



NATIONAL DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR ASSOCIATION
2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Daytona Beach, FL



“Defend with Purpose: Race to Not Guilty”

2025.03.14 – DRAFT AGENDA (Session Topics/Dates/Times are Subject to Change)

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm		Registration / Check-In		TUESDAY, April 22	
8:00 am – 9:00 am		Registration / Check-In & Coffee Bar		WEDNESDAY, April 23	
9:00 am – 9:15 am		Welcome and Opening Remarks			
9:15 am – 10:30 am		PLENARY			
<div>Ripped from the Headlines: Preparing for Government Retribution and Foul Play</div> <div>Sean Gordon, Managing Partner, Gordon Chiara LLP, Washington, DC</div> <div>Grand Ballroom 4/5</div> <div>Taking a look at government abuse that actually happens and is allowed by courts, this session will highlight some of the prominent cases disrupting the defense world. The presentation will briefly go into arrests made in cases where the government goes after their opponents, and then dissect what happened in US v Ravenell – and the steps the government has taken, and the court has supported, to be aware of what prosecutors call just. The discussion will follow up with steps to protect ourselves from the government over reach that has already happened, and bound to happen under current administration guidelines. Cases to be covered include: Jami Tillotson, Chris Ruth, Florentina Demuth, Tom Goldstein, Taryn Blume, Young Thug, Marilyn Mosby, and US v Ravenell.</div>					
10:30 am – 10:45 am		Networking Break, Exhibits			
10:45 am – 12:00 pm					
<div>The Interview: Our Approach Must Be Different</div> <div>Dallas Smith, Chief Investigator, Federal Public Defender, Northern District of Oklahoma, Tulsa, OK</div> <div>Room</div> <div>This presentation will begin with a brief overview of the Law Enforcement interview of our clients. We will focus on the Reid approach and its problems as it relates to false confessions. We will then transition to our approach and why it must be different. The presenter will introduce attendees to the PEACE model of interviewing, which originated in the UK. This model is very similar to the cognitive approach and will be familiar to seasoned investigators. After a quick compare and contrast with the Reid technique we will move into different kinds of witnesses we will engage with as Defense Investigators. We will talk about friendly witnesses, those who don't want to be involved, hostile witnesses, victims, and finish with law enforcement officers. While this a presentation, discussion among professional is always welcome and usually brings out unique issues we face.</div>		<div>Artificial Intelligence and the Law</div> <div>Nathan Kotas, J.D., Director, Paralegal and Office Programs, Daytona State College, Daytona Beach, FL</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Session Description Pending</div>		<div>Effectively Representing Clients with Military Background</div> <div>Nereida Woods, Paralegal, Army National Guard / Federal Defenders of Montana, Billings, MT</div> <div>Room</div> <div>This presentation will provide an outline and brief explanation of the military investigations process, court martials, Article 15's., burden of proof, military records, and how to utilize them for mitigation or trial purposes.</div>	
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm					
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm					
<div>Video Surveillance Acquisition</div> <div>Matt Hanna, Supervisory Investigator, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC</div> <div>Room</div> <div>This session will cover the 101s of acquiring video surveillance footage in the community for your cases, from business entities to private homes. The discussion will include preparation, what to look for on-site, navigating proprietary players and how to work with your office's IT Department to get what is needed downloaded, converted, etc. to use for any presentation in Court.</div>		<div>The World of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)</div> <div>Seana Holland, Director of Investigations, Levy Firestone Muse LLP, Washington, DC</div> <div>Sean Gordon, Managing Partner, Gordon Chiara LLP, Washington, DC</div> <div>Name Pending, Capital Defense Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Resources for effective online investigation, as well as best practices for preserving your work and the ethics surrounding the process. Attendees are highly encouraged to bring your laptops, as the presenters aim to practice skills in real time!</div>		<div>Intro to Capital Case Investigation & Mitigation (Working Title)</div> <div>Amy Carr, Senior Staff Investigator, Innocence Project of Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Session Description Pending</div>	
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm					
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm					
<div>Cellebrite Reader Walkthrough (Working Title)</div> <div>Alex McCloskey, Client Director – US Courts, Cellebrite, Washington, DC</div> <div>Additional Cellebrite Training Team Members Pending</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Official Session Description Pending:</div> <div>Ever gotten a cell phone extraction report in discovery, but only in PDF format? What's a UFDR? Did the government give me everything on the cell phone in discovery? Discover analytic tactics and solutions that will modernize your investigative workflow process and enable efficiency and collaboration across your agency, including all Cellebrite has to offer from regularly available programs like Cellebrite Reader to Inseyets, as well as trainings and expert services.</div> <div>*Repeat Session on Day 2</div>		<div>Substance Abuse Detection & Etiology for Mitigation and Investigation (Working Title)</div> <div>Heather Holmes, Ph.D., Forensic Psychologist, Principal Consultant, Psychological Consultants, Fort Lauderdale, FL</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Attendees will learn how a client's medical and mental health history, as well as family history, can help detect the presence of substance abuse. Clinical examples of cases from both federal and state courts in which substance abuse can be explained as a result of an illness, will be discussed.</div>		<div>Notes, Memos, and Reports: The How, When, and Why of Investigative Writing</div> <div>Name Pending, Supervisory Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Investigators write to remember details relayed by witnesses, officially memorialize information, or report crucial facts to the attorneys they work with. This session will cover various factors that investigators must consider, including reciprocal discovery obligations, time constraints, and content choices, before putting pen to paper, finger to keyboards, or mouth to microphone.</div>	
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm					
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm					
<div>Interviewing and Identifying Deceptive Language</div> <div>Courtney Doroski, CEO, Red Hawk Investigations Intelligence, Palm Coast, FL</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Session Description Pending</div>		<div>Investigative Search Engines & Databases (Working Title)</div> <div>Luis Garcia-Blasquez, Title, IDI, Delray Beach, FL</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Session Description Pending</div>		<div>Session Title/Topic Awaiting Confirmation</div> <div>Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State</div> <div>Room</div> <div>Session Description Pending</div>	



