WEBINAR AGENDA

In Her Defense, Session One:
What She Said: Gender Dynamics In Client Communication

a. **Date:** May 20, 2026

b. **Duration**: 60 minutes @ 1:00-2:00 PM EST

c. **CLE**: NO CLE

d. **Title: What She Said: Gender Dynamics In Client Communication**

e. **Description:**

Women clients often have complex histories of trauma and abuse, normally at the hands of people in positions of authority or power. The criminal legal system is overflowing with people who have more authority than your woman client, including you—her advocate. It is important to understand how your client's trauma responses and programed responses to authority can affect a client's communication at all stages of a criminal case from Miranda waiver, to consent to search, to decision to fight or plead, and to the attorney-client relationship.

This session is the second of three webinars addressing issues that are specific to representing female clients. We will be discussing how to see your case through your female client's perspective to enhance your representation of them, and to advocate their perspective when you tell their story.

f. **Materials:** PowerPoint

g. Presenter: Professor Sarah Gerwig, Professor of Law, Mercer University School of Law

Professor Sarah Gerwig-Moore teaches Criminal Law, Law & Literature, and clinical courses at Mercer Law School. In 2013, she received the AALS *Shanara Gilbert Emerging Clinician Award* for work in developing and teaching the Habeas Project, a clinic providing pro bono appellate and habeas representation in pro se cases pending before the Supreme Court of Georgia. A former public defender, she is a graduate of Emory Law School and Candler School of Theology. Her textbook, *What Brings You Here Today? An Introduction to Client Counseling*, was published in Spring 2020. Sarah lives in Macon, Georgia with her sons and rescue pets.