LAW AND TECHNOLOGY SERIES:
ELECTRONIC COURTROOM PRESENTATION WORKSHOP

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

Seattle, Washington
DECEMBER 3-5, 2026

Draft Agenda

Thursday, December 3, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**

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**

10:00 –11:00 a.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Computer Software Download and Case Material Preparation – Workshop room and group assignments will be available at the registration desk.**

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
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
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, Washington, DC
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
Ned Smock, Assistant Federal Defender, Office of the Federal Public

Defender, Northern District of California, San Francisco, CA
Joe Wanzala, National Litigation Support Paralegal, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Dallas, TX

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.

11:00 –12:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Hands-on Trial Director Training for the Courtroom**

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)**

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Hands-on Trial Director Training for the Courtroom (continued)**

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Break**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION: Best Practices for Authentication and Admissibility of Digital Evidence**

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

Digital evidence is routinely offered at trial - from social media, photographs, emails, spreadsheets, evidence from websites, body cam and web cam videos, to business documents, almost all information now is in digital form. This session will discuss best practices for getting digital evidence authenticated and admitted, including a focus on two new amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence – Rules

902(13) and (14), that were intended to make it easier to authenticate electronic evidence for use in court.

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

Friday, December 4, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 – 12:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION**: **Cross and Direct Examination**

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**

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

This session will cover the effective use of PowerPoint as a persuasive tool in the courtroom. Participants will see creative uses of PowerPoint for hearings, direct examination, opening statements and closing arguments. A discussion of why attorneys should use PowerPoint and other audio/video tools, what they should avoid, and how to prepare their presentations to make them more effective will be demonstrated through relevant case examples.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Break**

2:30 – 5:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Creating PowerPoint Slide Shows for the Courtroom**

Participants will create a PowerPoint slide show, practicing how to design slides, using text, graphics, clipart, and animation that will be part of a slide show for a mock courtroom presentation. Attendees can create slide decks based on materials from the mock case or prepare them based on materials from their own cases.

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

Saturday, December 5, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 – 11:00 a.m. **WORKSHOP SESSION: Opening Statement and Closing Argument**

Participants will finish and present to their small group their opening statement or closing argument for their own case, which includes a PowerPoint slide show.

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. **Break**

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

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

12:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

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