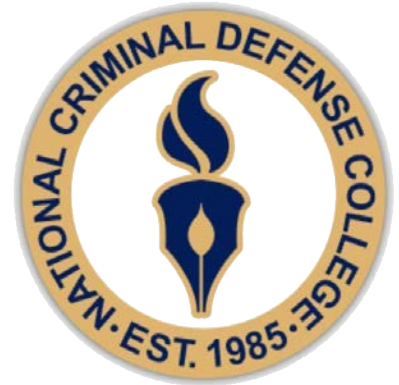


National Criminal Defense College



Annual Report to the Board of Regents, 2017-2018



343 Orange Street, Macon, Georgia 31201, 478-746-4151, www.ncdc.net

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DEANS' MESSAGE

As we look back on our first full year as the new Deans of NCDC, we are proud of what we accomplished and optimistic about the direction of the College. We both love being public defenders; we embrace all defenders; and we are passionate about the mission of the College. It is why we both applied for the Deanship one year ago. We both credit the College with turning us into passionate and powerful trial lawyers. Both of us have been mentors to lawyers in our own spheres. We saw this Deanship as an opportunity to mentor more lawyers and to honor the legacy of the College by making it stronger for the many aspiring defense warriors emerging in the present day as well as those yet to come. Our clients desperately need for us all to be our very best if they are to have any chance at all against the awesome power of the government.



Karen Smolar came into the job with an incredible wealth of curriculum development experience and with more than ten years of teaching experience with the College. Natasha Silas saw a need to focus on building the sense of community among the participants and improving NCDC workflow processes through improved use of technology. Drawing on our own individual strengths, we worked collaboratively through each of the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of details that are needed to make this organization and its programs live up to its mission during the 2017-2018 fiscal year and as a foundation for 2018-2019 fiscal year and beyond. Although we did not know each other before we began, we have developed a close bond and we are thankful to have each other's talents and support on this unique journey. We were amused to receive the following anonymous comment from a TPI Participant in the evaluation survey from June, *"Karen and Tasha are like peanut butter and jelly. Each of them is good on her own, but together they are fabulous!"*

Once we stepped into the proverbial Dean shoes, we gained a deeper appreciation for what it has taken to bring the College to this point and we began to get a better understanding of the areas where NCDC can improve. To be sure, this job has not been without its challenges. We have handled those challenges by relying on each other and remembering why we were inspired to take this job on in the first place. We hope this report will help you to see some of what we have seen on the ground during this first year and the direction we hope to continue take NCDC in the coming year.

Thank you for this incredible opportunity and thanks also for partnering with us on this journey.

Tasha and Karen

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. 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 summer Trial



Dean Emeritus Deryl Dantzler

Practice Institutes and Short Programs at other times of the year. Dean Emeritus Deryl Dantzler was the founding Dean of the National Criminal Defense College and a longtime professor at Mercer Law School. The College’s Trial Practice Institute has been located at Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia for the past 33 years. The functions of the chief executive and operating officers are performed by the Deans of the College, Karen Smolar and Natasha Perdew Silas.

The College is governed by a Board of Regents the membership of which appears below. Immediate past Board Chair, David Lewis, resigned earlier this year when he was appointed to the bench in New York. We are grateful to David for his many years of leadership and involvement with the College.

2017–2018 Board of Regents

Christina Hunt, Secretary, Macon, GA

Cathy Bennett, Boston, MA

Herschella Conyers, Chicago, IL

Sam Dennis, Valdosta, GA

Jeff Robinson, Seattle, WA

Martin Sabelli, San Francisco, CA

Jon Sands, Phoenix, AZ

Ron Tyler, Stanford, CA

The mission of the College is to empower passionate and committed lawyers to become the most formidable client-centered courtroom advocates they can be in their fight to defend those accused of crimes. Participants are taught time-tested and highly effective courtroom techniques through lectures, demonstrations, and small group exercises. These techniques were developed, pioneered, and honed by NCDC’s own remarkable faculty. Professional actors playing true-to-life witnesses challenge participants to begin mastering the skills taught at the College and also provide guidance on the performance aspects of trial advocacy. NCDC graduates consistently describe their time at the College as transformative.

“Simply put, the best substantive and trial advocacy program I have ever attended The caliber of instruction was second to none; the actors brought realism and added difficulty to the exercises; and the mentorship was consistent and sincere. This course also challenged my pre-conceived ideas about what effective advocacy looks like, and how I think about the justice system, race, and my own bias.”

THE TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE

The Trial Practice Institute is the flagship program of the National Criminal Defense College. The program is conducted twice each summer - once in June and once in July - on the grounds of the **Mercer University Walter F. George College of Law** in Macon, Georgia. 104 participants attend each session, comprising 13 small groups of 8 attorneys. The program is exclusively for criminal defense attorneys and includes state public defenders, private attorneys, and federal public defenders as well as military defense lawyers. The College brings in faculty members from all over the country who volunteer their time to teach at the program. Instruction consists of lectures, demos, and small group exercises based upon four mock cases assigned to the participants. Witnesses for the small group exercises are played by professional actors from the Laughing Matters Improv Group out of Atlanta. The actors also provide instruction and feedback on the performance aspects of trial advocacy. The 2018 Trial Practice Institute continued this proven trial skills training model with some important innovations and enhancements.



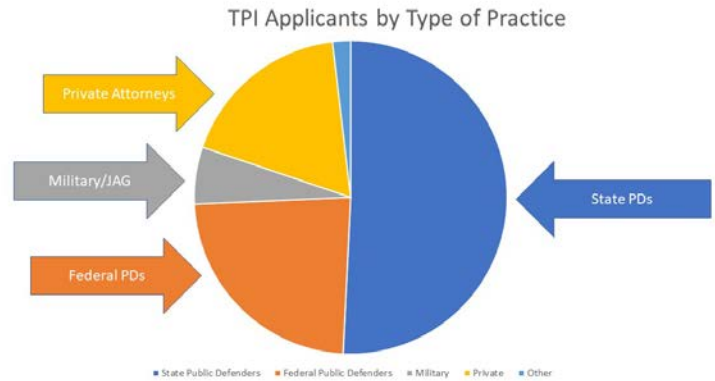
Mercer University
Walter F. George School of Law

Applications

This year, the Trial Practice Institute moved to a fully online application process. This simplified and standardized the review process. It was also essential to information access, since the Deans and the Program Director each work and reside in different locations. Online payments were collected utilizing online payment vendor Square. Since tuition was raised from \$2000 to \$2500 (not including lodging), it would have been reasonable to expect a decline in application numbers. However, there was no apparent drop-off in application numbers. It was our understanding that there were 300+ applications for the 2017 Trial Practice Institutes. This year, we received 328 applications for approximately 208 spots.

