LAW AND TECHNOLOGY SERIES:
ELECTRONIC COURTROOM PRESENTATION WORKSHOP

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS
DEFENDER SERVICES OFFICE, TRAINING DIVISION

Hyatt Regency Seattle
808 Howell Street
Seattle, WA 98101
DECEMBER 3-5, 2026

Draft Agenda

Thursday, December 3, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration - 5th Floor Foyer**

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks - Elwha Ballroom B, 5th Floor**

Corey Endo, Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Western District of Washington, WA
Michael Oppenheimer, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Washington, DC

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION: The Power of Electronic Courtroom Technology**

Michael Oppenheimer, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Washington, DC

Most of us have seen computer-based presentation systems in the courtroom that were used to display evidence such as documents, photographs, graphics, transcripts, or video. This session will demonstrate the compelling power of trial presentation software in a federal criminal trial. The session will also present an overview of the techniques that the participants will learn during the workshop.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Break - 5th Floor Foyer**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. WORKSHOP SESSION: **Computer Software Download and Case Material Preparation – Workshop rooms will be on the 5th Floor, and group assignments will be available at the registration desk after the first plenary session.**

Kalei Achiu, Paralegal, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Northern District of California, Oakland, CA

Carl Adams, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Des Moines, IA

Derek Ametam, Computer Systems Administrator, National Litigation Support, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Oakland, CA

Russell M. Aoki, Attorney, Aoki Law PLLC, Seattle, WA

Sowmya Bharathi, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL

Sean Broderick, National Litigation Support Administrator, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Oakland, CA

Brian Brunelle, Assistant National Litigation Support Administrator, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Hartford, CT

Angela Campbell, Attorney, Dickey, Campbell & Sahag, Des Moines, IA

Jose M. Colon, Computer Systems Administrator, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR

Tisha Davis, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Pittsburgh, PA

Josh Ellen, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Charlotte, NC

John C. Ellis, Jr., Attorney, Law Office of John C. Ellis, Jr., San Diego, CA

Karen Grinstead, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Raleigh, NC

Emma Hernandez, Litigation Support Paralegal, Los Angeles, CA

Bruce Johnson, Chief Investigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Alaska, Anchorage, AK

Jessica Johnson, Chief Investigator, Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc., Knoxville, TN

Jackie Martinez, Paralegal, Law Office of John C. Ellis, Jr., San Diego, CA

Jen McCann, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Spokane, WA

Michael Oppenheimer, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Washington, DC

Sara Peloquin, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, San Deigo, CA

Alicia Penn, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Shelli Peterson, First Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Columbia, Washington, DC

Isham Reavis, Attorney, Aoki Law PLLC, Seattle, WA

Alex Roberts, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Oakland, CA

Kelly Scribner, Legal Research and Writing Attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
Ben Sharp, Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, Inc., Knoxville, TN
Michael Shewmake, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Las Vegas, NV
Joe Wanzala, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Dallas, TX
Melinda Yamaga, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI

Participants will break into small groups and be provided guidance to ensure that Trial Director and PowerPoint are properly loaded onto a laptop and brainstorm the mock case materials for use throughout the remainder of the program. Participants will also introduce to their group the case they brought and the materials they will use in the Friday and Saturday PowerPoint sessions.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION: Hands-on Trial Director Training for the Courtroom – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor

Participants will use their computers to do hands-on structured exercises using Trial Director. These exercises will involve presentation of imaged documents, isolation of visual evidence (such as using the call- out function, zoom in on a portion of a document and mark-up or highlight portions of a document), side-by-side comparison of two documents, and playing video. Participants will create a new case and add new documents to the case, create workbooks and save screenshots for use later in the case.

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION: Hands-on Trial Director Training for the Courtroom (continued) – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Break - 5th Floor Foyer

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION: Hands-on Trial Director Training for the Courtroom (continued) – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Break - 5th Floor Foyer

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Seeing Isn't Believing: Authenticating Digital Evidence in the Age of AI - Elwha Ballroom B**

John C. Ellis, Jr., Attorney, Law Office of John C. Ellis, Jr., San Diego, CA

Text messages, social media posts, emails, photographs, spreadsheets, web pages, body-camera footage, and surveillance video are now commonplace in criminal cases. But just because evidence appears on a screen does not mean it belongs in front of a jury. This session examines four recurring evidentiary challenges — relevance, authentication, hearsay, and the best evidence rule — and offers practical strategies for admitting, challenging, and limiting digital evidence. It also tackles the growing challenge of generative AI: how to evaluate claims that evidence has been fabricated or altered, how to distinguish genuine concerns from speculation, and how courts are adapting to a world where seeing is no longer necessarily believing.

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

Friday, December 4, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration - 5th Floor Foyer**

8:30 – 12:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Cross and Direct Examination – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor**

Participants will conduct cross and direct examinations of witnesses from a mock case. During the session, each participant will have the opportunity to play two roles. The first role is that of an attorney conducting a witness examination with the assistance of a computer operator. The attorney will direct the computer operator on how to manipulate the case materials in Trial Director to accompany the witness examination. The second role is that of the computer operator of the Trial Director program. The computer operator will operate the Trial Director program during another participant's exam. After getting feedback from the group, attendees will redo a portion of the examination (time permitting).

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15 – 2:15 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Visual Persuasion: Swaying Juries and Judges Employing PowerPoint - Elwha Ballroom B**

Sean Broderick, National Litigation Support Administrator, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Oakland, CA
Sara Peloquin, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, San Diego, CA

This session will cover the effective use of PowerPoint as a persuasive tool in the courtroom, for attorneys who will build their own presentations and the staff who support them. Participants will see creative uses of PowerPoint for hearings, direct examination, opening statements and closing arguments. Using relevant case examples, the session will address how jurors process and retain information, why a presentation should be built around the theory of the case, how to design visual rather than text-heavy slides, and what to avoid. Participants will apply these techniques in the workshop session that follows.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Break - 5th Floor Foyer**

2:30 – 5:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Creating PowerPoint Slide Shows for the Courtroom – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor**

Participants will create a PowerPoint slide show for a courtroom presentation based on their case materials and their theory of the case, practicing how to design slides using text, graphics, clipart, and animation. Faculty will be available throughout the session to brainstorm and assist.

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

Saturday, December 5, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration - 5th Floor Foyer**

8:30 – 11:00 a.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Opening Statement and Closing Argument – Workshop Rooms, 5th Floor**

Participants will finish and present to their small group their closing argument, opening statement, or evidentiary hearing presentation, which includes a PowerPoint slide show based on their case materials and theory of the case. Faculty will be available to provide feedback and assistance.

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. **Break - 5th Floor Foyer**

11:15 – 12:15 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Demonstrations of the Use of Courtroom Technology from Each Small Group - Elwha Ballroom B**

A participant from each small group will demonstrate a segment of their cross or direct examination, closing argument, opening statement or evidentiary hearing presentation using presentation software as a tool to persuade.

12:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks/Adjournment - Elwha Ballroom B**

Michael Oppenheimer, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Washington, DC