



EMPOWERING PUBLIC DEFENSE: STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

A Washington State Office of Public Defense Training co-sponsored by the Whatcom County Public Defense

Friday, May 16th, 2025 | 9:30AM – 4:00PM

Location: WECU Bellingham Education Center
511 E Holly St, Bellingham, WA 98225

9:30 AM | Opening Remarks

Angela Colaiuta & Travis Stearns

10:00 AM | Ethical Advocacy: A Trauma-Informed Approach

Jacob Schmitt, [Just Us Solutions](#)

- Understand trauma's impact on clients.
- Practice ethical, trauma-sensitive communication.

11:00 AM | Coffee & Networking Break

11:15 AM | Mitigation Matters: Leveraging Specialists for Better Outcomes

Julie Armijo, M.S. Forensic Psychology, [Lotus Mitigation](#)

- Identify key mitigation evidence.
- Craft compelling client narratives.
- Influence sentencing outcomes effectively.

12:15 PM | Lunch Break

1:30 PM | Building Bridges: A Community-Centered Defense

Angela Colaiuta, Travis Stearns & Christopher Swaby

- Connect with local service providers.
- Explore resources for mental health, housing, and legal aid.
- Build partnerships to improve case outcomes.

3:30 PM | Closing Reflections

Angela Colaiuta & Travis Stearns

This regional training will take place later in other parts of the state.



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OR

<https://tinyurl.com/WhatcomDefenseTraining>

Free Training!

1 Ethics Credit
1 Law & Legal Credits
2 "Other" Credits
(pending)

Develop
Strategies to
Improve Case
Outcomes!

QUESTIONS?

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