Law Practice Types of Applicants

Approximately 50% of the 328 applications were state level public defenders, 23% federal defenders, 17% private, and 5% military lawyers. (See figure at left.) Pictured below are military lawyers who attended the July Session, including **Colonel William Pigott, Deputy Director of the Judge Advocate General's Division of the United States Marines**, who heads up the military defenders in the Marines. Colonel Pigott was assigned to Group A of the July Session and he is now a very enthusiastic supporter of NCDC who plans to send many more of his soldiers to NCDC. (See Colonel Pigott's comments below.)

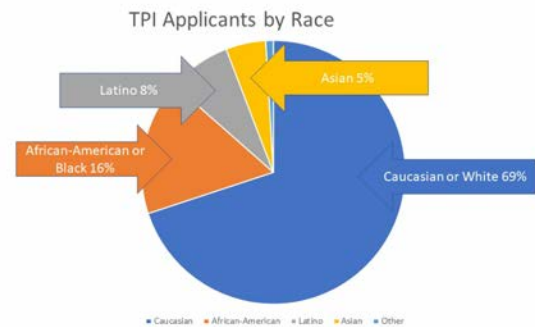


"Straight away Ma'am. Thank you for allowing me to attend the NCDC July 2018 course. This place, the Instructors, the NCDC Staff, Group A and my estimable colleagues were amazing across the board. I am forever changed (for the better) by all of you and this experience. Thanks again for all.

Very sincerely -- W. N. Pigott, Jr. Colonel U.S. Marine Corps."

Racial Makeup of the Applicant Pool and Participants

69% of the applicants identified as Caucasian or white. 16% identified as African-American or black. 8% identified as Latino or Hispanic. 5% identified as Asian. (Pictured below are lawyers of color from the June Session and African-American participants from the July Session.) Comments from the evaluation surveys revealed multiple comments of gratitude from the participants for the diversity among the faculty and presenters. During the sessions, African-American faculty members took the lead in inviting the African-American participants to dinner, especially ahead of the Race talk, both to prepare them for the frankness of the content of the lecture and to foster supportive relationships between African American faculty and the participants themselves. These gatherings were a resounding success.

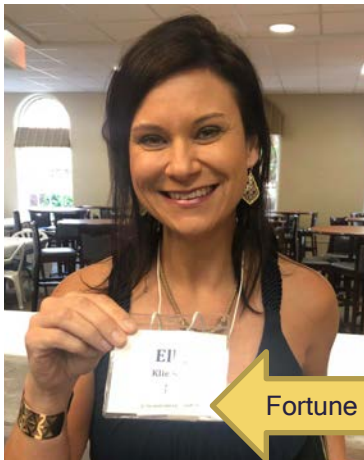


Gender

The applicants were split almost precisely evenly between those that identified as male and those that identified as female (50/50). One participant identified as transgender. With respect to participants who actually attended TPI, there were slightly more women than men which sometimes presented difficulty in balancing the groups.



Group G from the July Session



Ella Kliebert (pictured at left), a Camille Gravel Scholar out of Houma, Louisiana from the June Session, was ecstatic when she pulled this message from her fortune cookie on Chinese Food lunch day, ***“You would make a great lawyer!”*** (We never had a fortune cookie message like that.)

← Fortune Cookie Message

Jherna Shahani (right) out of Las Vegas, Nevada had this to say in her TPI Application:

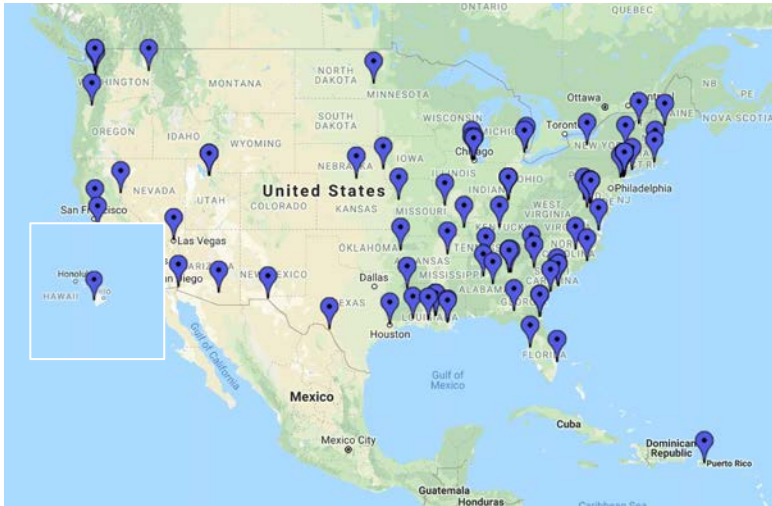
“It is important to me to learn the art of my craft as an attorney. I have learned basic procedure and attend simple hearings. I have negotiated cases. However, I had not had any experience with trial and do not feel confident with my skills to take on that challenge when someone's liberty is in my hands. I would like to be the best I can be and have heard this trial college with give me some of those tools.”



Jherna was very engaged in the June Session of TPI and plans to join us in Washington, DC for the Cross Examination Workshop.

Geographic Distribution of the Applicants

Applications were received from throughout the country, but there remain significant areas where there is little coverage in the mid and upper west. (See map at left which represents the geographic distribution of July attendees.)



