

2025 OACDL Death Penalty Defense Seminar
November 20 & 21, 2025
Quest Conference Center, Westerville, OH

AGENDA

Thursday, November 20

8:00 - 8:30 am Registration

**8:30 – 9:00 am Introduction - Recent Developments in Death Penalty
(30 APP) Litigation, Legislation**

Speakers: David Stebbins – Columbus

**9:00 – 10:30 am Drug Induced Psychosis as a Defense; NGRI; and
(90) Mitigation**

**Speakers: Robert Powers, Ph.D. – Forensic Toxicologist – New
 Haven Conn.
 Bob Stinson, Psy. D. – Psychologist – Columbus**

10:30 – 10:45 am BREAK

**10:45 – 11:45 Recognizing and Understanding Autism Spectrum
(60)(APP) Disorders – for Mitigation and Working with your
 Client at Trial and on Appeal.**

Speaker: Andrea Witwer, Ph.D. OSU- Columbus

**11:45- 12:15 Exoneration Project: What They Do and What They
(30 APP) Can do To Help You and Your Case.**

**Speakers: Rachel Troutman, Joanna Sanchez, Melissa Jackson,
 Michelle Umana –**

12:00 – 1:00 pm LUNCH (PROVIDED)

AFTERNOON SESSION

**1:15 – 2:15 pm Motions for a New Trial/ Successor Post
(APP) (60) Conviction Petitions.**

Speakers: Joanna Sanchez, Rachel Troutman/Melissa Jackson

2:15 -2:30 pm BREAK

**2:30 – 3:30 pm Trial and Post-Trial Evidentiary Hearings (Post-
(APP)(60) Conviction and SMI); Discovery; Depositions;
Funding**

**Speakers: Tim Sweeney, Cleveland
Beth Arrick, Lexington, Kentucky
Lisa Lagos, CHU Columbus**

**3:30 – 4:30 Defending your Win on Appeal –
(APP)(60) Opposing En Banc and Cert Petitions**

**Speakers: Natalie Olmstead Columbus CHU
Adam Rusnak Columbus CHU**

4:30 – 6:00 Social Hour

Friday, November 21

**8:30- 9:45 am Caselaw Update – Ohio and US Supreme Courts
(APP) (75)**

Speaker: Russ Bensing – Cleveland

9:45- 10:00 am BREAK

**10:00 – 11:00 am Trial Preparation – Investigating the State’s Case
(60)**

Speaker: Diane Menashe - Columbus

**11:00 – 12:00 am Ethical Considerations for Capital Defense Attorneys
(60)(APP)**

**Speaker: Richard Cline – Office of the Ohio Public Defender –
Columbus**

12:00 – 12:45 pm LUNCH – PROVIDED

**12:45 – 1:45 pm DNA for Attorneys: What to Look For; When to Get
(60) Experts Involved.**

**Speaker: Brian Howe
Innocence Project – Cincinnati**

1:45 – 2:00 pm Break

**2:00 – 2:45 pm Recent Developments: Method Of Execution
(45 APP) Legislation and Litigation – Ohio and Nationally.**

**Speaker: Allen Bohnert – Columbus CHU – AND/OR
Adam Rusnak – Columbus - CHU**

**2:45 – 4:45 pm Voir Dire – Theory and Demonstration
(120)**

Speakers: Don Malarcik. Noah Munyer
Ohio Defense Firm – Akron