00 pm  *Lunch (provided)*

1:00-2:30 pm  **Brainstorming, Preparing, and Presenting a Sentencing Argument** (90 mins.)
Small group workshops

2:30-2:45 pm  *Break*

2:45-3:45 pm  **Preservation Essentials** (60 mins.)
Glenn Gerding, Appellate Defender
Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC

3:45-4:45 pm  **Client Rapport** (60 mins.) (ETHICS)
Tucker Charns, Regional Defender
Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC

4:45 pm  *Adjourn*

5:30 pm  **Optional Social Gathering**
TBA
Thursday, Sept. 12

9:00-10:00 am  **Basics of Batson Challenges** (60 mins.)
Hannah Autry, Ass’t Capital Defender, Office of the Capital Defender, Durham, NC
Kailey Morgan, Staff Attorney, Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Durham, NC

10:00-10:15 am  *Break*

10:15-11:00 am  **Protecting Juror from Removals for Cause** (45 mins.)
Emily Coward, Director of the Inclusive Juries Project,
Johanna Jennings, Director, The Decarceration Project
Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC

11:00 am-12:00 pm  **Peremptory and For Cause Challenges** (60 mins.)
James Davis, Attorney
Davis and Davis, Salisbury, NC

12:00 pm  *Wrap Up and Adjourn*

**CLE HOURS: 12.50**

includes 1.0 hour of ethics/professional responsibility

*pending approval by the NC State Bar*