Scholarship Assistance

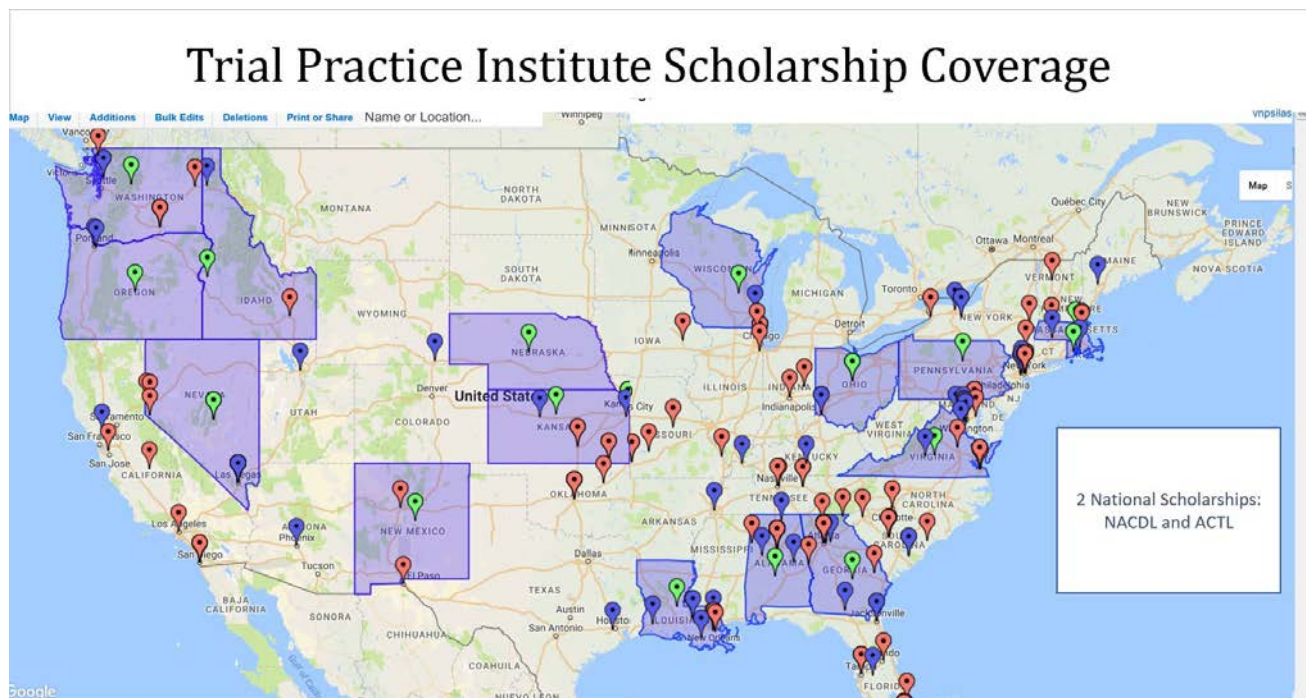
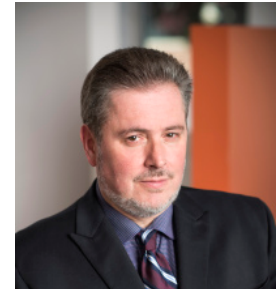
Approximately one third of the applicants (105 out of 328) requested consideration for scholarship assistance to attend the program. Of the 105 scholarship requests, NCDC and other organizations were able to grant at least some assistance to a little over half of those who requested it (58 out of 105). All 58 applicants who received scholarship assistance attended the program. Thus, approximately one fourth of all of the attendees received some form of scholarship assistance. There were some applicants who were not able to attend as a result of not receiving scholarships.

NCDC is thankful and fortunate to have two prominent national level supporters. The **American College of Trial Lawyers Foundation (ACTLF)** supported the National Criminal Defense College with a donation of \$20,000. 100% of this incredibly generous donation was used to provide scholarship assistance to applicants who could not afford to pay the full tuition to attend the Trial Practice Institute. The **National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)** provided scholarship assistance through their own scholarship selection process. NACDL's support was in excess of \$12,000.

In addition to the national level scholarships, there are a number of state level organizations that provide scholarships for the Trial Practice Institute, including the **Al Horne Scholarship (Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers)**, **Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**, the **Alexandria Group**, **Camille Gravel Scholarship Fund (Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys)**, **Committee for Public Counsel**, the **Eigel Memorial Fund**

(Wisconsin), Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho, the Fiedler Fund (Nebraska), Friends of the Indigent, the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Nevada Association for Criminal Justice, the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Rhode Island Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Tarman Dauphin County Bar Foundation, the New Mexico Group, the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Washoe County Group.

Below is a map of the existing state and local scholarships for the Trial Practice Institute. The shaded areas represent states in which there is a scholarship program in existence for the Trial Practice Institute. Other pin markers show the location of faculty members (blue and green) and applicants who noted financial need (red) in those areas. We would love to have assistance in reaching out to organizations in states that do not have scholarships in place. One successful example of this is Alabama. Faculty member **John Lentine** (currently in his 20th year with the College) appealed to the **Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (ACDLA)** who this year sponsored a full scholarship for an ACDLA member to attend TPI. We believe that there are other state associations out there that would be willing to sponsor scholarships if approached by a faculty member within their state.





Some of the local scholarships have been spearheaded and funded by TPI alumni. For instance, Bill Gallagher and his fellow members of **Section C** from the July 1991 session of the Trial Practice Institute created a 501(c)(3) in 2010 called "Friends to the Indigent," whose mission is to provide training and educational resources for those who represent the indigent accused in our community. Friends to the

Indigent conducts a CLE program yearly on Veteran's Day to raise money to fund the mission. Since 2010, Friends to the Indigent has sponsored a scholarship for a Cincinnati public defender to attend TPI. Starting in 2015, Friends to the Indigent began providing funds to send 2 private attorneys who take court appointment cases to TPI, covering tuition, hotel, and even a stipend to help alleviate the cost of leaving a practice for two weeks. Contributors to the Friends to the Indigent have included: **Tim Bicknell, Ravert (Jay) Clark, Marcus Coleman, Candace Crouse, Matthew Ernst, Bill Gallagher, W. Kelly Johnson, and Marty Pinales.**

Another example of a local scholarship is the **Alexandria Group** in Virginia, a group of public defenders from Alexandria who pool money to enable a lawyer from their office to attend Trial Practice Institute.

Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholars

The Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholarship Fund was created to acknowledge and honor the incredible legacy of Dean Emeritus Deryl Dantzler and her impact on so many lives. Individual contributors to the fund include NCDC's Deans, Board of Regents, and Faculty members. The Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholarship covers full tuition and housing for selected participants. Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholars are selected by the Deans based upon financial need and commitment to excellence in criminal defense.

This year marked the second year of the fund. In addition to individual contributions by faculty members, the Deans made the decision to donate all of the proceeds of merchandise sales during the Trial Practice Institute to the Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholarship Fund. TPI merchandise sales were sufficient to fund tuition for four participants next year. We are hopeful that with Board and faculty contributions, next year we can award five or more Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholars.

Three applicants were awarded Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholarships this year. Below are our three 2018 Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholars: **Aric Bright**, **Lee Feeley**, and **Loreal Jackson**.



