



## FEDERAL CJA TRIAL SKILLS ACADEMY (TSA) DEFENDER SERVICES OFFICE TRAINING DIVISION

August 4-9, 2024  
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
333 West Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

### Final Agenda

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#### Saturday, August 3, 2024

**8:30 p.m. Pre-TSA Social Gathering (optional): Julep Bar & Lobby**

A chance to mingle, meet fellow attendees, make new connections, reconnect with old friends, and set the tone for our exciting week together at TSA!

#### Sunday, August 4, 2024

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Welcome to Milwaukee and Trial Skills Academy (Plenary) –**

**Regency Ballroom A&B**

*Akin Adepoju, Chief, Defender Services Training Content Branch, Washington, DC*

*Craig Albee, Executive Director, Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI*

**11:15 a.m. – Fact-busting (Plenary) (Use of TSA Model Case) –**

**12:15 p.m. Regency Ballroom A&B**

*Juval O. Scott, Director, National Sentencing Resource Counsel, Charlottesville, VA*

This presentation explores the essential components of effective fact-busting, while involving active participation from all attendees to dissect the facts of the model case.

**12:15 – 12:30 p.m. Demo: Fact-busting – Regency Ballroom A&B**

*Dennis Candelaria, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

**12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch (on your own)**

- 1:45 – 5:30 p.m.**      **Fact-busting (Small Group Breakout 1)**
- In this breakout session, participants bust the facts of their own cases in small groups.
- 5:30 p.m.**              **Adjourn for the Day**
- 6:00 p.m.**              **Social Gathering (optional): Julep Bar & Lobby**
- A second opportunity to mingle, meet fellow attendees and faculty, make new connections, reconnect with old friends, and set the tone for TSA!

## **Monday, August 5, 2024**

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**      **Check-in & Continental Breakfast – Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**      **Using Theory and Themes to Tell Your Client’s Story (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Kasha Castillo, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*
- Having a theory of the case and supporting themes allows one to effectively organize a case and tell a persuasive defense story. This session will define theory and theme and present the elements of effective, persuasive storytelling. It addresses how to develop theories and themes and weave them into a defense story.
- Factual stories move us emotionally – and have for centuries. They capture and draw us in. Juries and judges can better empathize and sympathize with our clients, and agree with our advocacy, when a compelling argument is made with storytelling. This session will also discuss the elements and techniques of persuasive storytelling and explain how to integrate your client’s story into your legal theory and in every aspect of your trial presentation.
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**      **Demo: Theory and Themes – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Chandra Peterson, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon, Portland, OR*
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**      **Using Theory and Themes to Tell Your Client’s Story (Small Group Breakout 2)**
- In this breakout session, participants engage in hands-on exercises to develop theories, themes, and storytelling elements for their cases. By the end of the session, each participant will craft a clearly articulated theory of their case, presented as a captivating hook, headline, or concise paragraph.
- 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**      **Lunch (on your own)**

**1:15 – 3:45 p.m. Using Theory and Themes to Tell Your Client’s Story (Small Group Breakout 3)**

During this ongoing breakout session, participants continue to practice the development of theories, themes, and storytelling elements. At its conclusion, each participant should have a clearly articulated theory of the case in the form of a hook, headline, or short paragraph.

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Break – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Jury Selection (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Fernando Freyre, *Criminal Defense Lawyer, Denver, CO*

Jury selection is a critical aspect of jury trial. This session concentrates on the objectives of jury selection, such as advancing the theory of the case, as well as strategies for questioning prospective jurors and techniques for gathering information from them.

**5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the Day**

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Check-in & Continental Breakfast – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Jury Selection (Small Group Breakout 4)**

During this breakout session, participants will practice *voir dire* and receive valuable constructive feedback.

**11:30 a.m. –  
12:45 p.m. Lunch (on your own)**

**12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Opening Statements (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Kia Sears, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI*

Opening statement is the first opportunity to tell the jury what our case is all about. It is a critical part of the trial. This session focuses on the goals of, and preparation for, an opening statement, how jurors perceive opening statements, and the nuts & bolts of how to construct an opening statement that advances the theory of the case and defense story.

**1:45 – 2:00 p.m. Break – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Opening Statements (Small Group Breakout 5)**

During this breakout session, participants prepare and deliver opening statements, followed by receipt of constructive feedback. Participants will

refine their opening statements based on the feedback received and deliver revised versions.

**5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the Day**

## **Wednesday, August 7, 2024**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Check-in & Continental Breakfast – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Cross-Examination (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Francisco (“Frank”) Morales, *Senior Litigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi, TX*

This session covers the goals of, and preparation for, cross-examination. Participants will learn effective cross-examination techniques, how to impeach a witness properly and effectively, and how to advance the theory of the case and defense story using cross-examination, including demonstrations of proper techniques.

**9:30 – 9:45 a.m. Coffee & Tea Break – Regency Ballroom Foyer**

**9:45 – 10:15 a.m. Impeachment (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Kevin Tate, *Litigation Resource Counsel, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV*

This session concentrates on using proper and effective techniques for impeaching a witness.

