



AGENDA

8:15 - 8:30, Registration/Check-In

8:30 - 8:45, Welcoming Remarks
Abby Brumley Edwards

8:45 - 10:00, Updates from the Fifth Circuit Clerk of Court
Colonel (Retired) Tom Plunkett, III

10:00 - 10:15, Morning Break

10:15 - 11:30, Effective Organization of E-Discovery Dumps
Sidney Lampton

11:30 - 1:00, Lunch (on your own)

1:00 - 2:30, News from the U.S. Sentencing Commission
Alan Dorhoffer

2:30 - 2:45, Afternoon Break

2:45 - 3:45, Ethical Issues in Today's Federal Criminal Practice
T. Murry Whalen

3:45 - 5:00, Fifth Circuit Case Law Update 2025-26
Kiger Sigh

CJA Panel Attorneys Training Seminar **Oxford, Mississippi** **July 17, 2026**

Abby Brumley Edwards received her undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi prior to receiving her J.D. from Mississippi College in 2005. Before becoming First Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Mississippi, she clerked for the Mississippi Court of Appeals. She is also a graduate of the National Criminal Defense College.

Colonel (Ret) Tom Plunkett has been the Chief Deputy for the Fifth Circuit since September 27, 2010. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University and later was awarded a Master of Science in Health Care Administration and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. Prior to joining the judiciary, Tom served for thirty years in the United States Army, including combat tours in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Along with several of the Clerk staff, Tom was recognized by the Director of the U.S. Courts Administrative Office with the 2024 "Excellence in Judiciary Services" award for his work in creating the "Attorney's Toolbox," an online resource that helps lawyers more easily file rule compliant appellate documents.

Sidney Lampton Morris is an associate attorney at Herschmann Benson Bowen LLP (HBB). She practices primarily in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, criminal and civil healthcare litigation, and False Claims Act litigation. Prior to entering private practice, Sidney served as law clerk to the Hon. David C. Bramlette III. She has been on the CJA panel since 2022.

Alan Dorhoffer is the Director of the Office of Education and Sentencing Practice at the United States Sentencing Commission. He has been the Chair of numerous policy teams and also served on many policy development teams. Furthermore, he analyzes U.S. Supreme Court, appellate court, and district court decisions interpreting the federal sentencing guidelines. Alan was an Adjunct Professor at the George Mason School of Law and has also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edmund A. Sargus in Columbus, Ohio. He is a graduate of Binghamton University in New York and the George Washington University School of Law.

T. Murry Whalen established The Whalen Firm in 2005. It is a boutique firm known by its motto "Proven Professional Performance." T. Murry offers legal services in the areas of business transactions, real property transactions, probate matters, personal injuries and criminal defense: local, state, and federal actions. T. Murry's legal experiences include Yazoo County Public Defender; law clerk to United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Judge Henry T. Wingate; law clerk to then Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Leslie D. King, and law clerk for Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Melissa S. May. T. Murry is a proud graduate of Jackson State University. Also, T. Murry holds a Masters in Anthropology from Purdue University and a Juris Doctorate from Indiana University.

Kiger Sigh received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Millsaps College before earning his J.D. at the University of Mississippi in 2010. Prior to his current employment as a Research and Writing Specialist with the Federal Public Defender's office in Oxford, Kiger clerked for the District of Columbia Superior Court and served as an attorney advisor there. Kiger is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law.