Aric Bright is a public defender out of Napa County, California who studied at the University of California at Davis King School of Law. He was in Group G in the July Session. He wrote convincingly of his desire to attend TPI and of his financial need. He was an extremely engaged participant during the session. After the session, Aric wrote us the note below with exciting news.

Tasha, Karen:

I wanted to thank you all for putting on such a wonderful program. NCDC was legendary. I also wanted to brag about my not guilty verdict issued a couple of hours ago. My 78 year old client was acquitted on an indecent exposure charge this morning! I cried a little at the verdict. The charge would have required at minimum ten years of mandatory sex registration. He walked away today with his clean record intact. (I also got a hung jury on another case last week.) Two completed trials since NCDC, no convictions!

Thank you!!

Lee Feeley is an outstanding public defender in DeKalb County, Georgia (just outside Atlanta) and a Mercer alum who actually took classes from then Dean Dantzler while attending Mercer Law School. In her application, Lee spoke of her need to sharpen her trial skills ahead of her promotion to the serious crimes division in her office. Lee was in Group E of the July Session. She is pictured above with the other members of Group E and faculty member Fernando Freyre, seated at the far left.



Loreal Jackson applied as a solo practitioner from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We were truly inspired when we read her application “Why Statement” last Spring. Below is an excerpt.

Why do you want to attend the Trial Practice Institute?

My daughter asked me how long I had to teach before I would become a lawyer. Having been greeted with this question upon arriving home after spending a grueling day with 20 ten year olds, it took a minute to understand exactly what she was asking. When I explained to her that I was not teaching to become a lawyer, she then asked, in a way only a child could, why was I teaching? I had no answer to give her. At the time, I had a nine-year-old daughter and a five-year-old son in whom I had instilled the belief that any dream is attainable through hard work; however, as my daughter’s question pointed out, I was doing nothing to reach my own goals. I felt like a hypocrite. Though practicing law was always my aspiration, it became a dream I thought had to be deferred because it was my priority to provide for my children. That conversation with my daughter proved to be a pivotal moment for me. I decided then to begin pursuing my dreams. Fast forward 8 years, after graduating law school and practicing for 3 years, I want to attend National Criminal Defense College to attain the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve my goals. When I was younger I never dreamed of becoming a mediocre attorney, working countless hours to ensure her family’s comfort. I dreamed of being the very best litigator there is. My desire was always to change the world.



National Criminal Defense College (NCDC) shared a photo. Published by Natasha Sims · Aug 31 11 at 7:57 AM
 Congratulations to July 2018 NCDC Trial Practice Institute Alum Loreal M. Jackson who was part of a successful trial team in Saint Martinville, Louisiana with Harry Daniels III and Christopher Washington on a difficult homicide case. You rock Loreal M. Jackson! Go Group K.



Two weeks after Loreal completed the Trial Practice Institute she posted exciting news about a recent trial victory in a murder case. We are sure there will be many more victories to come!

Fellow trial team members **Harry Daniels, III** (left) and **Christopher Washington** (right) are also TPI Alumni from the 2009 sessions who practice in Louisiana. We see you!

Our Partnership with Mercer Law School

2018 was the 33rd year that the Walter F. George School of Law has donated its facilities to the National Criminal Defense College for its Trial Practice Institute. We are grateful to Mercer for such incredible support for our program and its mission. This year, we tried to work as closely as possible with officials at the law school to try to make our time at the law school run as smoothly as possible for both sides of this longstanding partnership. The law school made substantive changes to the spaces that they made available to us this year for the small groups. We lost use of two of the third floor rooms that were used by us last year. In their place, we were allowed to use the Tax Library and the Cafeteria Mail Room. Although we remain extremely grateful to the law school for the use of all of the spaces that we have been provided, some of the rooms allocated to TPI are less than ideal for the small group exercises.

Hotel Accommodations



This year, faculty and participants stayed at the Marriott Macon City Center. This hotel is new and located near Mercer and other social venues. The Marriott was attentive and responsive to participant needs. The hotel provided a daily complimentary breakfast buffet for our participants on the first floor of the hotel starting at 7:30am each morning. The Marriott also provided us with a large hospitality suite (for “The Cave”) that was used for socializing between

participants and also faculty members.

Faculty

NCDC’s faculty is its greatest asset. They are the boots on the ground that see to it that each participant “gets it” and is challenged to improve while at TPI.



NCDC Faculty Members have a very strong commitment to College. Many of our faculty have been involved with NCDC for decades. They volunteer their time to teach each summer at TPI, one of the many ways that they demonstrate their love for the College and commitment to its mission. 2018 TPI participants rated our faculty as “Excellent” in 90% of their survey evaluation responses.



At least two faculty members announced that this would be their last year teaching at TPI. This underscores the importance of making it a priority to look for fresh talent. We created an open and transparent process for applying to be on faculty. A link was added to the NCDC website early in our tenure for prospective faculty members to submit applications to be considered for faculty. We also changed the terminology for new faculty invitees from “rookies” to “visiting faculty.” This enabled more flexibility in evaluating prospective permanent faculty members.



The commitment to be a visiting faculty member is for only one summer. After that summer, the visiting faculty member is encouraged to consider whether NCDC is good fit for him or her as NCDC also considers whether the visiting faculty

member is a good fit.

This year there were a total of 12 visiting faculty members for the Trial Practice Institute. Visiting faculty members were paired with permanent faculty members in small groups and were not given lectures or demos. Our visiting faculty members (pictured above and below) were: Millie Dunn (Federal Defender, Atlanta), Brandi Harden (Private Practice, Washington, DC), Bill Gallagher (Private Practice, Cincinnati, OH), Tom Klein (Legal Aid, NYC), David Patton (Federal Defender, NYC), La Mer Kyle-Griffiths (Public Defender, Seattle, WA), Julie Kaelin (Public Defender, Kentucky), Annie Costanzo (Legal Aid, NYC), Omodare Jupiter (Federal Defender, USVI), Katie Wozencroft (Bronx Defenders), Christian Lamar (Georgia Capital Defender), Ryan Swingle (Private Practice, Athens, GA).



Staffers/Interns



Just as in years past, NCDL hired interns to assist with the significant workload required to put on a program as large as the Trial Practice Institutes. Interns included Mercer law students as well as two undergraduate students, one from North Georgia University and another from Presbyterian University.

The National Criminal Defense College would not be what it is without the incredible and selfless contributions of Bellamy Johnston. We are lucky to have Bellamy's steady and supportive hand in all of the operations details that make the Trial Practice Institute run.



