



September News Alert

Dear Panel Members,

This month's content includes:

- 2026 Defender Reception
- MCLE opportunities
- ADI website updates

Please join us in a new format to celebrate the San Diego Indigent Criminal Defense Community

This year's reception will be held on the Westin 4th Floor Patio, with drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres served throughout the evening in a relaxed mix-and-mingle setting celebrating this year's award recipients and the indigent defense community. We will not have a keynote speaker or sit down dinner.

**The Board of Directors of Appellate Defenders, Inc.
The Board of Directors of Federal Defenders, Inc. present**

With Appreciation to Our Event Sponsors

McKenzie Scott; Rosing, Pott, & Strohhahn;
Singleton Schreiber; Boyce & Schaefer; Domenic Lombardo;
Ezekiel Cortez; Fox Law

2026 DEFENDER RECEPTION Honoring Excellence in Indigent Defense

Please join us for our annual event to bring together the entire San Diego criminal defense community.

Friday, October 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter
910 Broadway Circle, 4th Floor Patio

Presentation

Conant-Cleary Award for exceptional and unselfish devotion to protecting the rights of the indigent accused, honoring:

Michelle Betancourt

Paul Bell Award for significant appellate achievement, honoring:

Carl Fabian

Special Award Presentation

Federal Defenders 2241 Habeas Team

TICKET PRICE \$45 includes one drink. Click the link below for more information.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 11, 2026.

RSVP

MCLE Opportunities

Mental Health Diversion in Transition - Case Law, AB46, and Strategies for 2027

September 18th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. | Live Virtual Webinar

Presenter: Maria Martino, Deputy Public Defender, Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office

Host: CACJ

Mental health diversion in California continues to evolve, with new case law, changing local practices, and significant statutory changes on the horizon. Join CACJ for an interactive discussion with Maria Martino, Deputy Public Defender with the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office, as we examine where mental health diversion stands today and where it is headed.

Presented in an interview format, this practical and conversational program will explore:

- How mental health diversion is being implemented across California counties
- Recent case law developments
- The impact of AB 46
- Strategies for preparing cases as the new law takes effect in 2027

Attendees will also have the opportunity to submit questions throughout the program, helping shape the discussion around the real-world challenges facing criminal defense practitioners.

Registration

The Practical and Ethical Use of AI in Appellate Practice

October 5th from 12 to 1:00 p.m. | Remote

Hosted by ADI

Presented by: USF School of Law legal writing professors Nicole Phillips and Megan Hutchinson

This program provides attorneys with a practical introduction to the responsible use of generative AI in legal practice. The program examines lawyers' ethical and professional competency obligations, explains key AI concepts, and discusses the integration of AI into legal education and legal practice. The program also addresses AI-assisted research, drafting, case preparation, and productivity tools while learning best practices for supervising and verifying AI-generated work.

1.0 hour of Technology MCLE credit.

Registration

FDAP's Annual Seminar

October 23rd from 9:00 to 3:15 p.m. | In-person

Location: Oakland Endowment Center

Host: FDAP

Join FDAP on October 23rd to earn MCLE credit, meet with your colleagues in person, hear from some great speakers, and connect with the appellate indigent representation community.

This year's seminar will have criminal and dependency breakout sessions and two joint sessions:

Criminal Breakout Sessions

- Recent Legal Developments in Criminal, Juvenile, and Civil Commitment Law
- Keeping Up With the Confrontation Clause
- Miranda at 60: A Fresh Look at Challenging Confessions

Dependency Breakout Sessions

- How to Mine Case Law to Bolster Your Dependency Practice
- Addressing Implicit Bias in Juvenile Dependency Cases
- The Foundation Crumbles: Challenging Jurisdiction on Appeal Joint Sessions
- Brief Writing Tips: Exposition, Clarity, and Persuasion
- Being Understood: The Ethics of Client Communication in Appellate Practice

Approximately 5.50 hours of MCLE credit, including appellate and criminal specialization, will be provided. If you have any questions, contact mcle@fdap.org.

Please note the training will not be recorded or live streamed.

Coffee, tea, and muffins will be provided in the morning and a boxed lunch (with vegan and vegetarian options) will be provided in the afternoon.

Registration

ADI Website

General Appellate Practice Articles

- Reversal and Remand (2026)

General Appellate
Practice



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