**10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Demos: Prosecution Direct and Defense Cross (with impeachment) – Regency Ballroom A&B**

**For the Prosecution:** Craig Albee, *Executive Director, Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI*

**For the Defense:** Michael Carter, *Executive Director, Federal Community Defender of the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, MI*

**10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Cross-Examination, Impeachment, and Additional Evidentiary Issues (Small Group Breakout 6)**

During this breakout session, participants will practice cross-examination, witness impeachment, and the appropriate procedures for using and admitting evidence. They will receive constructive feedback to refine their techniques.

**12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)**

- 12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Demonstrative Evidence and Aids (Optional Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Kasha Castillo, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*
- Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand words. This session addresses the elements of the effective use of audio-visual aids in litigation.
- 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Cross-Examination, Impeachment, and Additional Evidentiary Issues (Small Group Breakout 7)**
- In this ongoing breakout session, participants continue practicing cross-examination, witness impeachment, and the appropriate procedures for using and admitting evidence.
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn for the Day**

### Thursday, August 8, 2024

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Check-in & Continental Breakfast – Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Direct Examination / Witness Prep (Plenary) – Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Sara Peloquin, *Senior Trial Attorney, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*
- Direct examination provides another opportunity to advance the theory of the case and defense story. This session addresses techniques for preparing the witness, such as explaining the courtroom scene and basic law, appearance and communication, practicing direct and cross, and preparing for obvious questions. It will also cover how to persuasively present their testimony in the courtroom, including the use of chapters, detailed facts, keeping the focus on the witness, and effective organization and transitions.
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Demos: Direct Examination of Defense Witness, Prosecution Cross, Defense Redirect – Regency Ballroom A&B**
- For the Defense:** Alejandro Fernandez, *Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Program, Inc. for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, GA*
- For the Prosecution:** K. Anthony Thomas, *Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey, Newark, NJ*
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Coffee & Tea Break – Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Direct Examination / Witness Prep (Small Group Breakout 8)**
- During this breakout session, participants will hone their skills in conducting direct examinations, focusing on techniques such as clear questioning, effective storytelling, and building rapport with witnesses. Constructive feedback will be provided to help refine their approach and enhance their performance.

- 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.** Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.** Direct Examination / Witness Prep (Small Group Breakout 9)
- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m.** Break – **Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Closing Arguments (Plenary) – **Regency Ballroom A&B**  
Byron Conway, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of the Middle District of Georgia, Inc., Macon, GA*
- Closing arguments are the last opportunity to communicate directly with the jury. This session covers techniques that can be used to effectively communicate the theory of the case and defense story in closing argument and persuade the jury to accept your theory of innocence.
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Closing Arguments (Small Group Breakout 10)
- During this breakout session, participants will collaborate with faculty to craft closing arguments tailored to their own cases, which they will then deliver in their small groups.
- 5:00 p.m.** Adjourn for the Day

### Friday, August 9, 2024

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.** Check-in & Continental Breakfast – **Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.** Closing Arguments (Small Group Breakout 11)
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.** Coffee & Tea Break – **Regency Ballroom Foyer**
- 11:15 a.m.** Closing Argument Demonstration – **Regency Ballroom A&B**  
– **12:15 p.m.**
- For the Prosecution:** Kia Sears, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI*
- For the Defense:** Byron Conway, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of the Middle District of Georgia, Inc., Macon, GA*
- 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.** Jury Deliberations Observation – **Regency Ballroom A&B**
- Participants will have the unique opportunity to observe jury deliberations following the closing arguments through closed circuit TV.
- 1:15 – 1:30 p.m.** Closing Remarks – **Regency Ballroom A&B**

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**Trial Skills Academy Faculty**

Akin Adepoju, *Chief, Defender Services Training Content Branch, Washington, DC*

Craig Albee, *Executive Director, Federal Defender Services of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI*

Tara I. Allen, *Incoming Federal Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, Providence, RI*

Dennis Candelaria, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

Michael Carter, *Executive Director, Federal Community Defender of the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, MI*

Kasha Castillo, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*

Mireille Clough, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of North Carolina, Winston Salem, NC*

Byron Conway, *Executive Director, Federal Defenders of the Middle District of Georgia, Inc., Macon, GA*

Craig Crawford, *Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office Training Division, Washington, DC*

Alejandro Fernandez, *Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Program, Inc. for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, GA*

Fernando Freyre, *Criminal Defense Lawyer, Denver, CO*

Tracy Hayes, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut, New Haven, CT*

Michael Kennedy, *Law Office of Michael Jerome Kennedy, PLLC, Reno, NV*

Desiree Lassiter, *Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office Training Division, Washington, DC*

Nicole Lybrand, *Trial Unit Chief, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC*

Francisco ("Frank") Morales, *Senior Litigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi, TX*

Sara Peloquin, *Senior Trial Attorney, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*

Chandra Peterson, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon, Portland, OR*

Juval O. Scott, *Director, National Sentencing Resource Counsel, Charlottesville, VA*

*Kia Sears, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI*

*Fredilyn Sison, CJA Panel Attorney, Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, NC*

*Daniel Stiller, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office Program Operations Division, Milwaukee, WI*

*Kevin Tate, Litigation Resource Counsel, Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV*

*K. Anthony Thomas, Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey, Newark, NJ*