Program Director Bellamy Johnston



The staffers worked hard and long hours. Their tasks included:

- Setting up faculty presentations;
- Recording lectures and demos;
- Stocking the small group rooms with supplies;
- Making name tags;
- Making coffee;
- Setting up lunch, including preparing veggies for salad day;
- Manning the swag store table;
- Setting up for faculty meetings;
- Assisting with faculty notebook assembly;
- Problem solving for participants;
- Decorating for the final banquet;
- Sending out evaluating surveys;
- Setting out afternoon snacks;
- Inventorying store and other items; and
- Going to the store to pickup needed items.

The NCDC Staffers received excellent ratings from the participants.

Sexual Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training



Chandra Davis

One important reform which was added this year was the adoption and implementation of a sexual harassment and anti-discrimination policy. Four faculty trainings were conducted by McFadden Davis LLC, one for each of the four weeks of the Trial Practice Institute. (Trainers **Chandra Davis** and **Raquel Crump** are pictured at left and right respectively.)

The trainings were conducted with faculty members on the Sunday prior to the start of each of the weeks of the Trial Practice Institute. There were question and answer segments with lively discussions during these training sessions. At the conclusion of the training sessions, faculty members were asked to sign copies of the sexual harassment training policy prior to the commencement of instruction. The policy can be found on our website at www.ncdc.net/policies.

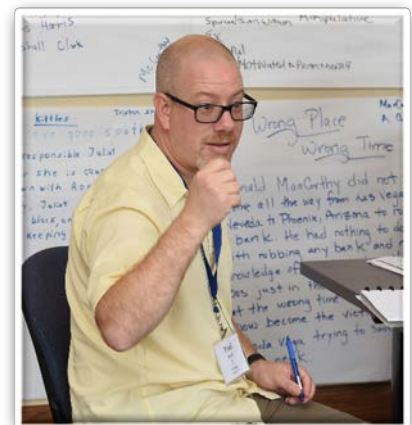


Raquel Crump

Changes to Trial Practice Institute Curriculum and Schedule

(It would be impractical for us to attempt to outline the changes to each and every substantive area of TPI for this year. We have highlighted a few areas below.)

Leading up to the summer, two significant modifications were made to the content of the program materials. First, the Evonne Meeks case problem was updated in various ways by the Deans. An additional witness was introduced into the case, Regina Rogers, who became the 911 caller; the content of the call was added, as well; photographs and diagrams were added and/or updated; and the prior testimony of Dr. Matlock was labeled grand jury testimony. Second, Paul Rudof (with assistance from the Deans) recreated the evidence problems. In the new version, participants were provided motions in limine to argue and



Faculty Member Paul Rudof

respond to in their respective cases. In the afternoon, participants were presented with surprise scenarios in their cases that they had to respond to, without preparation, on their feet. Finally, participants were asked to move an item into evidence and explain how and why it fit into their theory of the case and story of the witness.

Faculty Materials



The faculty materials were significantly updated. Materials binders included notes for each day of the program as well as photographic group sheets to assist faculty members in learning names and tailoring small group exercises to participant needs.

First Night

The schedule for the first night of the program was changed from past years. After the kickoff dinner, the participants were welcomed by the Deans. The Deans opened the program with a



video montage of the powerful reasons (Why Statements) that the applicants gave for wanting to attend the Trial Practice Institute. The Deans introduced this year's theme adapted from the book *The Dream Giver* in which a man wakes up with a powerful dream that drives him to take a journey in which he overcomes challenges and

stretches beyond his comfort zone. We saw this as a metaphor for the journey of the participants during TPI. In the *Dream Giver*, the man with the dream finds a feather on the morning following his dream. He carries the feather with him on his journey as a reminder of the beauty and power of the dream. To us, this feather represents the beauty and power of the pursuit of excellence for our clients.



After the Deans' introduction of the program, the participants met their faculty and then went into their small groups and engaged in a bonding exercise designed to help the participants feel instantaneously connected. The exercise emphasized the importance of understanding how it feels to have your story carried by another.

Insistence on Participant Focus and Engagement

This year, the Deans implemented a policy prohibiting participants from cell phone and laptops during the large group sessions and small group exercises. Faculty were encouraged to allow breaks in order for participants to check emails and make calls so that they will feel able to be fully engaged in sessions.

Photography

We engaged a professional photographer to take candid shots during the sessions. We were very fortunate to have a participant (Prescott Loveland) who was willing to take additional photographs which we used to make the photo montage/video that was shown at the conclusion of the July Session.

Sound and Tech

During the June Session of the Trial Practice Institute it became clear that we would need to supplement the equipment that Mercer provided us for sound amplification in the large courtroom with an additional speaker as well as a lavalier microphone for the presenters. The additional equipment was made available for the July Session and greatly improved the sound quality and volume for participants. We also purchased additional video adapters and improved coordination with faculty for presentation setup times.

Climate

There was significant unevenness in the Mercer Law School climate control system. This was unpleasant and distracting for participants. We adapted to this as much as we could in the July Session with greater coordination with the law school and their maintenance personnel. We also purchased several fans which were deployed in small group rooms that were uncomfortably hot.

Impeachment Day

During the June session, it became clear that impeachment day was extremely challenging for most participants. Before the session started, changes to the schedule had led the Deans to move impeachment day to the first Monday of the second week. Many of the participants were not prepared for the exercises and were very tired from the weekend. (They also had a hard time adjusting to their new faculty and found it difficult to adjust to materials unrelated to their case problems.) At the suggestion of the faculty, we moved impeachment day to later in the second week in the July session (and moved evidence day back to Monday, as it had been in

past years) and also created impeachment drills (shorter problems that allowed the participants to perfect the litany of "commit, credit, confront" and other skills before tackling the more complex impeachment problems.) These problems (and the new schedule) worked extremely well in July.

Performance Work

In the last two years, TPI did include some performance exercises, exclusively taught by actors from **Laughing Matters**. These exercises were rewritten, with clearer instructions. Also, the faculty joined the actors in leading these sessions, assisting them in translating the performance skill to the courtroom skill.



Jeffery Robinson's Talk: Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism in America

For the past few years, NCDC has been extremely fortunate to have faculty member **Jeff Robinson** present his talk on "Who We Are - A Chronical of Racism in America," to both sessions of the Trial Practice Institute. This talk is a perspective changing experience which is necessary to understanding and confronting the racial history and dynamics which are endemic to the criminal justice system. Jeff's talk was received with a standing ovation by participants in both sessions and it greatly enriched the TPI experience. We are indebted to Jeff for the sacrifice that he makes to present the talk to both sessions of TPI. We are super proud of the national attention that Jeff's talk is receiving and look forward to great things to come from this effort.

