



**NATIONAL  
CRIMINAL  
DEFENSE  
COLLEGE**

**2022**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# Deans' Reflection...

The days, weeks and months of 2022 brought transition, inspiration, sadness, gratitude and so much pride. We boldly made the choice to conduct the 2022 Trial Practice Institute in person, with great uncertainty and crossed fingers. Though there were challenging moments (and lots of Covid testing!), it was the tenacity and resilience of our amazing participants that kept us going. They never lost clarity on why we were all there – to learn, to grow, to be braver and better for our clients. They inspired us and reminded us that nothing will stop us from our mission to feed their desire to become the best version of themselves for and with their clients.

2022 also brought deep sadness as we mourned the loss of beloved and respected faculty member, Beattie Butler. Among so many other things, Beattie masterfully taught us all to be our authentic selves when we deliver closing arguments. Beattie also reminded us that in the hardest, loneliest moments of this work (when we lose a case) we are never truly



**Natasha Perdew Silas  
and  
Karen Smolar**



We remain deeply honored to be the “keepers of the flame” of the National Criminal Defense College and carry on the legacy of our inspiring leader, Deryl Dantzler. We vow to continue to make her proud.

This work is Life, It is Hope, It is Love.

## Deans' Reflection *continued...*

alone. In those moments, every client that we have ever helped and fought for will remain by our side, holding us up, grateful for what we have done for them. We are eternally grateful to Beattie for all that he gave to so many of us. He will always be in our hearts.

The rustiness that has accumulated during Covid needs to be shaken off. As we have all found ourselves back in courtrooms and at counsel tables, NCDC programs are needed more than ever. We welcome applicants from across the country and beyond who want to be part of our beautiful community. Many of our applicants continue to struggle to self-fund the opportunity to attend our programs. We have recommitted ourselves to do all we can to offer as many scholarships as possible for those in need. We strongly believe that there should never be a defender who is unable to attend TPI because of financial constraints. Finally, we are proud to announce the launch of the NCDC Alumni network and we look forward to expanding its reach and scope in 2023.

As we plan for our first summer in Fairfax, Virginia, we express deep gratitude for our cherished partnership with Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law since 2019. There are many other sister organizations, the BPDA, NAPD, NACDL, GACDL, ACTL and the various State Associations of Criminal Defense Attorneys who have continued to support NCDC by providing scholarships to our awesome participants.

Of course, our most ardent supporters, the heart and soul of the College are our incredible faculty. Their creative energy, their generosity of spirit, and their brilliance inspires us every day.

We are also profoundly grateful for our partnership with each other. It is a wonderful luxury to be able to talk through the important issues facing the college, to brainstorm together and bounce ideas off each other. We each bring different strengths but have a shared commitment. These past five years have taught us to trust in each other's judgement and ideas. We know that what we bring to the College is better and stronger because we are able to lead together.

We remain deeply honored to be the "keepers of the flame" of the National Criminal Defense College and carry on the legacy of our inspiring leader, Deryl Dantzler. We vow to continue to make her proud.

**This work is Life, It is Hope, It is Love,**

**Tasha and Karen**

---

# Remembering Deryl Dantzler



Dean Deryl Dantzler was the founding Dean of the National Criminal Defense College, a longtime professor at Mercer Law School, and a warrior dedicated to bringing love and light where it is needed the most. Deryl passed away in December of 2022.

To state the obvious, this is a deep, deep loss for us all. This loss includes our NCDC community, but it also includes the wider community of criminal defense lawyers everywhere. It feels true to say that there is no criminal defense attorney in the country, and likely beyond, who is not a better, braver attorney because of Deryl's commitment to our craft.

Her vision to create a laboratory where we all learn and grow together, to be excellent teachers, coaches and mentors for the next generation guides us in all that we do. To this day, she has remained a quiet influence in our own leadership and will always be.

- Natasha Perdew Silas & Karen Smolar

# About Us

The National Criminal Defense College (“NCDC” or the “College”) is the preeminent hands-on trial skills training program developed exclusively for criminal defense lawyers in the United States.

