

**The Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Mississippi &
The Forrest County Public Defender Present
Joint State and Federal Public Defense Training Seminar
October 3, 2025
Lake Terrace Convention Center - Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

Program Agenda (Revised 9/17/2025)

8:30 - 9:00 Registration/Check-In/Coffee and Refreshments

9:00 - 9:15 Welcoming Remarks

Omodare Jupiter, Federal Public Defender - Northern and Southern Districts of MS

Candance Rickman, Forrest County Public Defender

The Honorable Mike Parker, United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of MS

9:15 - 9:30 Closing the Gap - Update on the Status of Indigent Representation in Mississippi Between Arrest and Indictment

Andre DeGruy, State Public Defender OSPD

Our State Public Defender will give an update on the progress we have made statewide addressing representation in the “dead zone,” i.e. the period between arrest and indictment.

9:15 - 10:15 Protecting the Client’s Sixth Amendment Right to Confrontation

Justin Cook, Director of Indigent Appeals, OSPD

This presentation will explore current jurisprudence addressing constitutional safeguards designed to protect the accused’s right to confrontation.

10:15 - 10:30 Morning Break

10:30 - 11:45 Jury ~~De~~-Selection

Chris Routh, Law Offices of Chris Routh, Jackson, MS

How do you use *voir dire* questioning to find jurors on the venire who hold values inconsistent with your theory of the case? Chris Routh will lead an interactive session on a method adopted by successful defense attorneys nationwide.

11:45 - 1:00 Lunch and Learn - Collaborative Representation in Concurrent Prosecutions

A panel of state and federal practitioners will lead a group strategy discussion on ways to enhance collaboration between federal and local counsel for clients facing concurrent prosecutions in both jurisdictions.

1:00 - 2:00 Fourth Amendment Search and Seizure Challenges Post *Carpenter*
Omodare Jupiter, Federal Public Defender, Mississippi
In *Carpenter v. United States*, 585 U.S. 296 (2018) The United States Supreme Court found that the government's acquisition of cell-site records that was a Fourth Amendment search due to the highly invasive attributes associated with this level of surveillance technology. In this session, we will revisit the *Carpenter* holding and explore some of the current challenges litigated along the same lines.

2:00 - 3:00 Zealous Advocacy at Bond Hearings and Prelims - Why it Matters
Pam Metzger, Executive Director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center - SMU Dedman School of Law
This presentation will address the crucial importance of exercising your client's right to detention hearings and preliminary hearings. Attorney Metzger will also explore constitutional arguments for release when your client is held for lengthy periods without an indictment.

3:00 Adjournment