



2025 Defender Conference
The Evidence Advantage: Strengthening Your Client's Story for Trial

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025			
Time	Title and Presenter		
1:30 PM	Defender Conference Kickoff, Orientation and Member Meeting		
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Legislative Update Ramona Brandes, WDA		
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Keynote Christopher Poulos, Center for Justice and Human Dignity		
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	BREAK		
3:45 PM- 4:45 PM	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Who Qualifies as an Expert? Lei Young, WA State Office of Public Defense, and Christopher Swaby, Clark County Indigent Defense </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> The Changing Landscape of Sentencing and Lessons from Resentencing Sarah Hudson, Percy Levy, Cindy Arends Elsberry, WDA </td> </tr> </table>	Who Qualifies as an Expert? Lei Young, WA State Office of Public Defense, and Christopher Swaby, Clark County Indigent Defense	The Changing Landscape of Sentencing and Lessons from Resentencing Sarah Hudson, Percy Levy, Cindy Arends Elsberry, WDA
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4:45 PM- 5:45 PM	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Object Anyway Michael Schuler, Heyman and Schuler </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Preserving Your Client's Issues for Appeal: Motions in Limine and Misconduct Kathryn Russell Selk, Russell Selk Law Offices </td> </tr> </table>	Object Anyway Michael Schuler, Heyman and Schuler	Preserving Your Client's Issues for Appeal: Motions in Limine and Misconduct Kathryn Russell Selk, Russell Selk Law Offices
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6:00 pm	2025 WDA Awards Ceremony and Defender Karaoke!		



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SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025			
Time	Title and Presenter		
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	Keeping Out Extrajudicial Statements in DV Cases and Beyond Nicole Dalton, Dalton Law Office	How “Character Evidence” Accelerates the Use of Bias and Propensity to Prove Parental Unfitness at Trial D'Adre Cunningham, WDA	
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	The Science and Art of Presenting Medical Testimony Anna Samuel, King County DPD	Defending So-Called Bad Parents: Preventing Admission of Biased Character Evidence about Parenting Mistakes D'Adre Cunningham, WDA	Advanced Topics in Crimmigration Law Stacy Taeuber, Lori Walls, Amy Kratz, Jonathan Moore, WDA
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	BREAK		
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Crawford: Cutting Through the Chaos to Define What is Testimonial for the Court Elbert Aull, Metropolitan Public Defender Services	Addressing Race in Voir Dire Ramona Brandes, WDA and Jason Lantz, Burg & Lantz	
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH		
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	On the Topic of Opening Statements Mary Kay High, Pierce County Dept. of Assigned Counsel and Pete Mazzone, Mazzone Law Firm	Defending Immigrants in a Time of Adversity Lori Walls, Stacy Taeuber, Amy Kratz, Jonathan Moore, WDA	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Advising Clients About Testifying Arian Noma, The NOMA Firm	The Role of Forensic Linguistics in Criminal Cases Ann Wennerstrom, Wennerstrom Law	Defender Well Being Rachel Cortez, Nat Jacob, Jonathan Patnode, WA State Office of Public Defense
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	BREAK		
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	What if Marie Kondo Was a Public Defender? Can the Six Basic Rules of Tidying Prevent Burnout and Maintain Joy? The Honorable Judge Linda W.Y. Coburn, WA Court of Appeals, Division 1		