



## 2023 Higher-Level Felony Defense Training

September 12-14, 2023 /Chapel Hill, NC

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

### **Tuesday, Sept. 12**

|               |  |
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| 12:45-1:15 pm | Check-in   |
| 1:15-1:30 pm  | <b>Welcome</b>   |
| 1:30-2:30 pm  | <b>Preparing for Serious Felony Cases</b> (60 mins.)<br>Phil Dixon, Teaching Assistant Professor<br>UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC  |
| 2:30-3:30 pm  | <b>Defending Eyewitness Identification Cases</b> (60 mins.)<br>Laura Gibson, Assistant Public Defender<br>Beaufort County Office of the Public Defender, Washington, NC                  |
| 3:30-3:45 pm  | <b>Break</b>   |
| 3:45-4:30 pm  | <b>Storytelling and Visual Aides at Sentencing</b> (45 mins.)<br>Sophorn Avitan and Susan Weigand, Assistant Public Defenders<br>Mecklenburg Co. Public Defender's Office, Charlotte, NC |
| 4:30-5:15 pm  | <b>Self-Defense Update</b> (45 mins.)<br>John Rubin, Professor of Public Law and Government<br>UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC   |
| 5:15 pm       | <b>Adjourn</b>   |



**Wednesday, Sept. 13**

- 9:00-10:00 am      **The Law of Sentencing Serious Felonies** (60 mins.)  
Jamie Markham, Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy  
UNC School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
- 10:00-10:15 am      **Break**
- 10:15-11:00 am      **Mitigation Investigation** (45 mins.)  
Josie Van Dyke, Mitigation Specialist  
Sentencing Solutions, Inc., Knightdale, NC
- 11:00-11:45 am      **Preventing Low Level Felonies from Becoming  
High Level Habitual Felonies** (45 mins.)  
Jason St. Aubin, Assistant Public Defender  
Mecklenburg County Office of the Public Defender, Charlotte, NC
- 11:45-12:45 pm      Lunch (*provided in building*)\*
- 12:45-2:15 pm      **Brainstorming, Preparing, and Presenting a Sentencing Argument** (90 mins.)  
Small Group Workshops
- 2:15-2:30 pm      **Break**
- 2:30-3:30 pm      **Preservation Essentials** (60 mins.)  
Glenn Gerding, Appellate Defender  
Office of the Appellate Defender, Durham, NC
- 3:30-4:30 pm      **Client Rapport** (60 mins. ETHICS)  
Tucker Charns, Regional Defender  
Indigent Defense Services, Durham, NC
- 4:30 pm      **Adjourn**
- 6:00 pm      **Optional Social Gathering**  
TBA



**Thursday, Sept. 22**

- 9:00-10:00 am      **Basics of Batson Challenges** (60 mins.)  
Hannah Autry, Staff Attorney  
Elizabeth Hambourger, Senior Attorney and Public Information Liaison  
Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Durham, NC
- 10:00-10:15 am      **Break**
- 10:15-11:00 am      **Addressing Race and Other Sensitive Topics in Voir Dire** (45 mins.)  
Emily Coward, Director of Inclusive Juries Project  
Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility, Duke Univ., Durham, NC
- 11:00-12:00 pm      **Peremptory and For Cause Challenges** (60 mins.)  
James Davis, Attorney  
Davis and Davis, Salisbury, NC
- 12:00 pm              **Wrap up and Adjourn**

**TOTAL CLE HOURS:** 12.25 (including 1.0 hours of Ethics credit)