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8:00 am – 9:25 am		Coffee Bar / Opening Remarks (9:25 am)		THURSDAY, April 24	
9:30 am – 10:45 am					
PLENARY					
Through the Client Lens					
Michael Rosado, Owner, Florida Prison Consultants, Tampa, FL					
Grand Ballroom 4/5					
The life story and experiences through the criminal legal system of an individual who spent 26 years in the Florida prison system, 19 of which was part of a life sentence. Come hear from Michael Rosado, a former gang member, as he shares about his experience as a gang member, working with a defense team, prison life, how drugs effect the prison system, prison reform, his appellate process and life after prison – as well as his upcoming podcast with New York Times best-selling author, Marc Gonsalves.					
10:45 am – 11:00 am					
Networking Break, Exhibits					
11:00 am – 12:15 pm					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS					
Cellebrite Reader Walkthrough (Working Title) Alex McCloskey, Client Director – US Courts, Cellebrite, Washington, DC Additional Cellebrite Training Team Members Pending Room Official Session Description Pending: Ever gotten a cell phone extraction report in discovery, but only in PDF format? What's a UFDR? Did the government give me everything on the cell phone in discovery? Discover analytic tactics and solutions that will modernize your investigative workflow process and enable efficiency and collaboration across your agency, including all Cellebritehas to offer from regularly available programs like Cellebrite Reader to Inseyets, as well as trainings and expert services. *Repeat Session from Day 1		Can You Read the Words That Are Coming Out of My Mouth?!? Nereida Woods, Paralegal, Federal Defenders of Montana, Billings, MT Room This presentation will help attorneys and supporting staff to effectively communicate with clients, witnesses, and family members with the assistance of an interpreter by closing the language and cultural gap.		End Stage with a Death Warrant: Investigating for Clients Who Are Scheduled to Die Rachel Primo, Investigator, Capital Habeas Unit, Federal Community Defender Office, EDPA, Philadelphia, PA Name Pending, Supervisory Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC Room The most consequential deadline you can have is when your client in a new case already has an execution date. Where do you begin when that date is just weeks away? Join two experience Capital Post-Conviction Investigators for a discussion centered around a case that was just heard by the Supreme Court. The presenters will share real-world experiences to help you prioritize your clients' needs, and your own well-being.	
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm					
Lunch Break					
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS					
Introduction to Sex Crimes for the Defense Investigator Courtney Doroski, CEO, Red Hawk Investigations Intelligence , Palm Coast, FL Room Session Description Pending		How Records Shaped the Defense: The Case of the Parkland Shooter Heather Holmes, Ph.D., Forensic Psychologist, Principal Consultant, Psychological Consultants, Fort Lauderdale, FL Room This session will cover how investigation won a life sentence, with an inside look of how the wealth of records, woven together, lent a complete story of a troubled man and led to the first correct diagnosis as well as witnesses to corroborate that diagnosis.		Immigration Related Topic (Title TBD) Kate Rodriguez, Executive Director of Clinical Programs/Associate Professor of Law, Barry University School of Law, Orlando, FL Room Official Session Description Pending: Plans to cover Laken Riley Act, immigration detention for those who haven't finished criminal case, not sentenced, pay bond, etc.	
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm					
Networking Break, Exhibits					
2:45 pm – 4:30 pm					
KEYNOTE					
Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop: On the Same Page					
Presenter Information Pending					
Grand Ballroom 4/5					
Since its inception in 2002, this Washington, DC base nonprofit has reached over 1,500 youths and adults with long-term, continuous support from the first days of incarceration through the reentry process. Free Minds focuses on building community for justice-involved youth and adults, through the literary arts, workforce development, trauma healing, peacebuilding, and member-led advocacy. As part of their Prison Book Club, Free Minds hosts “On the Same Page: Write Night” events, where community volunteers gather alongside Free Minds Poet Ambassadors home from prison to provide feedback on the writing of Book Club members still incarcerated.					
Come out and meet the Free Minds team, learn more about their programming, and participate in an “On the Same Page: Write Night” event. Information about how you can bring these events home to your community, and additional resources, will also be available.					
https://freemindsbookclub.org/					
President’s Reception					
North Tower Terrace					
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm					



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8:30 am – 9:15 am		Coffee Bar / Opening Remarks (9:10 am)		FRIDAY, April 25	
9:15 am – 10:30 am					
PLENARY					
Session Title/Topic Coming Soon					
Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State					
Grand Ballroom 4/5					
Session Description Pending					
10:30 am – 10:45 am					
Networking Break, Exhibits					
10:45 am – 12:00 pm					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS					
Cell Phone/Cellebrite Tech-Related Topic		Session Title/Topic Pending		Session Title/Topic Awaiting Confirmation	
Matt Hanna, Supervisory Investigator, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC		Name Pending, Capital Defense Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC		Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State	
Room		Room		Room	
Session Description Pending		Session Description Pending		Session Description Pending	
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm					
Networking Break, Exhibits					
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm					
CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION					
Session Title/Topic Coming Soon					
Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State					
Grand Ballroom 4/5					
Session Description Pending					