“

*“Not only have my skills been increased vastly, but I have also discovered a family of dedicated people to whom I can turn for help within the field.... It is rare that a person gets to learn so much from such enlightened people.”*

*- from a Trial Practice Institute Alum*

”

Founded in 1985 as a Georgia nonprofit corporation and with the assistance of Board members of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, NCDC has set the standard for criminal defense trial skills training for more than three decades conducting annual summer Trial Practice Institutes and short programs at other times of the year. The College’s Trial Practice Institute had been located at Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia for over thirty years, and then from 2019-2022 at Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island in order to accommodate its growth.

In 2023, we make another move to the Hilton Fairfax in Fairfax, VA as we continue to grow. The functions of the chief executive and operating officers are performed by the Deans of the College. The College is governed by a Board of Regents.



# Board of Regents



**Ron Tyler, Chair**



**Cathy Bennett,  
Vice-Chair**



**Paul Rudof,  
Secretary**



**Tara Allen**



**Melody Brannon**



**Byron Conway**



**Shawna Geiger**



**Shaffy Moeel**



**Martín Sabelli**



**Juval Scott**



**Callie Steele**



**Ryan Swingle**



**Deja Vishny**

# MISSION

Pursuing justice by delivering the highest standard of trial skills training, through a diverse faculty, to criminal defense attorneys across the United States to ensure that people accused of crimes are represented by client-centered, trial-focused, and zealous counsel.

Pursuing justice by preparing defense counsel to recognize and confront racism and bias in the criminal legal system.

Pursuing justice by inspiring and empowering a diverse community of criminal defense attorneys to transform the criminal legal system to ensure due process of law, effective assistance of counsel, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, and equal protection of law for all people.

# VISION

We envision a world in which all individuals who come in contact with the legal system are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, regardless of wealth, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or status in any marginalized group.



# Growing our Community



**Faculty**

**TPI  
Alumni**



**Programs**

# Faculty

There is no doubt that we are who we are because of our extraordinary faculty. Simply put, they make NCDC the premier trial skills training program for criminal defense attorneys in the country. Each year our dedicated, volunteer faculty donate their most precious commodity, their time, to the College and our participants. Through the last years of the pandemic, they have remained committed to our mission and our programming. Without them, we would not have been able to grow and thrive during this time.

## Introducing Our Newest Faculty Members...

The National Criminal Defense College engages a diverse pool of talented Visiting Faculty Members from all over the United States each year by extending a limited number of invitations to fill visiting faculty positions for the Trial Practice Institute. Our ideal candidates are outstanding trial lawyers who are also outstanding teachers.

In 2022, we welcomed the following faculty to our ranks and we extend to them the warmest welcome to the NCDC community!



**Frank Morales**



**Dinah Manning**



**Kevann Gardner**



**LaRonda Martin**



**Ishaah Murphy**



**Michael Bloch**



**LaToya Williams**

# TPI ALUMNI NETWORK

The National Criminal Defense College is a transformative experience. Every year, hundreds of defense attorneys who attend NCDC programs receive elite trial skills training, empowering them to become great trial lawyers and advocates for change in the criminal legal system. But when these defenders leave NCDC, the separation from the people and culture of NCDC often makes it hard for individual defenders to remain connected.

The NCDC Alumni Network aims to overcome that challenge, by creating and sustaining connections between graduates of the College, by providing ongoing skills training to alumni, and by empowering alumni to collaborate in pursuit of systemic change. The Network will also build leaders within the defense community and raise funds for the sole purpose of supporting the College.

## BRINGING ALUMNI TOGETHER

In 2022, we officially kicked off our Alumni Network and have been working to build the connections amongst our alumni in the hopes that the mentorship and support developed during their time at TPI will continue to thrive. At the end of 2022, we can count 40 alumni as official members of this new initiative.

## GROWING IN 2023

In 2023, we will launch our online Alumni directory where our TPI alumni will be searchable and visible to the public. We will also continue to explore the creation of NCDC TPI alumni chapters around the country. We are actively recruiting alumni leaders who would like to be a part of this exciting project.

NATIONAL  
CRIMINAL  
DEFENSE  
COLLEGE



*Discover your voice.*  
*Unlock your power.*  
*Find your people.*

# Programs



## DERYL DANTZLER TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE

The newly renamed Deryl Dantzler Trial Practice Institute is the original, transformative, two-week trial skills program designed exclusively for criminal defense practitioners. In place for over 35 years, NCDC is proud to call over nine thousand criminal defense attorneys its alumni.



