2026 FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE PRACTICE SEMINAR
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
Raleigh, NC

AGENDA

Thursday, November 19, 2026

PLEASE CHECK IN BEFORE TAKING A SEAT

8:30 **WELCOME AND FPD REMARKS AND UPDATES**
Alan DuBois, *Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC*

8:30-9:30 **EVOUCHER UPDATE**
Emily Meyers Munn, Esquire, CJA Case Budgeting Attorney, US Courts of the Fourth Circuit, Richmond VA
An overview of the current budget outlook; obtaining service providers for criminal cases, case budgeting for capital and non-capital cases, effective billing practices for federal court.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

9:30-9:45 ***BREAK***

9:45-11:30 **US PROBATION OFFICE - EDNC**
Steven Biard, United States Probation Officer
Malcolm "Lee" Holmes, United States Probation Officer
Melissa Lunsmann, Supervisory United States Probation Officer
Aleda M. Thomas, Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer
Bethany J. Nguyen, Senior United States Probation Officer
Julie W. Rosa, Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer
Tanya Wiggins, United States Probation Officer
Our two units will provide an overview of the practices and policies governing the federal probation office, offering stakeholders a clear understanding of how the office operates and the standards it upholds. It will also address frequently raised questions and concerns from stakeholders, ensuring transparency and fostering informed dialogue between the probation office and defense counsel.
(1.75 General Credit Hour)

11:30-1:00 ***LUNCH BREAK – ON YOUR OWN***

1:00-2:00 **A VIEW FROM THE BENCH**
The Honorable United States District Judge Terrence W. Boyle
Kat Shea Dowling, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
Halerie Costello, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
Jackie Tarlton, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
Q&A session with Judge Boyle moderated by Kat Dowling, Jackie Tarlton and Halerie Costello.
(1.0 General CLE)

2:00-2:45 **GETTING HELP WHILE GIVING BACK**
Vidalia Patterson, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
Presentation on how to start and successfully utilize a law student intern program.
(.75 General Credit Hour)

2:45-3:00 ***BREAK***

3:00-5:00 **AI IN YOUR LAW PRACTICE: ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS PRACTICE TOOLS, AND WHAT CAN GET YOU SANCTIONED**
Keith D. Smith, Director of Information Technologies, Greene Wilson Styron & Thomas, New Bern NC
This presentation moves beyond basic software demonstrations to explore how federal public defenders can securely and ethically integrate Artificial Intelligence into their daily practice. The session will cover practical use cases for AI in the defense context, such as accelerating the review of voluminous discovery, analyzing transcripts, drafting routine correspondence, and organizing case files. Crucially, it will address the specific security, confidentiality, and ethical considerations attorneys must navigate when using these tools. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of not just how AI applications work, but when and where to deploy them effectively in their day-to-day casework.
(1.0 Ethics Credit Hours & 1.0 Technology Credit Hours)

Friday, November 20, 2026

PLEASE CHECK IN FOR DAY TWO SESSION

8:30 **WELCOME AND PANEL UPDATES**
Kelly Dagger, CJA Panel Representative, Ellis and Winters, Raleigh, NC

8:45-9:45 **2026 SENTENCING GUIDELINE AMENDMENTS**
Kat Shea Dowling, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
Halerie Costello, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina
This presentation will focus on the upcoming Sentencing Guidelines amendments and fentanyl-analogue cases.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

9:45-10:00 ***BREAK***

10:00-11:00 **4CCA UPDATES**
Jonathan Byrne, Appellate Counsel, Southern District of West Virginia
Ann Hester, Appellate Counsel, Western District of North Carolina
The Fourth Circuit update highlights relevant appellate criminal law decisions published between October 2025 and November 2026, with guidance to practitioners as to how these decisions may be used to benefit clients.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

11:00-11:30 **MEET THE US ATTORNEY W. ELLIS BOYLE**
W. Ellis Boyle, US Attorney, Eastern District of North Carolina
What to expect from the new US Attorney.
(.5 General Credit Hour)

11:30-1:00 ***LUNCH BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)***

1:00-3:00 **SIXTEEN ETHICAL SCENARIOS RELATED TO THE REPRESENTATION OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Eric Brignac, Chief Appellate Attorney, Eastern District of North Carolina

This proposed CLE presentation addresses ethical issues that may arise in the representation of federal criminal defendants in North Carolina. The answers come directly from Formal Ethics Opinions and the Rules of Professional Responsibility. The presentation creates hypothetical scenarios and asks the participants to anonymously vote (via Mentimeter or some other app) before showing and explaining the answer. This format will keep people engaged while allowing them to learn the answers directly from the Formal Ethics Opinions.
(2.0 Ethics Credit Hour)

3:00-3:15 ***BREAK***

3:15-4:15 **SUPREME COURT UPDATE**

Ashley Robertson, Director, Federal Defender Supreme Court Project
Stacie Fahsel, Senior Counsel, Federal Defender Supreme Court Project

The presentation will introduce the Supreme Court Project, a new institutional resource devoted to improving the representation of indigent defendants before the Supreme Court. The presentation will also discuss current trends in the Supreme Court and identify emerging issues that might attract the Court's attention in the coming years.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

4:15 **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURN**

Alan DuBois, *Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC*

****10.0 General CLE hours (including Technology) and 2.0 Ethics CLE Hours****