



**NATIONAL DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR ASSOCIATION
2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
New Orleans, LA**



“Defend with Purpose: Best Practices in the Bayou”

2026.01.27 – DRAFT AGENDA (Session Topics/Dates/Times are Subject to Change)

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration / Check-In		TUESDAY, April 21
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration / Check-In & Coffee Bar		WEDNESDAY, April 22
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks		
9:15 am – 10:30 am	PLENARY Ethics (Title TBD) Kevann Gardner, Founding Partner, K. Gardner Law, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending		
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Networking Break, Exhibits		
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Best Practices: Interviewing Session Chris Pipe, Supervisory Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending Continued series of NDIA Best Practices Sessions, virtually and at National/Regional Conferences	Ethics/Scenarios Breakout (Title TBD) Kevann Gardner, Founding Partner, K. Gardner Law, Washington, DC Jordan Crunkleton, Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Division, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Upper Marlboro, MD Kelsey Robinson, Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Division, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Upper Marlboro, MD Room Session Description Pending	Mitigation/Trauma Informed Interviewing (Session 1) (Working Title) Dana Cook, MSW, Director of Social Services Training and Recruitment, Philadelphia, PA Room Session Description Pending	
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch Break		
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Session Description Awaiting Confirmation Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Room Session Description Pending	Single-Pass Discovery Review: A Case Analysis Framework (Working Title) Amber Kaset, Owner/Private Investigator/Mitigation Specialist, AK Investigations, TN & KY Room Working Session Description – This session will cover clear methods for reviewing and analyzing discovery to build an investigation plan, including creating investigative work product that tells a coherent story-- witness lists, timelines, records logs, identifying missing discovery, outlining possible case theories, and more.	Mitigation/Trauma Informed Interviewing (Session 2) (Working Title) Dana Cook, MSW, Director of Social Services Training and Recruitment, Philadelphia, PA Room Session Description Pending	
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Networking Break, Exhibits		
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Cellebrite Session (Pending Confirmation) Part I Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description	Session Description Awaiting Confirmation Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Room Session Description Pending	Veteran and Special Circumstances Representation (Working Title) Nick Place, Staff Attorney, Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, New Orleans, LA Room Session Description Pending	
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Networking Break, Exhibits		
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Cellebrite Session (Pending) Part II Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description	Making the Move to Private Investigations (Working Title) Amber Kaset, Owner/Private Investigator/Mitigation Specialist, AK Investigations, TN & KY Katari Lundy, Private Investigator, Good Faith Investigation, Painesville, OH Lauren VonWiegen, Investigator, VonWiegen Investigations, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending	Investigating Sex Assault Cases (Working Title) Jan Fennell, Senior Solutions Specialist, Grand River Solutions, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending	

8:00 am – 9:25 am	Coffee Bar / Opening Remarks (9:25 am)		THURSDAY, April 23
9:30 am – 10:45 am	PLENARY Social Media 101s (Title TBD) Seana Holland, Director of Investigations, Levy Firestone Muse LLP, Washington, DC Carolyn Mehrtens, Capital Defense Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending		
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Networking Break, Exhibits		



**NATIONAL DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR ASSOCIATION
2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
New Orleans, LA**



“Defend with Purpose: Best Practices in the Bayou”

CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Working with Children, Investigating, Mitigation Narratives (Working Title) Jordan Crunkleton, Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Division, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Upper Marlboro, MD Kelsey Robinson, Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Division, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Upper Marlboro, MD Room Session Description Pending	Social Media Related (In-Depth Follow-Up) Carolyn Mehrtens, Capital Defense Investigator, Military Commissions Defense Organization, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending	Cell Phone Records (CDRs) Part 1 (Intro) (Working Title) Joseph Sierra, Director, Forensic Services, Cornerstone Discovery, Philadelphia, PA Room Session Description Pending
Lunch Break		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
DVO-Related Session (Title TBD) Lela Hubbard, Mitigation Specialist, Federal Public Defender, District of Mississippi, Jackson, MS Room Session Description Pending	Best Practices: Scene Investigation Session Lauren VonWiegen, Director of Investigations and Internship Supervisor, Georgetown Law Center, Washington, DC Room Session Description Pending Continued series of NDIA Best Practices Sessions, virtually and at National/Regional Conferences	Joseph Sierra Cell Phone Records (CDRs) Part 2 (Advanced) (Working Title) Joseph Sierra, Director, Forensic Services, Cornerstone Discovery, Philadelphia, PA Room Session Description Pending
Networking Break, Exhibits		
KEYNOTE		
Session Pending Confirmation – Stay Tuned! Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Keynote Session Description Pending		
President's Reception Grand Ballroom Gallery & Balcony 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm		

8:30 am – 9:15 am	Coffee Bar / Opening Remarks (9:10 am)	FRIDAY, April 24
PLENARY		
Defending Gang, Enterprise, RICO, and VICAR Prosecutions: Evidence Architecture, Expert Challenges, and Mitigation Strategy Victor Torres, VMT Investigations, CA Enrique Tira, Enrique Tira Investigations, CA Room Session Description Pending		
Networking Break, Exhibits		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
Session Description Awaiting Confirmation Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Room Session Description Pending	Defending Gang, Enterprise, RICO, and VICAR Prosecutions: Evidence Architecture, Expert Challenges, and Mitigation Strategy (Continued) Victor Torres, VMT Investigations, CA Enrique Tira, Enrique Tira Investigations, CA Room Session Description Pending Plenary is an introduction, Breakout is more in-depth	Records Collection (Title TBD) Lela Hubbard, Mitigation Specialist, Federal Public Defender, District of Mississippi, Jackson, MS Room Session Description Pending
Networking Break, Exhibits		
CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION		
Session Description Pending Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Grand Ballroom 4/5 Session Description Pending		