

Trauma-Informed Care & Culturally-Responsive Practices:
A Framework for Criminal Defense Teams

PRESENTER BIOS:

Amy Williams

Amy is a licensed clinical social worker and Chief Investigator at the Federal Public Defender's Dallas Capital Habeas Unit. She has practiced mitigation since 2015 in trial, state, and federal post-conviction proceedings. She currently chairs the Diversity Subcommittee for the Texas Habeas Race Litigation Group, which is comprised of capital defense practitioners focused on researching factors impacting the hiring and retention of racially diverse talent within the Texas habeas community. Amy graduated from the University of Houston where she researched parent-child dyads' contributions to the development of anxiety and depressive disorders in children and later co-sponsored a study focused on African-American women's needs for trauma-informed, culturally competent mental health care. Amy is published in the Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health and has worked as a psychotherapist in inpatient and outpatient treatment settings in Texas and New York. She can be contacted at Amy_Williams@fd.org.

Janett Rodriguez

Janett is a licensed clinical social worker and Mitigation Specialist for the Federal Public Defender's Dallas Capital Habeas Unit. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Social Work and Administrative Policy in 2015. Prior to entering her role as a Mitigation Specialist, Janett worked as a Medical and School Social Worker. As a Medical Social Worker, Janett provided mental health services to the Latino geriatric community of Central Texas under Cuidado Casero Home Health. Janett supported children and youth as a School Social Worker by providing therapy, case management, and crisis intervention services with a focus on students experiencing homelessness. Janett is a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor under the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. She can be reached via email at Janett_Rodriguez@fd.org.