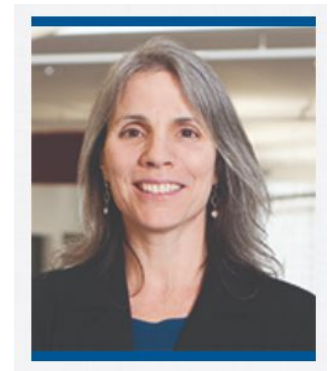


Guest Speakers



Guest speakers were a wonderful addition to the curriculum this year. We had three guest speakers each of whom was fabulous in his/her own right. The first guest speaker was **Yusef Salaam**, a poet and one of the **Central Park Five** who was exonerated after thirteen years in custody. Yusef's remarks were timed to correspond with the client interview lecture. Yusef actually attended the client interview lecture and had some thoughtful comments about the feeling of actually being a client. His remarks absolutely electrified the participants and the faculty. Yusef was kind enough to agree to come to both sessions. He brought some of his books to the second session and he simply could not sign them quick enough as they were a sensation with the participants.

Our second guest was **Robin Steinberg**, founder of the Bronx Defenders, the Oklahoma and the Bail Project. Robin's address to the group demonstrated what can be accomplished through thinking beyond old concepts of how to impact communities. Robin talked about the Bail Project as well as the implementation of the holistic approach to representation in Tulsa, Oklahoma to help women whose lives are negatively impacted by the criminal justice system. Her acclaimed work is nothing short of amazing!



Our third guest, **Luis Mancheno**, inspired us all with his courage and grace. Luis described his harrowing journey through the immigration system as well as his quest for asylum as a gay man persecuted in Ecuador. He also spoke of his own attempts to help immigrants dehumanized by the rush to deport masses of immigrants without taking the time needed to fully examine their cases and to treat them with compassion. Luis' and his team participated in emergency airport interventions on behalf of travelers detained under the Presidential travel ban.

All three of our guest speakers received standing ovations from the participants. The TPI experience was unquestionably enriched by their contributions.

Voir Dire

This year, we advertised for jurors on Facebook and increased the pay from \$10 for the day to \$10 per hour (approximately \$35.00 per juror). We had a modest, but adequate, juror turnout in June. The turnout improved for July as word spread of the opportunity by mouth and with additional members of the public seeing the Facebook ad. There was significant debate among faculty members about the question of whether the College would adopt deselection or traditional voir dire as the official approach of the National Criminal Defense College. We asked faculty members to teach deselection since this is the skill that more of the participants would be unfamiliar with. We did not adopt deselection as the sole method to be promoted by the College.

Faculty Panels

Three concurrent faculty panels were conducted in each session of the Trial Practice Institute. The faculty panels were provided with questions that participants had submitted with their applications that they hoped would be answered by faculty members.



Merchandise and Store Sales



There were significant changes to the NCDC Store this year. As in years past, the NCDC Store opened on the first Wednesday of each session. Merchandise offerings were expanded to include custom embroidered bags and blankets. There were redesigned T-shirts and sweat shirts. We had an emphasis on the quality of the merchandise and we utilized a new vendor, Spiritwear. Thursdays were designated for throwback merchandise from past years which we offered at low prices.

We announced that the proceeds of TPI merchandise sales would go to the Dean Deryl Dantzler Scholarship Fund. Participants were motivated to purchase items to contribute to scholarship funds for next year. We believe that attention to store appearance and product placement also resulted in increased sales. Over the course of the summer,



Throwback Sweatshirts

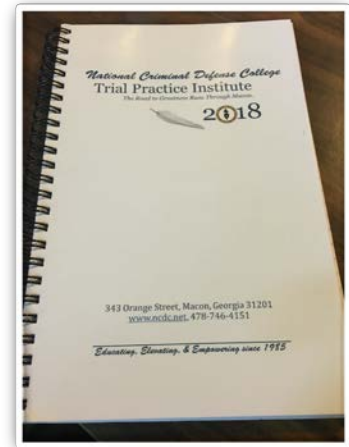
we had over \$10,000 in sales from the NCDC store. These funds have been placed in the separate account designated to hold funds for Deryl Dantzler Scholars so that it will be ready for next year. NCDC does not yet have an online store. However, we have received requests from participants for a way to purchase items after they have left the Trial Practice Institute and we are working on implementing an Online Store in the near future.

Participant Giveaways



Changes were made to the giveaways that were provided to program participants and to faculty. We felt that the quality and type of giveaways were important in order to show the participants our appreciation for choosing to attend the Trial Practice Institute. The “official” coffee cup has become somewhat of a tradition for the Trial Practice Institute. Rather than to continue the plastic coffee mugs that were given out in years past, we decided to spend a little more to give out cups that would be longer lasting and would be truly keepsake quality. Each participant (and faculty member) received metal insulated cups suitable for both hot and cold beverages, nicknamed the “Cuppy Cup.”

We also felt strongly that the participants should have a special notebook for recording all of the pearls of wisdom they would be receiving during the program so that they could hold onto their notes and reflect on what they learned after leaving us. The notebooks were customized with the logo of this year’s Trial Practice Institute which includes the symbol of journey of the participants, the feather.



At the conclusion of the program, each participant received a surprise T shirt that included the names of all participants, faculty, and staff from that session as a keepsake. The giveaways were very well received. In fact, the keepsake T shirt at the end of the program was received with nothing short of gleeful hysteria.

Faculty Giveaways

In addition to the metal insulated cups and the keepsake T shirt, faculty members who taught at TPI this summer also received a faculty hoodie which was imprinted with the message, “Always with you in the fight!” as this is the takeaway message that we want our participants to know about our faculty.

One of our participants, Kate Skeehan, took this motto to heart as she prepared for a trial on the heels of attending TPI. She reached out to visiting faculty member Ryan Swingle and later sent us this message:



Hi Tasha and Karen,



Wanted to let you know that on the Tuesday we got back from Macon ... I was informed that my rape/false imprisonment/2 child cruelty case got bumped up from October to this week. We picked the jury Monday, and today the jurors returned Not Guilty to all 4 counts after only about 20ish minutes of deliberation!!!

