



# Emerging Leader Academy

## Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania

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**October 23, 2023**

**Re: Participant Application Information**

### **About the Emerging Leader Academy**

The Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania announces the Emerging Leader Academy to begin in the year of 2024. This year-long, intensive program is designed to empower new to practice Public Defenders to become leaders in indigent defense throughout Pennsylvania. The Academy focuses on Public Defender values, mindsets, roles, responsibilities, and advancing the mission of client centered Public Defense. Together the participants will join a community of PA Public Defenders who are passionate and dedicated to our cause.

Participants will learn to provide the best possible defense while concentrating on representing the whole client. The program breaks down every aspect of representation, evaluates and discusses processes, best practices, how we can improve, and how we can lead others around us to improve. The Emerging Leaders program will create a long lasting and stronger infrastructure for Pennsylvania Public Defense.

At the conclusion of the program, graduates will receive certification of completion of the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania Emerging Leader Academy. In addition, graduates will be invited and encouraged to attend future Emerging Leadership Academy events to serve as faculty and mentor attorneys.

**Applications are due by close of business November 10th, 2023. PDAP will make decisions and notify applicants no later than December 1, 2023. The application is available here: [Emerging Leader Academy Application](#)**

### **Participant Obligations**

This program is intensive and requires significant commitment. The Leadership Academy includes four different parts:

1. In person training, including a four-day introductory boot camp, two weekend workshops throughout the year, and a Public Defender advancement symposium;
2. Twice-monthly online training and collaborative meetups;
3. Mentorship and Development support across Pennsylvania; and
4. Enrollment and Tuition to attend the Advanced Evidence Program through Temple Law. (This is an online program).

The Leadership Academy is open to any Attorney at Public Defender Offices in Pennsylvania who have been practicing for 0-3 years, who is passionate about the mission of indigent defense, and is committed to joining a community designed to support and foster a culture of providing the best possible



representation to our clients. Enrollment in the program will be limited to a maximum of 14 Defender Attorneys from counties across Pennsylvania. Participants are required to attend the initial boot camp, in person training workshops, all monthly training and collaboration sessions, and the advancement symposium.

### Schedule

- **Introductory Boot Camp Symposium:** January 22 - January 26, 2024, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- **Twice-Monthly Online Training and Collaborative Meetups:** The dates and times for these sessions will be selected based on the collective availability of the participants:
  - February: All Things Prelim;
  - March: Trial Skills;
  - April: Working with SW/Investigators & Experts;
  - May: No Online Workshop, In Person Weekend Voir Dire Training;
  - June: PD Wellness;
  - July: Cultural Competence and DEI;
  - August: External Partners / Civil Legal Aid (Includes Shadow Day);
  - September: No Online Workshop, In Person Motions Training;
  - October: Appeals, Post Sentence Motions;
  - November: Client Centered Representation;
- **In Person Weekend Workshop 1:** May, 17-19, 2024: Voir Dire Training, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- **In Person Weekend Workshop 2:** September 20-22, 2024: Motions Training, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- **Advancement Symposium:** December 9- December 13, 2024, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Application

To apply, [please fill out this google form](#). The application includes a statement of interest as well as a recommendation from someone in our field.

The statement of interest can include a brief discussion on each of the following topics:

1. What experiences drive your passion for Public Defense?
2. The value of connecting with colleagues, mentors, faculty, and other participants both in person and online throughout the year?
3. What do you hope to gain by becoming a member of the PDAP Emerging Leader Community?
4. What social issues are you most passionate about? and
5. How do you envision sharing the values of the emerging leader community with the people around you?

The cost of this program is approximately \$10,000 per participant, which will be covered in full by PDAP. This includes travel and lodging for all in person events, CLE credits, and tuition for Temple Law's Advanced Evidence Program. Participants must agree to remain employed in a Public Defender capacity in Pennsylvania for a period of 5 years once accepted into the program, otherwise PDAP would request reimbursement for the individual cost of the program.

Please direct any questions to Andrew Capone, Esq., Assistant Director of Training (West) at the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania. [Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com](mailto:Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com)

