



WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law

Track 1 – Criminal Law and Procedure

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATES

January 14, 2026

January 21, 2026

January 28, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented in three parts on January 14, 21 & 28, 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

The WSBA Practice Primer is a CLE series of three learning tracks that build upon one another to provide a solid educational foundation for practice in a substantive area of law. This series is designed for new members (and offered at a substantial discount for new members) but may also be of interest to those looking to transition into additional practice areas.

Our 2026 Practice Primer series will cover the practice area of Criminal Law. Taught from the defense perspective, the topics covered by the three tracks include:

- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Motions, Negotiations, and Trial
- Introduction to Felonies

Optional homework is assigned between sessions, giving you an opportunity to apply the concepts learned and earn extra CLE credit. The homework must be completed in order to claim the additional credits offered.

AGENDA

1 Rules of Engagement

Faculty discuss how a criminal defense attorney would initially approach and build a case, including release arguments (CrR 3.2), confidentiality, client communication, the initial client visit, and assessing client competency. Optional homework is assigned.

2 Building a Defense

This session will examine the defense attorney's primary considerations at this stage of a criminal case, including reading and managing discovery documents, investigations, and basic legal defenses. Optional homework is assigned.

WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law Track 1 – Criminal Law and Procedure

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3 Collateral Consequences and Alternatives

In this last session of Track 1, faculty provide an overview of collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, including a brief discussion of immigration consequences as well as diversion and treatment alternatives. Faculty will touch upon considerations around local rules and court cultures.

PRESENTERS

Austin Field – King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Rachel Forde – Snohomish County Public Defender Association, Everett, WA



WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law

Track 2 – Motions, Negotiations, and Trial

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATES

February 11, 2026

February 18, 2026

February 25, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented in three parts on February 11, 18 & 25, 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.

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AGENDA

1 **Motions: Shaping Your Case Before Trial**

Motions are the way to shape your trial case before you get in front of a jury. They are important for trial but also for negotiations because they target the strength of the prosecutor's case. This session will help you identify pretrial and trial issues you may wish to raise via motions, when to best raise them, and how to give them substance through factual investigation and legal research. Optional homework is assigned.

Safa Peera - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA
Reagan Roy - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Agenda continues on the next page.

WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law Track 2 – Motions, Negotiations, and Trial

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2 Preparing for Trial: Common Defenses, Testimony, and Experts

Knowing the strength of your client's case helps you frame the best strategy in defending them. This session will help you analyze what possible defenses your client might have for their case; identify what testimony may be admissible in trial under the Confrontation clause, and the various hearsay rules; with a special focus on domestic violence cases tailor the evidence to your defense; and spot the need for experts, with a special focus on experts for DUI cases. Optional homework is assigned.

Safa Peera - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Reagan Roy - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Elias Passas - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

3 Resolving a Case Short of Trial

This session will help you work towards the best ending for your client short of trial, using not only the skills learned in the prior two session, but also covering topics such as: identifying reasonable resolutions depending on the type of case and which court you're in; crafting effective mitigation and negotiations; advising regarding consequences to certain misdemeanors for future felony liability; executing plea and sentencing hearings.

Safa Peera - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Reagan Roy - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA

Lillian Adacutt - King County Department of Public Defense, Seattle, WA



WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law

Track 3 – Introduction to Felonies

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATES

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented in three parts on March 11, 18 & 25, 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.

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AGENDA

1 Scoring Basics – SRA 101

Faculty will review the basics of working with the SRA, including scoring and washout periods. Optional homework is assigned.

2 Enhancements, Exceptional Sentences and Aggravators, and Alternatives

Faculty will go over statutory enhancements and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances listed in the SRA. There will be discussion of how to work with mitigation experts and prepare mitigation reports for the court. Optional homework is assigned.

Agenda continues on the next page.

WSBA Practice Primer: Criminal Law Track 3 – Introduction to Felonies

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3 Final Considerations for the New Attorney

In this last session, faculty will review Session Two's independent assignment. Faculty will identify some basic ethical concerns for the new practitioner: conflicts (including those in solo/small practice), and decision-making allocation between client and attorney. Finally, faculty will provide tips for organizing a busy criminal defense caseload.

PRESENTERS

Justin Mucklestone – John L. Scott, Woodinville, WA

Cassie Trueblood – Snohomish County Public Defender Association, Everett, WA