

Death Penalty 2026

April 24 | 6.75 CLE hours (inc. 1.0 technology hr.) | Sheraton Chapel Hill | One Europa Drive, Chapel Hill

NCAJ, in conjunction with Indigent Defense Services, the Office of the Capital Defender and Program Chair **Terry Alford**, is proud to present the Death Penalty 2026 seminar.

Join us for a day packed with insights and information criminal defense lawyers need to know when representing someone facing the death penalty. Topics include study of self-defense, forensic and experts update, new law on death penalty, and much more.

Thursday, April 23

Dinner & Presentation (Optional - See registration form for fee information.)

Presentation: Keynote presentation: “**OH NO**” presented by **Candace Hoffman**, LAP Field Coordinator, Raleigh and **Will Graebe**, Claims Counsel, Lawyers Mutual Liability Ins. Co., Cary

- If you practice law long enough, you are bound to make a mistake. Even great lawyers make mistakes. It happens. How one responds can make the difference between whether the incident winds up being a catastrophe or an opportunity. This program examines the factors that contribute to typical psychological reactions, offers alternative strategies to minimize emotional distress, and provides practical guidance when encountering an “Oh, no!” moment. Presented in conjunction with Lawyers Mutual Insurance.
- 6 p.m. Registration/cash bar/ social hour
- 7 p.m. Banquet meal
- 8 p.m. Presentation

Friday, April 24

Speakers & Topics

8:15 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks by Program Chair

- **Terry Alford**, Trial Resource Counsel, Office of the Capital Defender, Durham

8:30 a.m. | Lessons Learned

- **Rob Sharpe**, Capital Defender, Office of the Capital Defender, Durham

9:30 a.m. | New Law on Death Penalty

- **Shelagh Kenney**, Executive Director, Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Durham

10:30 a.m. | BREAK

Empowering a Strong
Community of Trial Lawyers

701 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 450, Raleigh, NC 27607



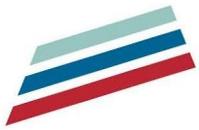
(919) 832-1413



WWW.NCAJ.COM



INFO@NCAJ.COM



NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES *for* JUSTICE

10:45 a.m. | **ACEs and Toxic Stress**

- **Dr. Stephanie Hunter**, Assistant Professor / Undergraduate Program Director of Social Work, University of South Carolina

11:45 a.m. | **Lunch**

12:45 p.m. | **A Study of Self-Defense: From Castle Walls to Street Confrontations**

- **James A. Davis**, Davis & Davis, Attorneys at Law, PC, Salisbury

1:45 p.m. | **Forensic and Experts Update**

- **Sarah Olson**, IDS-Forensic Resource Attorney, Durham

2:30 p.m. | **BREAK**

2:45 p.m. | **Traveling Through Odyssey and Axon**

- **Vicki Jayne**, Assistant Capital Defender, Asheville

3:45 p.m. | **Big Data, Bigger Problems: Cell Tower Tracking and AI in Criminal Court**

- **Jake Green**, Technical Operations Manager, Envista Forensics, Raleigh

Digital evidence now plays a central role in both criminal and civil litigation, yet it is often misunderstood and overstated in the courtroom. This technology CLE program provides trial lawyers with a practical, litigation-focused update on digital forensics in 2025, with emphasis on location evidence, mobile device extractions, and digital over-collection.

Using real-world examples—including the Supreme Court-bound *United States v. Chatrie* case—the program explains how modern investigations frequently rely on broad digital collection followed by later narrowing, raising critical questions about scope, proportionality, and fairness. Attendees will learn how law enforcement tools such as Cellebrite and GrayKey, as well as common civil discovery practices, can collect far more data than authorized, and how digital forensics can help identify and challenge those issues.

The session equips trial lawyers with practical strategies to use, test, and challenge digital evidence more effectively.

4:45 p.m. | **ADJOURN**