It was my first solo trial and my 3rd total, and I know that I am so, so fortunate to have been at NCDC right beforehand. I learned an incredible amount and gained confidence in my abilities at the TPI, to the direct benefit of my client. My small group, (group J - FISHBOWL!) was incredibly supportive through these 2ish weeks of prep and trial, and faculty member Ryan Swingle took time away from his practice to meet with me and help brainstorm and answer questions.

I wanted to share this because NCDC really is a life-changing experience, and also to thank you for your hard work putting it all together. It was a truly amazing 2 weeks to be with such a rockstar group of people who all care immensely about this work. I know I (and my client!) are very grateful.

Thank you!!!

Evaluation Surveys

It is our desire to draw as close to 100% evaluation survey feedback as possible so that we can maximize the potential to incorporate useful and needed changes in the program. During the June Session, survey responses were initially close to 100% participation, but fell off consistently from day to day. We discovered that this was in part due to robust spam filters on the participant's emails. For the July Session, we also devised a group competition called the "Group Cup" which was awarded at the final banquet based on the number of survey responses received from that group. This did significantly improve the response rate for the surveys and it also provided a bit of levity. Overall, the evaluation survey responses provided some useful feedback

Food and Events

Breakfast and Lunch

Participants received complimentary breakfast through the hotel each day. Lunch was provided on site at Mercer Law School during the week.



Feeding lunch to approximately 140 people each work day is a huge undertaking. Bellamy coordinated the lunches. Salad day was the favorite lunch day this year. There were also some other offerings that were popular with participants. We are looking at additional options for next summer. The favorite lunch days for participants

seemed to be salad days. Lunch costs averaged \$800-\$1500 per day (or \$7.00 to \$10.00 per person).



Feather Ball



The final banquets (nicknamed the Feather Balls this year) were held at the Emerson Ballroom. A full banquet buffet was provided along with a bar, music, and a live band.

Participants presented skits. The decision was made for skits to be limited to 5 minutes per group for the July Session based upon our experience in the June Session.

A number of TPI participants commented during the event that the Feather Balls were a wonderful way to end the program. There was much dancing and merriment.



Our 2018 TPI Graduates

We are so proud of our 2018 Trial Practice Institute graduates. We have included their names on the NCDC website at <http://www.ncdc.net/new-page>. Their names appear below.

June 2018 TPI Graduates: Michaela Adams, Amr Ahmed, Makis Antzoulatos, Grace Atwater, Erika Ballou, Branden Bell, Christopher Bellmore, Ronald Benavides, Kate Berry, Kendra Bertschy, Rachel Braver, Chalet Braziel, Paige Bremner, Nisha Brooks-Whittington, Shana Brouwers, Lauren Brown, Colleen Burden, Joseph Camden, Aly Carpenter, Myra Cause, Tony Champagne, Erica Choi, Alexandria Chun, Dan Coe, Jayde Coleman, LaShetta Coleman, Peter Conley, Natasha Crawford, Tamara Crepet, Liz Daily, Kory DeClark, Leo Delgado, Julie DeVries, Aubrey Dillon, Pat Donohue, Michael Dueker, Megan Durkee, Lee Elkins, Matthew Ence, Chris Fox-Lent, Erin Gettel, Angela Glaser, Deb Gonzalez, Patrick Goodwyn, Andrew Grindrod, Oliver Hadley, Tawnya Haines, Nicole Hardin, Jon Hatfield, Jasmine Henderson, Joel Hood, Maria Jacob, Jeff Jarecki, Justin Jones, Zach Jones, Sarah Jurick, Phillip Kirtley, Ella Kliebert, Jason Lambert, Thomas Leaf, Matt Leavitt, Nicole Lewis, Keren McElvy, Tiffany Mecca, Beau Melita, Randi Meyer, Raquel Muñoz, Sunethra Muralidhara, Alisha S. Marie Nair, Scott Nazzarine, Ted Occhialino, Christine Olson, Krystian Opalinski, Stephanie Ormsby, Autumn Page, Frank Passafume, Jose Perez, Dorsa Peykar, Brett Phelps, Kaitin Powell, Jeremy Richmond, Ann Rigby, David Rizk, Dianne Rosell, Meredith Ryan, Clarissa Saintflex, Stephanie Salter, Adam Saper, Merce'de Savala, Jherna Shahani, Rahul Sharma, Samantha Slack, Jeremy Sporn, Christian Thomas, Jeremy Tinsley, Amy Veri, Lisa Waters, Susan Wilk, Joey Williams, Larry Williams, Sharlena Williams, Lisa Wolff, and Matt Woodham.

June 2018 Faculty: Chris Adams, Jerilyn Bell, Cathy Bennett, Alison Bloomquist, Jeff Chapdelaine, Bill Gallagher, Andrea George, Terence Kindlon, Michael Kennedy, A J Kramer, Christian Lamar, Tony Natale, Marty Pinales, Jeff Robinson, Amy Rubin, Laurie Shanks, Brett Willis, Lorinda Youngcourt, Melody Brannon, Herschella Conyers, Annie Costanzo, Sam Dennis, Millie Dunn, Kyana Givens, Robert Glass, Carey Haugwaut, Brian Hewlett, Judge Joe Johnson, Steve Lindsay, David Patton, Bob Pepin, Jon Sands, Juval Scott, Dumaka Shabazz, Bart Sheela, David Shircliff, James Smith, Boyd Young and Guest Speakers Yusef Salaam and Robin Steinberg.



July 2018 TPI Graduates: Rico Acosta, John Allen III, Goran Antovski, Jesse Archer, Darryl Austin, Joe Austin, Aleta Ballard, Laura Berg, Crystal Bice, Kelly Billings, Dino Bjelopoljak, Lauren Brice, Aric Bright, Isabel Bussarakum, Christiane Cannon, Nick Caprino, Joe Cargile, Jacqueline Caruana, Santino Coleman, Anthony Colton, Tammie Coppinger, Susan Costa, Saran Crayton, Mollie Dapolito, Arron Edwards, Lee Elkins, Xenophobe Fedison, Lee Feeley, Colleen Fitzharris, Ryan Fraser, Stephanie Gagerie, Natasha George, Whitney Gibbs, James Gibson, Catherine Gibson, Rebecca Gregory, Tessa Hansen, Grant Hartley, Robson Hauser, Kelsey Helget, Irina Hughes, Elliot Huss, Eric Hutchins, Pamela Itzkowitch, Loreal Jackson, Sahar Jooshani, Clay Kaminsky, Molly Kincaid, Lipou Laliemthavisay, Kara Larson, Erik Laursen, Jake Lemon-Strauss, Prescott Loveland, Benjamin Mack, Ashley Marshall, Ashley Martin, Lindsay McCaslin, Alex Melendez, Jose Moncayo, David Montes, Ryan Mooney, Stas Moroz, Nicole Mouakar, Alex Moulter, Joshua Nathan, Kristine Neal, Eric Neuman, Noelle Obermeyer, Hemangi Pai, Virginia Phelps, Bill Pigott, Andrea Prater, Daphne Putka, Alex Ramos, Brandi Reeves, Tom Rimmer, Laurel Roberson, Rachel Robinson, Brandon Rover, Daniel Schumeister, Tristan Shaffer, Ankoor Shah, Liz Sher, Kate Skeeahan, Craig Smith, Erica Soderdahl, Nikki South, Neshia Spencer-Wright, Adam Staier, Nic Stebinger, Sid Thaxter, Dave Thomas, Nick Thornton, Alex Thurner, Juan Tolley, Angela Troutman, Matthew Turetsky, Angharad Vaughan, Carlos Velazquez, Del Vitier, Bright Wallace, Katelyn Weaver, David Wiegert, Sally Winn, Iris Ying, and Joe Ziebron.

