



**NATIONAL DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR ASSOCIATION
2026 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Scottsdale, AZ**



“Defend with Purpose: TBD”

2026.07.06 – DRAFT AGENDA (Session Topics/Dates/Times are Subject to Change)

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm		REGISTRATION	TUESDAY, September 8
8:00 am – 9:15 am		REGISTRATION and COFFEE BAR (Orangedale CD / Patio)	WEDNESDAY, September 9
9:15 am – 9:30 am WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS			
9:30 am – 10:45 am PLENARY			
<p align="center">AI on Trial Brian Chase, Managing Director, Digital Forensics & eDiscovery, ArcherHall, Tucson, AZ Orangedale ABEF</p> <p>Official Description Pending – This session will focus on the challenges of dealing with AI generated/falsified evidence (photos, videos, audio, etc.) and also talk about the use of AI by law enforcement.</p>			
10:45 am – 11:00 am Networking Break, Exhibits			
11:00 am – 12:15 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
<p>Social Media Related –Title Pending Maria Sapene, Chief of Litigation Support, Federal Public Defender Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA Room Session Description Pending 2 Sessions</p>	<p>Best Practices: Topic TBD Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p>Location Data – What’s Reliable and What Isn’t Brian Chase, Managing Director, Digital Forensics & eDiscovery, ArcherHall, Tucson, AZ Room Official Description Pending – This session covers sources of location data such as cell site, cellphone, and GPS data, and will explore common claims from law enforcement about reliability, with an eye towards debunking them.</p>	
<p align="center"><u>New Session Format:</u> Paralegal Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!</p> <p align="center">Trial Notebooks That Make a Difference Elizabeth Coss, Paralegal, Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender, Phoenix, AZ Room</p> <p>This course is designed for legal professionals who are looking to streamline their trial preparation using organized and efficient trial binders. Participants will learn the essential components of a trial binder, including document organization, effective indexing methods, and the inclusion of key exhibits and evidence. The class will also cover helpful tools and software for assembling digital trial binders, which enhance presentations and facilitate quick access to vital information during courtroom presentations.</p>			
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm LUNCH BREAK			
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
<p>Social Media Related –Title Pending Maria Sapene, Chief of Litigation Support, Federal Public Defender Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA Room Session Description Pending 2 Sessions</p>	<p>Difficult Situations / De-Escalation – Session Title Pending Jules Gagnepain, Investigator, Federal Public Defender, District of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ Room Official Description Pending – Having spent years as a Sheriff’s Deputy / Hostage Negotiator, this session will cover the behavioral change stairway and how to effectively build rapport, with everyone from a client, to a witness or probation officer, or even someone in an active crisis. In our jobs, we often have to communicate difficult information, which is not always well received. This session will highlight the power of empathy and rapport building, as well as the do’s and don’ts of successful de-escalation.</p>	<p>Video Evidence and Scene Reconstruction Josh Cohen, Principal, Fat Pencil Studio, Portland, OR Room Session Description Pending 2 Sessions? Repeat?</p>	
<p align="center"><u>New Session Format:</u> Paralegal Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!</p> <p align="center">Adobe Pro Related – Session Title Pending Elizabeth Coss, Paralegal, Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender, Phoenix, AZ Room Session Description Pending</p>			
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Networking Break, Exhibits			
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
<p>Mitigation Related Session Matt Silverman, Mitigation Specialist/Investigator, Silverman Mitigation, Phoenix, AZ Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p>Tracking Police Misconduct Summer Farrar, Techtivist, Kansas City, MO Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p>Session Topic Pending Lubna Debbini, Investigator, Orange County Associate Defender, Santa Ana, CA Room Session Description Pending</p>	
<p align="center"><u>New Session Format:</u> Paralegal Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!</p> <p align="center">Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>			
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm Networking Break, Exhibits			
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm PLENARY			
<p align="center">Extradited Innocence: The Case of Javier Lorenzано-Nunez Bill Daniels, Investigator, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Advocate, Phoenix, AZ Jessica Valdivia-Luna, Homicide Attorney, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Advocate, Phoenix, AZ Orangedale ABEF</p>			



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Javier is a Mexican national who was kidnapped off the streets of Tijuana, extradited to Maricopa County, and charged with a cold case homicide from 1998. Through extensive investigation, work, and motions, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office ultimately dismissed the case. Javier is innocent. This session will discuss the egregious misconduct by both the Phoenix Police Department and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, what to watch out for in cold case investigations, and what investigation you need to do yourself for an innocent client.

**Networking Reception – Orangedale CD & Patio
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

8:00 am – 9:20 am **COFFEE BAR (Orangedale CD / Patio)** **THURSDAY, September 10**

9:20 am – 9:30 am **DAY 2 OPENING REMARKS**

9:30 am – 10:45 am **PLENARY**

Representing Clients on the Autism Spectrum

Doug Passon, President & Creative Director, [Doug Passon Law](#), Scottsdale, AZ
Dr. Laurie Sperry, Psychologist, CO
Orangedale ABEF

Official Description Pending – We have all had clients with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It’s a pervasive cognitive and social disability and it is *always* relevant to culpability and mitigation. If the issue is properly identified, investigated, and explained, it will turn the tide and change the outcome of your case. It may even save a life. In this session, we touch on how to identify ASD, what to do when you think your client is on the spectrum, and the many ways it can – and must be – used as mitigation.

10:45 am – 11:00 am **Networking Break, Exhibits**

11:00 am – 12:15 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

<p align="center">Mitigation Related Session Matt Silverman, Mitigation Specialist/Investigator, Silverman Mitigation, Phoenix, AZ Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p align="center">Immigration Related Session Evelyn Cruz, Clinical Professor of Law, Director, Immigration Clinic, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p align="center">Session Topic Pending Dr. Laurie Sperry, Psychologist, CO Room Session Description Pending</p>
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New Session Format: Mitigation/Visual Advocacy Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!

Story Development (Pre-Production)

Doug Passon, President & Creative Director, [Doug Passon Law](#), Scottsdale, AZ
Room

Abridged version of the 3 Rs and “ABT” method (story development model).

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm **LUNCH BREAK**

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

<p align="center">Session Topic Pending Lubna Debbini, Investigator, Orange County Associate Defender, Santa Ana, CA Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p align="center">Video Evidence and Scene Reconstruction Josh Cohen, Principal, Fat Pencil Studio, Portland, OR Room Session Description Pending 2 Sessions? Repeat?</p>	<p align="center">Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>
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New Session Format: Mitigation/Visual Advocacy Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!

Equipment, Filming, and Interviewing Techniques (Production)

Doug Passon, President & Creative Director, [Doug Passon Law](#), Scottsdale, AZ
Room

Session Description Pending.

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm **Networking Break, Exhibits**

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

<p align="center">Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p align="center">Best Practices: Topic Pending Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>	<p align="center">Awaiting Speaker Confirmation Name, Title, Agency/Office, City, State Room Session Description Pending</p>
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New Session Format: Mitigation/Visual Advocacy Focused Breakout Room – but all are welcome to attend!

Editing (Post-Production)

Doug Passon, President & Creative Director, [Doug Passon Law](#), Scottsdale, AZ
Room

Session Description Pending.