

The 33rd Annual Criminal Justice Institute

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE
September 11, 2026

Presented in partnership with the WSBA Criminal Law Section

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented on September 11, 2026. If you attended or viewed the original presentation, please note that WSBA members may not claim credit for the same CLE sessions if repeated within their three-year reporting period.

DESCRIPTION

Join us on-demand for a full-day program full of updates, tips and tools to improve your criminal law practice. Hear from professionals, jurists and attorneys from across the state sharing their suggestions for effective collaboration and representation.

AGENDA

1 2026 Legislative Update
An update on criminal laws passed during the 2026 legislative session.
Russell Brown – Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Olympia, WA

2 Advanced Sentencing Skills: Conquering "Comparability"
The prosecutor wants to count all seven of your client's priors in the offender score - or worse, to apply "oublers" or similar provisions. Unfortunately, your judge is not known for questioning the State's calculations. You know the State technically has the burden of proof but what is that burden? What can you do to make the best case against using these "foreign" prior convictions at sentencing - or at least minimizing the harm? This presentation breaks down this sometimes complex sentencing issue into easier, bite-size pieces. You will learn a framework to use for "comparability" which you can immediately use to get better results from your clients. We will use specific examples (different from any previous presentations). Come prepared to walk through the analysis and walk away ready to take on the issue and help your clients get better results at criminal sentencing.
Kathryn Russell Selk – Russell Selk Law Office, Seattle, WA

3 Mental Health for Attorneys: A Primer
This session reviews common mental health diagnoses, the various standards relevant to criminal practice, and discusses how to fit the two together to assess potential defenses and options.
Jared Varo – Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel, Tacoma, WA

4 The Art of the Trial Notebook
Learn how to prepare a trial notebook. Understand why it is the key to jury trial mastery.
Jonathan Volyn (Hon.) – Chelan County District Court, Wenatchee, WA

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5 Evidence Objections: When and Why

This session provides a pragmatic approach to when and why to raise various evidence objections in the course of a criminal trial.

Patricia Fulton (Hon.) – Walla Walla County Superior Court, Walla Walla, WA
Geoffrey L. Burg – Law Offices of Geoffrey Burg LLC, Seattle, WA
Daniel LeBeau – Whitman County Prosecutor's Office, Pullman, WA

6 Intersection of Family Law and Criminal Law

Learn about and understand cases when criminal law meets family law from an attorney who was practiced in various areas, in both public and private representation.

Chelsea Raines – Grays Harbor County Department of Public Defense, Montesano, WA