July 2018 Faculty: David Baugh, Keith Belzer, Beattie Butler, Yasmin Cader, Tony Cueto, Pete Donaldson, David Feige, Kobie Flowers, Fernando Freyre, Patrice Fulcher, La Mer Kyle-Griffiths, Brandi Harden, Abe Hutt, Omodare Jupiter, Julie Kaelin, Rick Kammen, Tom Klein, Bridget Krause, John Lentine, David Lewis, Sean Maher, Mary Moriarty, Heather Pinckney, Archana Prakash, Heather Rogers, Paul Rudof, Jeff Robinson, Martín Sabelli, Jennifer Sellitti, Michael Stout, Ryan Swingle, Colette Tvedt, Ron Tyler, Lisa Wayne, Heather Williams, Katie Wozencroft, and Guest Speakers Yusef Salaam and Luis Mancheno.



A Tribute to Rosie Flanigan

At the July banquet, there was a moving tribute to Rosie Flanigan for her many years of service to NCDC. She was presented with gifts and words of tribute. She was also treated to a standing ovation by the July participants who chanted, “Rosie, Rosie!”

The tribute was so well deserved. Rosie Flanigan and Bellamy Johnston have affectionately attended to so many details and they kept the program going when it needed attention. We are very lucky to have had Rosie Flanigan’s tireless service for so many years.



Afterwards, we added several Facebook tribute posts which were liked and commented on by many faculty and participants.



Rosie Flanigan Thank you, it was absolutely, perfectly wonderful.



Like · Reply · Message · 4w



SHORT PROGRAMS

January 2018, Cross Examination, Atlanta, GA



We conducted our first Short Program, **Cross Examination: Taking You to the Next Level**, in January of 2018 at the Airport Concourse Renaissance Hotel. There was an online registration process. Tuition for the program was \$650 and did not include hotel accommodations which were offered at \$109 per night.

The program filled up quickly and we had an outstanding experienced NCDC faculty members.

Participants were separated into 8 groups of 6 participants each in order to facilitate more time for each participant to be on their feet. Laughing Matters provided actors.

Program materials were substantially rewritten for the cross program. Faculty notes were provided to the instructors. Participant photo sheets were used to assist faculty in learning the names of the participants that they would be instructing. It also became our practice to discuss the lecture content with each lecturer and to discuss the demonstration content with each person who would perform a demo prior to the program. We



received glowing evaluations from the January program and had a number of participants from the January program to attend TPI. The Cross Examination short program faculty is pictured to the left: **Herschella Conyers, Natasha Silas, Karen Smolar, Angie Coggins** (left to right seated), **Sam Dennis, Ramon Alvarado, John Lentine, Ron Tyler, Dumaka Shabazz, and Frank Hogue** (left to right standing).



November 2018, Cross Examination, Washington, DC

Taking to heart the directive we received from the Board when we began to hold programs in locations outside of Georgia, NCDC will hold its Fall Short Program November 8-10, 2018 at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC, Cross Examination Workshop: Taking You to the Next Level. We are cosponsored by the **American University Trial Advocacy Program** headed up by **Professor Liz Lippy**. As of the writing of this report, registration numbers are already at 70% after only three weeks. The program will begin on Thursday, November 8th and conclude on Saturday, November 10th. As of the writing of this report, registration has been open for less than a month and is 90% full. There are logistics challenges when programs are held in areas outside of Georgia as we have a number of items that will need to be transported to Washington for the program to run smoothly.

The National Criminal Defense College
Presents its Fall 2018
Cross Examination Workshop:
Taking You to the Next Level

November 8-10, 2018 in Washington, DC
Tuition Only \$675.00
Co-Sponsored by the
*American University Washington College of Law
Trial Advocacy Program*

January 2019, Voir Dire, Atlanta, GA

We are in the planning stages for the Short Program on Voir Dire which will be held at the Georgia State College of Law, January 11-12, 2018. Some faculty members have already been invited. Other invites will go out shortly. We have not yet decided on the cost structure. We will have expenses relating to securing sufficient numbers of jurors for effective small group exercises.



National Criminal Defense College



August 2018 - July 2019 Calendar

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

15/990 Deadline
23-24/Planning Retreat
24/10am Visit GSU Law, N Fomin

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

15/TPI Faculty Invitations with Materials

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

4/Tasha visits WCL re Cross
7/Fall Board Meeting
28/11am meeting with MMM
30/End of NCDC Fiscal Year

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1/Post TPI Application
8-9/Expert Cross Program?
13/Spring Board Meeting Agenda and Materials Distribution
20/Spring Board Meeting?

October

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1/Tuition balances due for Cross
8/Room Block deadline for Cross
8/Materials deadline for Cross

April

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1/TPI Application Deadline
15/TPI Admissions Decisions?
22/Advertise for Interns?

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

7/Staff arrival in DC
8/3:00pm Check in for Cross
8 - 10/ Cross Workshop
11/Museum Visit
15/Open Registration for Voir Dire

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1/Materials deadline for TPI
27/Interns Start

December

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

10/Materials Deadline for Voir Dire

June

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1/Refund deadline for TPI
16-29/TPI June Session

January

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

7/Post Expert Cross Applications
10-12/ Voir Dire Program
15/File Secretary of State Annual Registration, due April 1
30/ 990 due for 2017-2018

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

14-27 TPI July Session

