



PUBLIC DEFENDERS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY

EDUCATION & TRAINING COURSE CATALOGUE



TRAINING VALUES & GOALS

The Mission of the DPA is to provide high quality, client-centered legal representation to indigent persons of all ages, accused of crimes or facing a deprivation of liberty throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Our fulfillment of this mission is essential to the defense and protection of fundamental constitutional rights and the preservation of a fair and just criminal justice system.

As we fulfill this mission, we seek to address our clients' needs through a holistic representation model. We passionately advocate for alternatives to costly incarceration and provide access to services, which assist the people we represent as well as the community as a whole.

We fiercely represent clients at all stages of the proceedings, including vigorous pretrial and trial advocacy. We fight against unjust systems through systemic litigation of issues around bail, suppression, mental health, and forensics.

Defenders of all job types are supported through training and education throughout their career. Newly hired Public Defender lawyers are offered over 4 weeks of hands-on, skills-based training in their first year of practice. Education is offered annually through specialty workshops and a yearly annual conference focused on public defense focused learning.



OUR VALUES



CLIENTS

UNYIELDING
COMMITMENT TO
CLIENTS BY PASSIONATELY
REPRESENTING THEM FROM
ARREST THROUGH POST-
CONVICTION



QUALITY

EXPECTING THAT
EVERYTHING WE DO
WILL BE OF THE HIGHEST
QUALITY



INTEGRITY

TREATING OUR CLIENTS,
EACH OTHER, AND OUR
PROFESSION WITH
INTEGRITY BY WORD AND
DEED



LIBERTY

SERVING WITH PASSION
AND DEDICATION BY
PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL
FREEDOMS



EDUCATION OVERVIEW

ORIENTATION

First Day on the Job: Agency Orientation (1 day)

Orientation to DPA (1 day)

ATTORNEY: FIRST YEAR

District Court Newly Hired Attorney Training (5 days)

Juvenile Court Newly Hired Attorney Training (5 days)

Circuit Court Newly Hired Attorney Training (5 days)

Voir Dire Workshop (3 days)

Litigation Practice Skills (6 days)

ATTORNEY: BEYOND FIRST YEAR

Forensics Workshop (5 days)

Suppression Workshop (3 days)

Bond Advocacy Workshop (3 days)

Mental Health Workshop (3 days)

SPECIALTY EDUCATION: ALL STAFF

Capital Defense Institute (5 days)

Capital Voir Dire (1-3 days)

Capital Regional Summit (3 days)

Post Conviction Institute (5 days)

Appeals Institute (5 days)

Juvenile Summit (1 day)

Advanced Criminal Defense Investigation Institute (5 days)

DPA Annual Conference (2-3 days)



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Client Centered Leadership (5 days)

Newly Hired Supervisor Training (12 days/year)

Crucial Conversations Workshop (4 days)

Quarterly Leadership (4 days/year)

Train the Trainer: Small Group Coaching (3 days)

Train the Trainer: Presentation Development (3 days)

POSITION SPECIFIC TRAINING

New Investigator Training (10 days)

Alternative Sentencing Worker Orientation (5 days)

Alternative Sentencing Worker Conference (4 days)

Admin & Related Staff Training (5 days, every other year)



DISTRICT COURT

Newly hired public defender attorneys start their training experience with District Court Newly Hired Training, an interactive learning experience. This is an introductory course in client representation that assumes no prior knowledge of Kentucky law or procedures. Topics include:

- Role of the public defender
- Legal basics
- Client Interviewing & Decision Making
- Negotiation
- Preliminary Hearings
- Arguing for bail and pretrial release

Throughout the training, participants will represent mock clients while "calling the docket." This allows participants to get on their feet and practice making bond and other arguments before the trainer-judge. Breakout workshops with experienced coaches allow for additional experiential learning.

LITIGATION PRACTICE INSTITUTE (FAUBUSH)

The DPA Litigation Practice Institute, more widely known as "Faubush," is a nationally recognized week-long immersive litigation skills program. Participants spend a week at Lake Cumberland working through a mock trial from start to finish. Each trial skill is presented in lecture format and followed by interactive workshop. Faubush focused on technical trial skills to allow for strong advocacy in trial.

Topics covered in both lecture and interactive workshop include:

- Storytelling and Client Centered Advocacy
- Opening Statements
- Cross and Direct Examination
- Impeachment
- Closing Arguments

Defenders will leave Faubush ready for their first trial. DPA encourages experienced defenders to return to Faubush later in their career for the Bring-Your-Own-Case track.



CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit Court training offers a more advanced learning offering focused on felony practice. Participants will receive an in-depth look at:

- Kentucky suppression law
- Discovery practice
- Common objections and issues that arise in trial
- Mental health defenses
- Locating & acquiring expert witnesses
- Sentencing Law

This training is guided by small group workshops where participants apply learned concepts. Defenders will leave with sample motions they can use in their circuit court practice.

DEFENDING CHILDREN

Defending children is one of the most complex areas in the criminal legal system. The DPA recognizes this complexity and offers a full week of training focused on defending children in both status and public offense cases. Topics discussed include:

- Adolescent Brain Development
- Communicating effectively with child clients & how to best help them in decision making
- Adjudication Hearings
- Transfer Hearings
- Contempt Hearings

Participants will have several opportunities to practice learned skills and apply Kentucky law to the case problem. Participants will use the Defending Children Manual through the week as they go through all the phases of a typical case in Kentucky juvenile court.

VOIR DIRE WORKSHOP

During this 3-day workshop, defenders will learn about the essential function of voir dire and how to use voir dire to select a jury that can find non-guilt under our theory of defense. Topics include:

- Challenges for Cause
- Creating Chapters in Voir Dire
- Structuring a Voir Dire Question
- Voir Dire in Complex Cases

Defenders will draft their own questions and chapters during this training, and then practice voir dire questions on both actors and community member jurors.