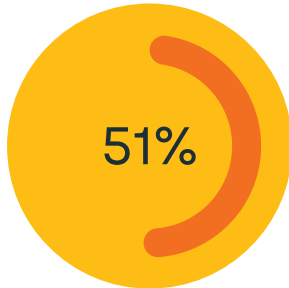
## SHORT PROGRAMS

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS  
AND  
ONLINE CROSS WORKSHOPS

For decades, NCDC has presented weekend workshops that teach NCDC's trial-tested cross-examination techniques. In 2020, we took these online and in 2022 we hosted a Winter Online Cross-Examination program.



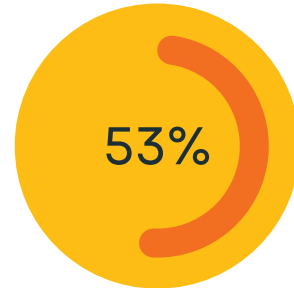
# Winter Online Cross Workshop



WOMEN



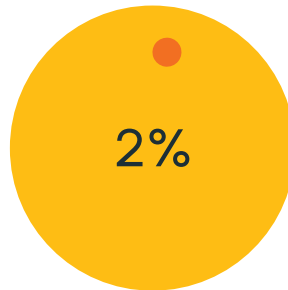
LAWYERS OF COLOR



PUBLIC DEFENDER



FEDERAL DEFENDER



MILITARY DEFENDER



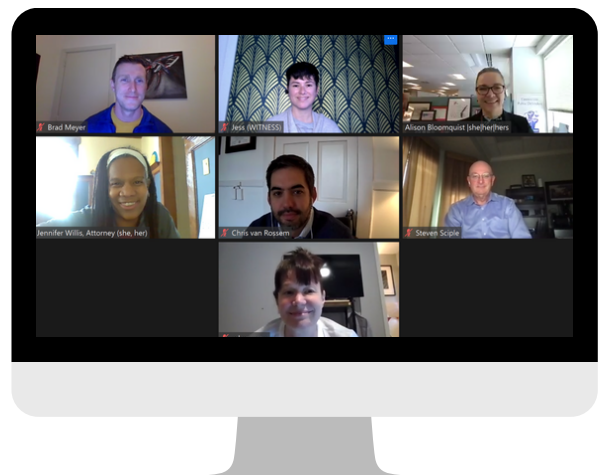
ASSIGNED COUNSEL

“

***Fantastic experience! I am already feeling more confident about my cross skills. I definitely recommend this workshop.***

- Online workshop attendee

”





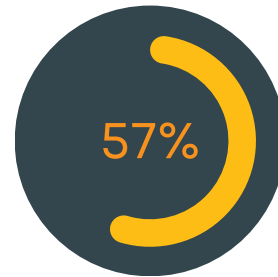
# The Deryl Dantzler Trial Practice Institute



