

**Advancing Real Change, Inc.**  
**Fall Training**  
Nov. 4 through Nov. 6 – Virtual  
*All times are Eastern*

**Nov. 4 Thursday**

1:00 – 1:15 pm                      Welcome

1:15 – 2:15 pm                      Litigating for resources, even in hostile places.  
Edward J. Ungvarsky  
Alexandra Becnel

Many of us practice in jurisdictions where it can be difficult to ensure that our cases receive adequate resources. This session offers an opportunity to learn about strategies that have been successfully used in hostile jurisdictions and how they can be applied in even the most challenging settings. We will cover how team members work together to prepare for litigation and provide example motions.

2:15 – 2:30 pm                      *Break*

2:30 – 3:45 pm                      Working as a team  
Vivian Hernandez  
Kristina Leslie

The team approach to capital defense is central to the ABA guidelines, yet bringing a team together to work effectively is not always easy. This session will cover considerations when building a team, common barriers to successful teamwork and strategies to address them, and the function of different team roles.

3:45 – 4:00 pm                      *Break*

4:00 – 5:15 pm                      Trauma and migration: El Salvador and other central  
American countries  
Selena Sermeño, Ph.D.  
Katherine Atkins

This session will be a discussion of important issues for those with clients of Salvadoran and Central American background. It will be conversational in format, covering topics such as historical trauma and developmental damage, and other questions raised by participants.

## **Nov. 5 Friday**

1:15 – 2:15 pm                      Investigating and Litigating Race  
   Brian Stull  
   Henderson Hill

Investigating and litigating issues of race is an important aspect of every case, even when the issues are not as obvious on the surface. This session will provide concrete examples of unearthing and acting upon meaningful issues in recent cases. It will also address ways that the community can share and build upon work that is relevant throughout a region or jurisdiction.

2:15 – 2:30 pm                      *Break*

2:30 – 3:45 pm                      Advanced File Organization  
   Ramou Sarr

This is a nuts-and-bolts discussion of the critical role file organizational tools can play in developing a case, fostering team communication, and identifying important themes and theories. While some of the techniques discussed will be advanced, none of the recommendations will rely on specialized or costly software.

3:45 – 4:00 pm                      *Break*

4:00 – 5:15 pm                      Current state of COVID and considerations for defense work  
   Chris Beyrer, MD, M.P.H.  
   Liz Vartkessian, Ph.D.

In this discussion, participants will receive an overview of current recommendations from epidemiologists, including the status of vaccinations in the U.S. and understanding increasingly complex risk levels. There will be discussion of precautions and considerations in conducting field work and entering carceral facilities, as well as data to help guide motions practice and develop a better understanding of the long-term impact of the pandemic on clients and witnesses.

## **Nov. 6 Saturday**

11:30 am – 12:30 pm                Adaptive functioning interviewing  
   James Patton

This session will provide an essential background on issues related to adaptive functioning, and then delve into interview techniques to help participants more

effectively obtain relevant information from various witnesses, including family members, friends, teachers, employers, other community members.

12:30 – 12:45 pm

*Break*

12:45 – 1:45 pm

Panel discussion: Memo writing, more of an art than science

Kirsty Davis

Lela Hubbard

Liz Vartkessian, Ph.D

Anupama Vishwamitra

While some elements of memo-writing follow hard and fast rules, other decisions can be more nuanced. In this discussion, panelists will talk through their own approaches to stylistic differences, organizing information, and using memos as a tool for team communication and documentation of effort.

1:45 – 2:00 pm

*Break*

2:00 – 3:15 pm

Identifying, locating, and obtaining public records through FOIA and other statutes

Keri Blakinger

This session will provide an overview of public records requests from a journalist's perspective and help to identify tactics that can be applied to our own record collection practice.