

Federal Public Defender 2025 Annual CJA Panel Training
Hilton Hotel – Cabana Room
Jackson, MS - December 5, 2025

8:15 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome
8:45 – 10:15	Effective Organization of E-Discovery Dumps <i>Matt Tyrone and Sidney Lampton, Watkins and Eager</i> <i>Greg Carraway, Vice President – IST Management Services</i> This presentation will cover what to do when the government makes rolling massive dumps of discovery and you have no idea where to start. How do you organize, review, and use the material? How do you comply with your obligation for reciprocal discovery. This presentation will focus on answering these questions, from best practices for file management to third-party tools and technologies to assist the practitioner in reviewing and identifying the most relevant materials.
10:15 – 10:30	Morning Break
10:30 – 11:45	Jury De-Selection <i>Chris Routh, Private Practice (Jackson, MS)</i> Chris returns by popular demand to demonstrate how to use <i>voir dire</i> questions to identify jurors on the venire who are least likely to identify with your theory of defense. This presentation received so many outstanding reviews from participants at our training in Hattiesburg that we had to ask Chris to do it again for those who missed it.
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch on Your Own
1:00 – 2:15	Cultural Competence: Combatting Bias to gain the Client’s Trust. <i>Jawara Griffin, Assistant Federal Defender (Little Rock, Arkansas)</i> Every case begins and ends with the client! The attorney-client relationship is the foundation of any preparation for trial or advocacy. Challenges arise from differences such as race, sexual orientation, age, language, education, and religion. Assistant Federal Defender Jawara Griffin’s discussion will focus on confronting those differences so that the relationship can thrive.
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 4:00	Fifth Circuit Update <i>Samantha Kuhn, Assistant Federal Defender E.D. La.</i> <i>Steven Spires, Assistant Federal Defender, E.D. La.</i> Assistant Federal Defenders Samantha Kuhn and Steven Spires will end our program by summarizing the most recent Fifth Circuit decisions relating to criminal defense work.
4:00	Adjourn

Sidney Lampton is an associate attorney at Watkins & Eager and has been on the CJA panel since 2022. She practices primarily in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, criminal and civil healthcare litigation, and False Claims Act litigation. Prior to joining Watkins & Eager, Sidney served as law clerk to the Hon. David C. Bramlette III.

Matt Tyrone is a commercial litigator and corporate governance lawyer who has also been on the CJA panel since 2007, trying multiple cases to verdict in the Southern District. In both Matt's civil and criminal practice, he often deals with large data dumps and mass discovery issues. After clerking for the Hon. David C. Bramlette III in 2006-07, he began practicing at Watkins & Eager and will likely stay there until he dies or retires, Lord willing, the latter.

Greg Caraway is Vice President of Legal Solutions for IST Management Services. Greg has over twenty years of experience leading project teams in the management of extremely large document processing and review engagements involving multiple terabytes of data. Previous to his current position, Greg was a Director of Client Services at DTI, a Practice Support Project Manager with Jones Day LLP, and spent 6 years at Butler Snow as their IT / Litigation Support Director. Greg has also worked as a Litigation Trial Consultant for GDC Animation creating trial graphics and animations. Mr. Caraway is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Software Engineering and a Master's Degree in Design Computing.

Chris Routh is a solo practitioner in Jackson, Mississippi with a firm devoted solely to criminal defense across Mississippi and with public defender caseloads in Hinds and Washington counties. Before opening his practice, Chris was a full-time public defender for ten years with positions as Assistant and Deputy Public Defender with the Office of the Hinds County Public Defender as well as Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the State Public Defender, Capital Defense Division. In addition to his experience in the field, Chris has been trained by Gideon's Promise, the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College and the National Criminal Defense Deryl Dantzler Trial Practice Institute as well as having taught at NCDCs Mississippi Trial School and presented numerous times to the Mississippi Public Defenders Association.

Jawara Griffin is the author of "Homeboy" and was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. Currently an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Tennessee, he started his legal career in Massachusetts, as a Public Defender with the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Massachusetts. After leaving the Committee for Public Counsel Services in MA, Jawara accepted a position with Maryland Office of the Public Defender as an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore City. In addition to his work as a criminal defense attorney, Jawara travels the country speaking to various groups and conferences with the purpose of encouraging and motivating others to never give up regardless of their current circumstances. Jawara earned his Juris Doctorate from UMass Dartmouth School of Law, and his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Mansfield University in PA.

Samantha Kuhn is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of Louisiana, primarily working as an appellate attorney representing clients on direct appeal to the Fifth Circuit. She also has a robust district court practice, representing clients from initial appearance through final judgment and in post-conviction proceedings. Before joining the Federal Public Defender's Office, Samantha worked as a patent litigator for law firms in Austin, Texas, and served as a law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Tu M. Pham of the Western District of Tennessee.

Steve Spires is the research and writing attorney for the Federal Public Defender's Office. He is a graduate of LSU Law and clerked for U.S. Fifth Circuit Judges James Dennis and Dana Douglas before joining the Federal Defender's office.