WOMEN



LAWYERS  
OF COLOR



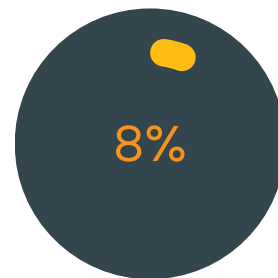
PUBLIC  
DEFENDERS



FEDERAL  
DEFENDERS



ASSIGNED  
COUNSEL

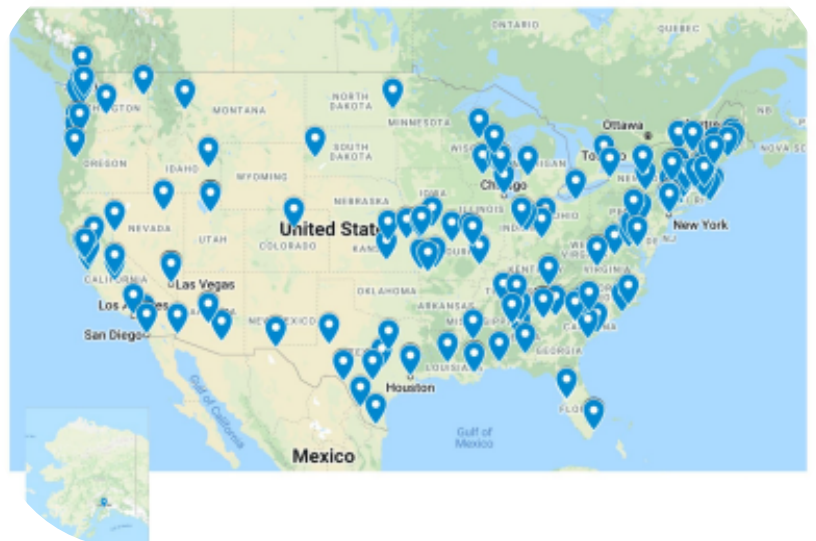


MILITARY  
DEFENDERS

 **Graduates: 213**

**Deryl Dantzler Scholarships:**  
**\$26,400**

**ACTL Scholarships:**  
**\$29,440**

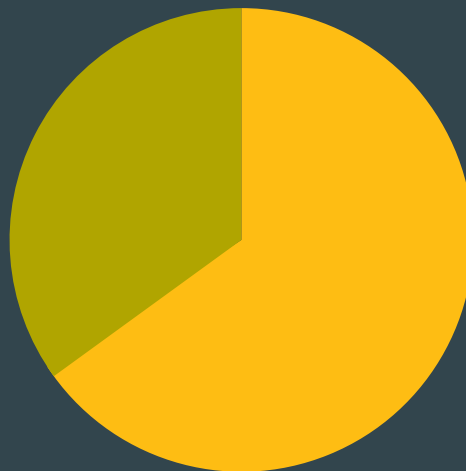


# THE FIGURES

The National Criminal Defense College is working towards financial goals that will allow us to implement plans to grow the organization in the coming years. We have been making strategic moves that increase our ability to offer more trainings throughout the year, which allows us to expand on this community of dedicated defenders that are bringing the NCDC trial tested techniques to courtrooms across the country- and winning.

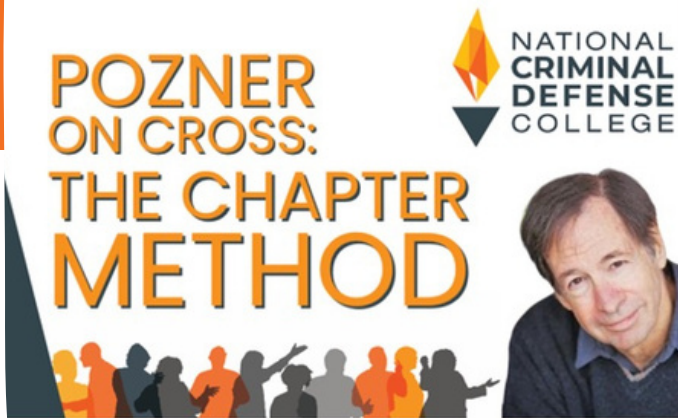
The majority of our annual budget is spent on creating transformative opportunities through our training programs and in 2022, we graduated 253 criminal defenders from our programs.

**Administrative**  
**35%**



**Program**  
**65%**

# Fundraising



## Pozner on Cross

In April of 2022, we were so fortunate to host "Pozner on Cross", a virtual afternoon program with our own NCDC Faculty member, Larry Pozner.

With over 100 criminal defense attorneys from all over the nation logging in to participate, we raised over \$20,000 in event registration fees and additional donations.

The feedback received was fantastic, participants found the content and structure of the webinar to be useful and Larry was able to make it as interactive as a webinar can be.

## Online Silent Auction

At the close of 2022, the NCDC fundraising committee hosted an online auction comprised of donated gifts, fine art, experiences, case consults, and more!

Our NCDC faculty and alumni stepped up to donate over 50 items to be auctioned.

Highlights included a scholarship to 2023 TPI, fine art painted by NCDC faculty Andrea George, and a diving trip in the Atlantic Ocean that had over 550 bids!





# The year ahead...

2023

12-15  
JAN

**Cross-Examination  
Workshop**  
MLK weekend

**Washington, DC**

**Forensic Cross-  
Examination Workshop**  
in partnership with  
**The Innocence Project**

**Denver, CO**

16-19  
MAR

**TPI June Session**

This June we will be in our first year at Hilton Fairfax and we expect to be able to increase enrollment by 10%.

18-1  
JUN/JUL

**TPI July Session**

This July we will be finishing our first year at Hilton Fairfax and with a record number of TPI graduates.

16-29  
JULY

**Online Cross  
Workshop**

We are planning on hosting a fall program online. More details to come.

SEPT  
or  
OCT